

WASHINGTON



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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Letter from the President

April 10th, 2020

Brothers and Sisters,

As we have been dealing with the current COVID 19 pandemic, law enforcement has remained on the front lines while putting themselves and their families at higher risk to contract this virus. It brings me great sadness to report that over 38 of our brothers and sisters have died as a result of complications of the Coronavirus. Washington law enforcement has felt this extreme loss as one of our own has lost their live today from what appears to be symptoms consistent with COVID 19. Bainbridge Officer Kurt Enget was a dedicated officer in our state, and we pray for comfort to his family during this tragic time.

These numbers will continue to rise especially without proper personal protective equipment. Many agencies throughout Washington State do not have the proper protective masks that reduce the risk of contracting the virus. We are currently communicating with the Governor's office asking for assistance in obtaining this much needed equipment.

The Fraternal Order of Police has worked diligently to address how this pandemic has impacted our profession. Through our hard work in our Nation's Capital the Public Safety Officers' Benefit Program considers loss of life related to Coronavirus a line of duty death and extending benefits to survivors of those officers that have fallen to the disease. This acknowledgment is extremely important to surviving families as they will be eligible for federal support to address the impact that is would have on their families.

Our national office has encouraged every state to contact the Governor's offices in their state and encourage legislation to address COVID 19 as a presumptive disease. In Washington State we realize that our Governor issued an executive order establishing specific enhancements of our current Labor & Industries standards. We believe more can be done to provide greater detail in the Labor and Industries coverage for first responders and health care workers and hope that improvements are a top priority for our state's elected leaders. A consistent statewide protocol provides those impacted professions some peace of mind and advise agency administration on how to support their employees and still keep their workforce safe and healthy.

The Washington State FOP continues to work hard on behalf of our profession and will provide updates as we get them. In the meantime, stay safe, look after one another, and no that the FOP is out there looking after you.

Fraternally,

Marco Monteblanco, President
Washington State FOP

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