

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

July 7, 2021

Mason County Community Forum Meetings between 2020 and 2021.

2020

Because of the Covid Epidemic all meetings were cancelled.

2021

On June 6, 2021 a general welcome back unofficial breakfast meeting occurred discussing the effects of the pandemic to the community of Mason County. County Commissioners are in the process of approving the purchase of personal body and auto cameras for the Sheriff's Department. Belfair Extension Office will reopen however gun permit renewal will no longer occur at the Belfair location and must be done on line or at the Shelton Sheriff's Department. New Mental Health 911 issue calls responses. Unless a crime is actually occurring the Sheriff's Department is no longer allowed to respond per Olympia Legislature. Parked vehicles with tires touching the pavement of county roads will be ticketed when reported.

On July 1, 2021 the first official meeting occurred at the Spencer Lake Restaurant. Numerous Law Enforcement Personnel were present as well as Mason County Health Department Personnel. Main discussed issue was the matter of handling mental health issues within the County now that law enforcement can no longer take a 911 call involving a mental health issue unless a crime is actually occurring. Now, per the Director of Health, David Windom, his department employee, Mr. Abe Gardner Public Health Program Coordinator will be the contact person to get involved in these issues and work directly with law enforcement. Crime is on the increase due to drug issues. Commercial and private theft is on the increase, homelessness and living in cars is increasing. Typical statistics state wide. Per investigations, the Sheriff's Department is not guilty of reported cop abuse, last year there were 24 thousand calls for Sheriff's help, high speed pursuit is no longer allowed, unexpected high volume of retirements are occurring.

Currently future Community Meetings will occur on the first Thursday of every month at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Public Relations Chairperson: Maureen Allen