



Jefferson County Sheriff Jeff Shrader's Remarks on SB 20-0217 Peace Officer Integrity Bill

In the spirit of finding common ground during this tumultuous time, I am providing my comments on the proposed Enhance Peace Officer Integrity bill. Like the vast majority of individuals who have dedicated their careers to public safety, I share in the outrage over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. I hear the public's call to re-examine policing in this country and make further change and I encourage thoughtful and effective conversation around legislative measures.

Please review and consider my primary concerns listed below:

1. This bill excludes state-level law enforcement officers and *only* applies to local law enforcement agencies. If the sponsors of this bill want to effect positive criminal justice and uniform law enforcement reform, then state law enforcement agencies must also be included. To do anything else would be disingenuous to this effort.
2. My office uses Body-Worn Cameras (BWC) and I support their use in law enforcement. However, this bill requires BWCs to be worn by all public-facing employees (sworn and civilian) in a local law enforcement agency. This represents a significant and unnecessary increased burden. For the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, this would increase our current BWC annual expenditure (\$236k) by at least eight-fold.
3. I am recommending a modification to the Qualified Immunity language to only impact those incidents which involve an unjustified use of force that results in serious bodily injury or death.
4. In the bill's current form, the fiscal impact related to BWC usage and release of *unedited* video in 14 days, qualified immunity, and mandatory data collection storage and reporting would be extremely burdensome on Jefferson County government. The resulting financial burden will impact delivery of critical services, which have already been substantially affected by budget reductions.

I am also submitting a strike-below version of this bill for consideration to the members of the Jefferson County Legislative delegation, which will contain specific language to address these concerns.

This is a significant and complex issue that deserves a collective and well thought-out approach. Additionally in its current form this bill is overly punitive to good law enforcement officers who are just doing their job, protecting the public. To create change in the best interest of our citizens, I am calling on Governor Polis to call a special session of the legislature to allow a suitable amount of time necessary for this critically important topic.

Sheriff Jeff Shrader

JEFF SHRADER, SHERIFF

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