Letter from the President

April 16th,2020

Brothers and Sisters,

We continue to field concerns with working conditions related to the current COVID 19 pandemic. We are getting reports of local jurisdictions changing or adding patrol shifts as a part of their emergency management plans to deal with the pandemic. This has created a lot of questions on our current bargaining rights. As we are seeing a swift increase in officer deaths related to on duty COVID 19 incidents and the lack of proper PPE equipment members are questioning why adding additional patrols would help prevent exposure to them and their families.

The Washington State FOP and our general counsel believe that in many cases municipalities are not able to arbitrarily make these changes without first requesting to bargain the effects of these decisions. It is imperative if this is happening in your area that you first read your collective bargaining agreement and the jurisdictions emergency management protocols regarding local executive orders. If you feel that a local jurisdiction cannot make these decisions without first communicating with the bargaining unit to discuss the effects, please reach out to your bargaining representative to send a demand to bargain letter. Our general counsel will offer a template on how a demand to bargain letter should look like.

The Washington State FOP realizes that these our unprecedented times we are facing, and it is important that we do our part to help keep communities safe. With that said, we do not have the luxury of staying home. We will inherently find ourselves in a more compromising situation for exposure. It is important that each municipality recognizes this sacrifice and work with their local bargaining units to find ways to limit the possibility of exposer to the dedicated men and women working to keep our communities safe.

Fraternally,

Marco Monteblanco, President
Washington State FOP