

February 10, 2023

Legislative Leadership,

We are writing to urge the Legislature to take action and revise the restrictions of police vehicle pursuits and provide funding to help ensure the public safety needs of our residents.

The Association of Washington Cities (AWC) hears from cities around the state that they have public safety concerns due to an increase in people fleeing from the police. Because of this, AWC selected revising the restrictions on police vehicle pursuits as a 2023 city legislative priority. In AWC's 2022 City Conditions Survey, which includes responses from a diverse and representative group of cities, **62% of cities** said that their community had experienced an increase in the number of people fleeing from the police.

In 2021, AWC was an engaged supporter on many of the police reforms that the Legislature adopted, but we understand that law enforcement is complex and that sometimes legislation needs revising when the impacts become clearer. In the case of the limits adopted on police pursuits, we think revisions are necessary to improve public safety outcomes in our communities.

Right now, too many suspects are simply driving off – sometimes in a dangerous manner – because they believe that they cannot be pursued. This makes our residents feel unsafe. In a recent poll of 500 likely voters from across the state, **79% of residents** indicated their support for revising the restrictions on pursuits to use a reasonable suspicion standard. In that same poll, **86% of residents** said that their highest priority for their city government was public safety and crime reduction.

Cities support:

- **HB 1363:** We believe that the bill includes an appropriate balance between providing law enforcement with the tools needed to pursue dangerous suspects, while focusing on appropriate and necessary safety standards.
- **SB 5533:** The bill contains proposals to create a model policy around police pursuits and new grant funding to help police departments implement new technologies for tracking vehicles.
- Continued state funding to help recruit, retain, and train officers.

This is a challenging time for public safety in our communities. We are seeing an unfortunate increase in crime, while our police departments are stretched thin. We need the Legislature's support to adopt appropriate policies—including revisions to pursuit restrictions and funding to help address the public safety needs of our residents. Creating safe communities takes a partnership between state and local leaders.

We are asking for the Legislature's partnership to improve public safety throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Kati Kachman, Councilmember, Aberdeen
Peter Schave, Mayor, Aberdeen
Dave Floyd, Chief of Police, Anacortes
Matt Miller, Mayor, Anacortes
Heather Logan, Councilmember, Arlington
Don Vanney, Councilmember, Arlington
Barbara Tolbert, Mayor, Arlington
Nancy Backus, Mayor, Auburn

Troy McCoy, Councilmember, Battle Ground
Conrad Lee, Councilmember, Bellevue
Lynne Robinson, Mayor, Bellevue
John Stokes, Councilmember, Bellevue
Seth Fleetwood, Mayor, Bellingham
Tamie Deady, Mayor Pro Tem, Black Diamond
Donnell Tanksley, Chief of Police, Blaine
Angela Baldwin, Councilmember, Bonney Lake

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Benjamin Mahnkey, Councilmember, Bothell
Jeanne Zornes, Councilmember, Bothell
Jeff Coughlin, Councilmember, Bremerton
Janet Conklin, Mayor, Bridgeport
David Marley, Councilmember, Brier
Kaemingk, Mayor, Brier
Steve Hogan, Mayor, Camas
Jim Ribail, Mayor, Carnation
Dustin Green, Councilmember, Carnation
Tim Harris, Deputy Mayor, Carnation
Wade Farris, City Administrator, Chelan
Mark Schuller, City Administrator, Cheney
Jill Weiszmann, Councilmember, Cheney
Chris Grover, Mayor, Cheney
Matthew Lundh, Councilmember, Cle Elum
Shawn Doering, Human Resources Manager, College Place
Chris Lee, Chief of Police, Connell
Elizabeth Porter, Councilmember, Covington
Jeff Wagner, Mayor, Covington
Sean Smith, Mayor Pro Tem, Covington
Joseph Cimaomo Jr, Councilmember, Covington
Debra Hartsock, Councilmember, Covington
Matt Mahoney, Mayor, Des Moines
Carma Oaksmith, Finance Director, DuPont
Ronald Frederick, Mayor, DuPont
Michael Winkler, Deputy Mayor, DuPont
Amy Ockerlander, Mayor & AWC Board Secretary, Duvall
Jerrilea Crawford, Mayor, East Wenatchee
Rick Johnson, Chief of Police, East Wenatchee
Daryl Eidinger, Mayor, Edgewood
Jan Molinaro, Mayor, Enumclaw
Chris Gruner, Councilmember, Enumclaw
Cassie Franklin, Mayor, Everett
Jack Walsh, Councilmember, Federal Way
Jim Ferrell, Mayor, Federal Way
Linda Kochmar, Council President, Federal Way
Susan Honda, Deputy Mayor, Federal Way
Herb Porter, Councilmember, Ferndale
Colleen Corcoran Interim City Manager, Fircrest
Hunter T. George Councilmember, Fircrest
Tim Fletcher, Mayor, Forks
Tracie Markley, Mayor, Gig Harbor
Mary Barber, Councilmember, Gig Harbor

