

March 31, 2023

Legislative Leadership,

Cities across Washington State urge the Legislature to take necessary action to revise the restrictions of police vehicle pursuits. Previously, over 200 city leaders representing over 100 cities and towns sent you [a letter](#) supporting immediate action to address this issue. We are writing today to stress the importance of moving forward with [SB 5352](#) to allow police vehicular pursuits when there is a reasonable suspicion of criminal activity. It is of vital importance to public safety and we urge your support of **SB 5352**.

The Association of Washington Cities (AWC) supports **SB 5352** because it strikes an appropriate balance between providing law enforcement with the tools needed to pursue dangerous suspects when the circumstances demand a pursuit, while emphasizing appropriate and necessary safety standards. AWC supported many of the 2021 legislative police reforms, but it has become clear that the impacts of the legislation pertaining to vehicular pursuits is not in the best interests of public safety overall and must be revised. Cities support **SB 5352** in its current form as a worthwhile and important step in addressing appropriate police pursuit standards and ask our legislators to take action now to pass this bill.

In a recent poll of 500 likely voters from across the state, **79% of residents** supported allowing officers to pursue a fleeing suspect if they have reasonable suspicion that the suspect had committed a crime against another individual. Respondents understood high speed pursuits can be dangerous but agreed that the new law goes too far and encourages suspects to evade the police.

Cities support **SB 5352** to allow an officer to conduct a vehicular pursuit if there is reasonable suspicion that the person in the vehicle has committed a violent offense, a sex offense, vehicular assault, domestic violence, driving under the influence, and other enumerated crimes. The pursuit would only occur if the risks of failing to apprehend the person are greater than the safety risks of the vehicular pursuit. Cities agree with the bill's safety standards and supervisory requirements and believe the bill strikes an important balance that will best promote public safety overall.

Public safety is a top issue for cities this legislative session. 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. We need the Legislature's support to adopt appropriate policies—including revisions to pursuit restrictions. Creating safe communities takes a partnership between state and local leaders. Our constituents are asking for change today.

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

Sincerely,

Peter Schave, Mayor, Aberdeen
Albert Tripp, City Manager, Airway Heights
Don Vanney, Councilmember, Arlington
Barbara Tolbert, Mayor, Arlington
Dwayne Paris, Mayor, Asotin

Nancy Backus, Mayor, Auburn
Cheryl Rakes, Councilmember, Auburn
Erin Erdman, City Manager, Battle Ground
Philip Johnson, Mayor, Battle Ground
Jennifer Robertson, Councilmember, Bellevue

Lynne Robinson, Mayor, Bellevue
Janice Zahn, Councilmember, Bellevue
Jared Nieuwenhuis, Deputy Mayor, Bellevue
John Stokes, Councilmember, Bellevue
Seth Fleetwood, Mayor, Bellingham
Terry Carter, Deputy Mayor, Bonney Lake
Michael McCullough, Mayor, Bonney Lake
Justin Evans, Councilmember, Bonney Lake
Jeanne Zornes, Councilmember, Bothell
Benjamin Mahnkey, Councilmember, Bothell
Janet Conklin, Mayor, Bridgeport
David Marley, Councilmember, Brier
Steve Hogan, Mayor, Camas
Bonnie Carter, Councilmember, Camas
Wade Farris, City Administrator, Chelan
Bob Goedde, Mayor, Chelan
Jill Weiszmann, Councilmember, Cheney
Mark Schuller, City Administrator, Cheney
Matthew Lundh, Councilmember, Cle Elum
Robert Omans, City Administrator, Cle Elum
Beth Williams, Councilmember, Cle Elum
Cathleen Koch, City Administrator, Connell
Regan Bolli, City Manager, Covington
Jeff Wagner, Mayor, Covington
Traci Buxton, Deputy Mayor, Des Moines
Michael Winkler, Deputy Mayor, DuPont
Amy Ockerlander, Mayor, Duvall
David Baublits, Mayor, Eatonville
Jan Molinaro, Mayor, Enumclaw
Anthony Wright, Mayor Pro Tem, Enumclaw
Joe Nanavich, IS Director, Enumclaw
Thomas Sauvageau, Councilmember, Enumclaw
Cassie Franklin, Mayor, Everett
Susan Honda, Deputy Mayor, Federal Way
Jim Ferrell, Mayor, Federal Way
Herb Porter, Councilmember, Ferndale
Pat Hulcey, Councilmember, Fife
Hunter T. George, Councilmember, Fircrest
Jeni Woock, Councilmember, Gig Harbor
Tracie Markley, Mayor, Gig Harbor
Michael Canon, Mayor, Goldendale
Jose Trevino, Mayor, Granger
Joseph Armand, Councilmember, Harrington

Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor, Issaquah
Andrew Hamilton, City Manager, Kelso
Andrew Hamilton, City Manager, Kelso
Marie Mosley, City Manager, Kennewick
Dana Ralph, Mayor, Kent
Jon Pascal, Councilmember, Kirkland
Penny Sweet, Mayor, Kirkland
Elizabeth Cerveny, Mayor Pro Tem, La Center
Andy Ryder, Mayor, Lacey
Brett Gailey, Mayor, Lake Stevens
Jason Whalen, Mayor, Lakewood
John Caulfield, City Manager, Lakewood
Mark McAvoy, City Administrator, Liberty Lake
Annie Kurtz, Councilmember, Liberty Lake
Tom Sahlberg, Liberty Lake, Liberty Lake
Jed Spencer, Councilmember, Liberty Lake
Wendy Van Orman, Councilmember, Liberty Lake
Jerry Phillips, Mayor, Long Beach
MaryAlice Wallis, Mayor, Longview
Niekolaas Laninga, Councilmember, Lynden
Mark Wohlrab, Councilmember, Lynden
Gary Bode, Mayor Pro Tem, Lynden
Brent De Ruyter, Parks Director, Lynden
Anthony Burrows, Finance Director, Lynden
John Williams, City Administrator, Lynden
Kari Heeringa, Human Resource Director, Lynden
Mark Billmire, Fire Chief, Lynden
Brent Lenssen, Councilmember, Lynden
Gerald Kuiken, Councilmember, Lynden
Kyle Strengholt, Councilmember, Lynden
Scott Korthuis, Mayor, Lynden
George Hurst, Councilmember, Lynnwood
Christine Frizzell, Mayor, Lynnwood
Sean P. Kelly, Mayor, Maple Valley
Jon Nehring, Mayor, Marysville
Terri Cooper, Mayor, Medical Lake
Cynthia Adkins, Councilmember, Medina
Salim Nice, Mayor, Mercer Island
Dave Rosenbaum, Deputy Mayor, Mercer Island
Wendy Weiker, Councilmember, Mercer Island
Jake Jacobson, Councilmember, Mercer Island
Craig Reynolds, Councilmember, Mercer Island
Brian Holtzclaw, Mayor, Mill Creek

Shanna Styron Sherrell, Mayor, Milton
Dan Mortensen, Mayor, Morton
Juan Morales, Councilmember, Mount Vernon
Jill Boudreau, Mayor, Mount Vernon
Richard Brocksmith, Councilmember, Mount Vernon
Gary Molenaar, Councilmember, Mount Vernon
Juan Morales, Councilmember, Mount Vernon
Iris Carias, Councilmember, Mount Vernon
Peter Donovan, City Administrator, Mount Vernon
Mary Hudson, Councilmember, Mount Vernon
Mark Hulst, Mayor Pro Tem, Mount Vernon
Melissa Beaton, Councilmember, Mount Vernon
Jeff M Burkett, City Manager, Moxee
Joe Marine, Mayor, Mukilteo
Abby Gribi, City Administrator, Newport
Kevin Hester, Mayor, Nooksack
Sheri Healey, Councilmember, Normandy Park
Rob McFarland, Mayor, North Bend
Jon Martin, Mayor, Ocean Shores
Wayne Turner, Mayor, Okanogan
Joshua Penner, Mayor, Orting
Shawn R. Logan, Mayor, Othello
Ken Roske, Chief of Police, Pasco
Blanche Barajas, Mayor, Pasco
Adam Lincoln, City Manager, Pasco
Darcy Buckley, Finance Director, Pasco
Kate Dexter, Mayor, Port Angeles
Rob Putaansuu, Mayor, Port Orchard
Amy Howard, Deputy Mayor, Port Townsend
Rebecca (Becky) Erickson, Mayor, Poulsbo
Glenn A. Johnson, Mayor, Pullman
Julie Door, Councilmember, Puyallup
Ned Witting, Deputy Mayor, Puyallup
Drew Florence, Assistant City Manager, Richland

Brigit Clary, Police Chief, Richland
Jon Amundson, City Manager, Richland
Terry Christensen, Mayor, Richland
Ryan Whitten, Councilmember, Richland
D. Shayne VanDyke, Councilmember, Richland
Judy Chipman, Councilmember, Ridgefield
Virginia Ekoes, Deputy Clerk, Roslyn
Jeff Adams, Mayor Pro Tem, Roslyn
Bruce Hopkins, Mayor, Ruston
Carl Cole, City Manager, SeaTac
Erin Sitterley, Councilmember, SeaTac
Peter Kwon, Councilmember, SeaTac
Rachel Anderson, Councilmember, Sequim
Keith Scully, Mayor, Shoreline
Julie Struck, Mayor, South Bend
Jan Hall Davis, Councilmember, South Bend
Pam Haley, Mayor, Spokane Valley
Ben Wick, Councilmember, Spokane Valley
Russell Wiita, Mayor, Sultan
Kathy Hayden, Mayor, Sumner
Brad Moericke, Police Chief, Sumner
Kathy Hougardy, Councilmember, Tukwila
Allan Ekberg, Mayor, Tukwila
Steve Worthington, Mayor, University Place
Jillian Henze, Councilmember, Waitsburg
James Romine, Councilmember, Waitsburg
Elizabeth Chamberlain, City Manager, Walla Walla
Paul Curtis, Mayor, Waverly
Fred Brink, Mayor Pro Tem, West Richland
David Fetto, Councilmember, West Richland
Brent Gerry, Mayor/CEO, West Richland
Katy Harris, Mayor, Yarrow Point
Stephan Lagerholm, Councilmember, Yarrow Point
Joe DePinto, Mayor, Yelm