

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

March 10, 2022 Monthly Community Meeting at Burger Claim Restaurant Belfair

Sheriff Spurling called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m. He proceeded to introduce those attending that are volunteers supporting the Mason County Sheriff's Department. Since there are so few, he requested that if anyone who was present would be interested to please contact the Sheriff's Department and apply. Currently, Mason County has the lowest amount of officers in the USA to cover square miles and population. The current jail situation is not allowing law enforcement to arrest the bad guys because of lack of place to house them. Requesting residents to start attending the commissioners meetings. 6 cents per dollar goes to finance MC Sheriff Department. The new body cameras are saving thousands of hours of investigations. All officers love them. Some of the past restricting laws passed in Olympia are finally being lifted as they have been proven to encumber good law enforcement. A lot of vehicle theft is being performed by individuals coming from Pierce and other counties. 9 deputies are retiring this year. Almost impossible to backfill because of all the "HATE COP RETERIC". Society negativity is huge. The average of female officers is 9%, but Mason County is at 30%. Need National Standard for training. There are some states that do not train properly. A Neighbor Citizens Academy for Mason County is going to be developed. A fund raiser for canine officers is needed. All canines are supported entirely by private donations. It costs between 10-15 thousand dollars to train canine officers. Call the sheriff's office to find out how to donate. Approximately 25 thousand calls a year for help is typical. Home invasion calls get addressed first over robberies. The State Patrol has lost 200 officers for various reasons. Mason County is supported by Bremerton. No State Patrol coverage in Grays Harbor. Sometimes if needed Pierce County will help Mason County. If an officer is at a restaurant and someone wants to pay for the officer's meal or beverage it must be anonymous or they will not and cannot accept the generosity. Go to Spurling for Sheriff.com if you desire to support.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.