Roger Henderson, Councilmember, Gig Harbor
Julie Martin, Councilmember, Gig Harbor
Jeni Woock, Councilmember, Gig Harbor
Kelly B. Busey, Chief of Police, Gig Harbor
Steven Yarbrough, Mayor, Gold Bar
Jose Trevino, Mayor, Granger
Brent Kirk, City Manager, Granite Falls
Thomas FitzGerald, Councilmember, Granite Falls
Joe Strong, Chief of Police, Hoquiam
Jamie Brand, Councilmember, Hoquiam
Bruce Albert, Councilmember, Index
Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor, Issaquah
David Baker, Councilmember, Kenmore
Chuck Torelli, Councilmember, Kennewick
Marie Mosley, City Manager, Kennewick
James Millbauer, Councilmember, Kennewick
Gretl Crawford, Mayor Pro Tem, Kennewick
Zandria Michaud, Councilmember, Kent
Dana Ralph, Mayor, Kent
Jon Pascal, Councilmember, Kirkland
Toby Nixon, Councilmember, Kirkland
Leialani Jensen, Human Resources Director, Lacey
Venessa Medford, Human Resources Analyst, Lacey
Tom French, Deputy Mayor, Lake Forest Park
Phillippa Kassoover, Council Vice Chair, Lake Forest Park
Tracy Furutani, Councilmember, Lake Forest Park
Brett Gailey, Mayor, Lake Stevens
Jason Whalen, Mayor, Lakewood
Michael D. Brandstetter, Councilmember, Lakewood
Christopher Cargill, Councilmember, Liberty Lake
Tom Sahlberg, Councilmember, Liberty Lake
Jed Spencer, Councilmember, Liberty Lake
Annie Kurtz, Councilmember, Liberty Lake
Dan Dunne, Councilmember, Liberty Lake
Jerry Phillips, Mayor, Long Beach
Flint Wright, Chief of Police, Long Beach
Niekolaas H. Laninga, Councilmember, Lynden
George Hurst, Councilmember, Lynnwood
Jon Nehring, Mayor, Marysville
Kamille Norton, Council President, Marysville
Cynthia Adkins, Councilmember, Medina
Salim Nice, Mayor, Mercer Island
Dave Rosenbaum, Deputy Mayor, Mercer Island

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Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor, Monroe
Allison Williams, City Manager, Moses Lake
Kevin Fuhr, Chief of Police, Moses Lake
Rich Huebner, Assistant City Manager, Moses Lake
Kevin Fuhr, Chief of Police, Moses Lake
Juliana Simon, Councilmember, Mossyrock
Richard Brocksmith, Councilmember, Mount Vernon
Jill Boudreau, Mayor, Mount Vernon
Melissa Beaton, Councilmember, Mount Vernon
Mary Hudson, Councilmember, Mount Vernon
Mark Hulst, Councilmember, Mount Vernon
Gary Molenaar, Councilmember, Mount Vernon
Juan Morales, Councilmember, Mount Vernon
Iris Carias, Councilmember, Mount Vernon
Mary Hudson, Councilmember, Mount Vernon
Gary Molenaar, Councilmember, Mount Vernon
Joe Marine, Mayor, Mukilteo
Linda Newing, Mayor, Newcastle
Kevin Hester, Mayor, Nooksack
Susan West, Deputy Mayor, Normandy Park
Sue-Ann Hohimer, Mayor, Normandy Park
Eric Zimmerman, Councilmember, Normandy Park
Shawn McEvoy, Councilmember, Normandy Park
Alan Gothelf, Councilmember, North Bend
Heather Koellen, Councilmember, North Bend
Rob McFarland, Mayor, North Bend
Jonathan Rosen, Councilmember, North Bend
Blaine Oborn, City Administrator, Oak Harbor
Beth Munns, Councilmember, Oak Harbor
Wayne Turner, Mayor, Okanogan
Joshua Penner, Mayor, Orting
Melodi Koenig, Councilmember, Orting
Gregg Bradshaw, Deputy Mayor, Orting
Shawn Logan, Mayor, Othello
John G. Lallas, Councilmember, Othello
Danae Valdez, Councilmember, Othello
Jon Erickson, Councilmember, Othello
Genna Dorow, Councilmember, Othello
Leanne Guier, Mayor, Pacific
Craig Maloney, Mayor Pro Tem, Pasco
Blanche Barajas, Mayor, Pasco
Joseph Campos, Councilmember, Pasco
David Milne, Councilmember, Pasco
Craig Maloney, Mayor Pro Tem, Pasco

