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OFFICE OF THE SKAMANIA COUNTY

SHERIFF

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March 22, 2022

City of Stevenson – City Council Members
Stevenson, WA 98648

Dear Council members,

The following information is an overview of our training calendar, information regarding current police reform compliance, training not listed on our calendar, and our new policy manual.

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office is following all current police reform policy passed by our current legislature and signed by Governor Inslee, to include the revisions (2022 – HB 1735).

Our office received a legal update (training) by Prosecutor Adam Kick regarding the use of force provisions as it relates to our day-to-day enforcement actions in September 2021. If you've read the bill, it did limit use of force to certain circumstances, including but not limited to interaction with person(s) in crisis. It required de-escalation tactics up and to the point of "walking away" if deemed appropriate and no articulable criminal activity is witnesses and/or reported.

We received in-house training on pursuit with the issuance of a new policy, limiting such actions (RCW 10.116.060), upon initial issuance in 2021, and now has been reposted, March of 2022.

We received mandated crisis intervention training, yearly, as mandated by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission. This is sent to each commissioned officer through the state portal, and as such, is not listed on the training calendar. This also included other topics such as biased based policing, de-escalation, and other topics.

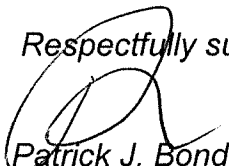
I am not aware of the current Attorney General's model policy being issued yet, although it is required to be published by July 2022. We will comply as requested with our current policy as well.

Our office trains monthly, according to the posted training calendar, however many topics get added as the year goes on. The training officer will notify our staff via in house memo or e-mail of dates, changes, or locations as needed.

Your Sheriff's Office is in the process of transitioning to a new policy and procedure manual, being proctored by LEXIPOL. These are model policies, updated continually, on any new or best practice issued by Washington State. These include use of force, pursuit, crisis intervention, and de-escalation to name a few. This process has been time consuming and tedious at best, however the final product will be current, organized, and appropriate for policing in the current times. This will also include daily training bulletins to train on current policy.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick J. Bond
Undersheriff