

CCRP RESOLUTION TO DEMAND A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION TO ADDRESS POORLY WRITTEN LAW ENFORCEMENT REFORM BILLS

WHEREAS several of the bills pertaining to policing in Washington State passed along party lines in the 2021 legislative session; and

WHEREAS said bills were poorly worded, confusing, and at times contradictory; and

WHEREAS several departments and their legal counsel have interpreted the laws differently and therefore there is no established consistency in policing across the state; and

WHEREAS the attorney general has told WASPC that it is “extremely unlikely” there should be an answer to specific questions posed by police groups on how to carry out the new legislation before the next session; and

WHEREAS legislators did include a police group and lobbyist in the committees discussing the bills, but did not listen to their input or heed their warnings nearly as much as they acquiesced to the activists and community groups; and

WHEREAS the long-established, nation-wide “reasonableness standard” for policing was stripped in Washington State, making policing less effective to enforce public safety and hold criminals accountable; and

WHEREAS we are seeing a vast decline in employment of rank-and-file officers since the laws passed; and

WHEREAS the bills dangerously restrict effective less-lethal tools available to officers; and

WHEREAS violent crime and lawlessness has increased since the passing of the bills and apprehensions and accountability for offenders has decreased in the same time period;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CLARK COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY condemns the passing of these bills into law and demands Governor Jay Inslee call a special session to research, discuss, and remedy the 12 collective police reform bills passed in 2021 in order to reestablish the standards we have long held to ensure police can safely and effectively protect our communities.