

# WASHINGTON



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

## For Immediate Release

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**(Kennewick, WA, February 26, 2020)** As of late September 2019, the Washington State Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) has been aware of communications distributed to the public by Benton County Deputy Sheriff's Guild, Teamsters Local 839, the Benton County Board of Commissioners, Tri Cities Herald Editorial Board, and generally the residents of Benton County responding in the media on the topic of the alleged activity of Benton County Sheriff Hatcher.

The Washington State FOP joins specifically, in support of their brothers and sisters in the Benton County Deputy Sheriff's Guild and is proud to comment on their courageous decision to no longer support Benton County Sheriff Jerry Hatcher.

The Washington State FOP has been dedicated to working throughout Washington State to strengthen relations between law enforcement and the communities in which they serve to enhance trust and cooperation.

Sheriff Hatcher's recent actions with respect to the degrading quality of work environment in Benton County Sheriff's Office and other areas has only served to decrease the trust of the members of law enforcement and the members of the community. Diminishing public trust does not assist in accomplishing our overall shared goals of public safety. We join in the request of an independent investigative law enforcement entity to conduct the appropriate internal or criminal investigations on all currently pending issues.

Both the members of Benton County Sheriff's Guild and the greater Benton County community and residents deserve such action.

Marco Monteblanco, President  
Washington State Fraternal Order of Police

Lynnette Buffington, Executive Director  
Washington State Fraternal Order of Police

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### ABOUT THE WASHINGTON STATE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

*The Washington State Fraternal Order of Police (WAFOP) is a 501(c)8 non-profit organization which represents nearly 3,000 law enforcement officers in the state. Our motto is "Cops helping Cops".*

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