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Victim-Witness Assistance Program
Stacie Nicholson, Program Advocate
Odilia Espino, Program Advocate

Criminal Division

David Stevens, Chief Criminal Deputy
Jason D'Avignon, Criminal Deputy
Felecia Chandler, Juvenile Deputy
Julia Monroe, District Court Deputy
Alec J Anderson, District Court Deputy

Civil Division

David Gecas, Chief Civil Deputy
Esther M. Milner, Child Support Deputy

Office Administrator
Christa (Teagan) Levine

September 29, 2020

Sheriff Anthony Hawley
Okanogan County Sheriff's Office
123 Fifth Ave
Okanogan, WA 98840

Chief Jeff Koplin
Omak City Police Department
8 North Ash St.
Omak, WA 98841

Sgt. Lex Lindquist
Washington State Patrol
108 State Patrol Rd.
Okanogan, WA 98840

Chief Steve Brown
Colville Tribal Police Department
21 Colville St.
Nespelem, WA 99155

Oroville Police Department
PO Box 2200
Oroville, WA 98844

Twisp Police Department
Chief P. Budrow
PO Box 278
Twisp, WA 98856

Winthrop Marshals Office
Doug Johnson
PO Box 459
Winthrop, WA 98862

Brewster Police Department
Chief M. Ruiz
105 S. 3rd St.
Brewster, WA 98812

Coulee Dam Police Department
300 Lincoln Ave
Coulee Dam, WA 99116

Re: The Right of Washington Citizens to Bear Arms and Organize

Dear All,

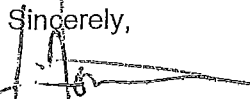
I write to update all of you regarding this office's position regarding organized armed groups. After contacting colleagues and looking more specifically at our State Constitution, this office submits that RCW 38.40.120 is most likely unconstitutional and unenforceable.

Article 1, Section 24 of the Washington State Constitution states, "the right of the individual citizen to bear arms in defense of himself, or the State, shall not be impaired." The State right to bear arms is in harmony with *District of Columbia, et al. v. Heller*, 554 US 570, 128 S.Ct. 2783 (2008). Although an individual right, the Washington Constitution permits the individual bearing arms to defend themselves or the state. It is this office's view that the State Constitution does provide more protections to the individual to bear arms, and RCW 38.40.120 is therefore, unenforceable.

This office does believe in and will protect the Second Amendment at all times. At the same time, it is still this office's goal to promote public safety. In the event of future protests, this office hopes that you will engage this office for assistance, and also to engage our armed citizens prior to any protests to not only protect our community, but also our local protestors from any harm. I trust that they are ready, willing and able to assist us in protecting our community and ensuring that all persons get the opportunity to exercise their First Amendment rights regardless of the issues.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Arian Noma

Prosecuting Attorney for Okanogan County