Irving Brown, Councilmember, Pasco
Pete Serrano, Councilmember, Pasco
Kate Dexter, Mayor, Port Angeles
Brian S. Smith, Chief of Police, Port Angeles
Rob Putaansuu, Mayor, Port Orchard
Cindy Lucarelli, Councilmember, Port Orchard
Amy Howard, Deputy Mayor, Port Townsend
Andrew Phillips, Councilmember, Poulsbo
Ned Witting, Deputy Mayor, Puyallup
Julie Door, Councilmember, Puyallup
Tami Justice, Clerk Treasurer, Rainier
David Carson, Councilmember, Redmond
Armondo Pavone, Mayor, Renton
Ruth Perez, Councilmember, Renton
Jon Amundson, City Manager, Richland
Terry Christensen, Mayor, Richland
Theresa Richardson, Mayor Pro Tem, Richland
Jhoanna Jones, Councilmember, Richland
Sandra Kent, Councilmember, Richland
Ryan Lukson, Councilmember, Richland
Shayne VanDyke, Councilmember, Richland
Ryan Whitten, Councilmember, Richland
Brigit Clary, Chief of Police, Richland
David Neher, Deputy Chief of Police, Richland
Jennifer Lindsay, Mayor, Ridgefield
Ron Onslow, Councilmember, Ridgefield
Carrie Roecks, Mayor, Rockford
Carl Cole, City Manager, SeaTac
Peter Kwon, Councilmember, SeaTac
Kathy Downer, Councilmember, Sequim
Lowell Rathbun, Councilmember, Sequim
William Armacost, Councilmember, Sequim
Joe Schmit, Deputy Mayor, Shelton
Eric Onisko, Mayor, Shelton
Sharon Schirman, Councilmember, Shelton
Kathleen McDowell, Councilmember, Shelton
James Boad, Councilmember, Shelton
Keith Scully, Mayor, Shoreline
Betsy Robertson, Deputy Mayor, Shoreline
Henry Sladek, Mayor, Skykomish
Katherine Ross, Mayor, Snoqualmie
Cara Christensen, Councilmember, Snoqualmie
Rob Wotton, Councilmember, Snoqualmie
Carolyn Norris, Mayor, South Prairie

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Nadine Woodward, Mayor, Spokane
Ben Wick, Councilmember, Spokane Valley
Stefany Smith, Mayor, Springdale
Steve Shepro, Councilmember, Stanwood
Roger Neal, Councilmember, Steilacoom
Dick Muri, Mayor, Steilacoom
Russell Wiita, Mayor, Sultan
Kathy Hayden, Mayor, Sumner
Brad Moericke, Chief of Police, Sumner
Kay Kruller, Councilmember, Tukwila
Kathy Hougardy, Councilmember, Tukwila
Allan Ekberg, Mayor, Tukwila
Steve Worthington, Mayor, University Place
Edward A. Wood, Councilmember, University Place

Denise McCluskey, Councilmember, University Place
Randy Hinchliffe, City Administrator, Waitsburg
Elizabeth Chamberlain, City Manager, Walla Walla
Pam Taylor, Human Resources Director, Walla Walla
Molly Coston, Councilmember, Washougal
Frank Kuntz, Mayor, Wenatchee
Fred Brink, Mayor Pro Tem, West Richland
Erica Hearrean, Mayor, Wilbur
Melissa Bulger, Clerk Treasurer, Wilbur
Brandon Buchanan, City Manager, Woodinville
John Brock, Councilmember, Woodway
Mike Quinn, Mayor, Woodway
Patricia Beyrs, Councilmember, Yakima