

TO: File

FROM: Doug Levy/Outcomes By Levy, LLC – 3/30/2020

RE: Notes from Governor's press conference today- joined by Attorney General, Chief of Washington State Patrol, and by phone Chiefs of Spokane and Bellevue

RESPONSE NEEDED: Call or e-mail if questions

Governor

- Started by saying **vast majority people complying w/ Stay at Home order** – want to grow the team of volunteers working with state
- However, notes **“thousands of calls” from concerned residents – concerns about some individuals and businesses not complying**
- Today will be providing **clear guidance on how to report violations and how those orders will be enforced** (NOTE: Numerous questions about who is ignoring the order, how many, where...business vs. individual. Governor/AG/WSP did not provide specifics – Governor at one point said he would get a summary of the complaints and provide)
- **Focus will continue to be on educating the public**
- Said **order might have to be extended** – later said **“very highly likely there will be further action”** to extend the order, but said no announcement today
- **Guidance on reporting violation – will be three tiers:**
 - 1) State/local authorities receive a complaint – will notify those who are the subject of the complain to **stop violating the order – described later as letter**, written document
 - 2) If not, state and locals have **authority to issue citations, suspension notice**, business license revocation notice
 - 3) Refer to **Attorney General for civil or criminal filing – emphasizes that taking people to court would be “absolute last resort”** and we don't want to do
- Emphasizes will be **reliance on local officials and local law enforcement – wants them to continue to have discretion, praises their efforts**. Doesn't want to tell local law enforcement how to do their jobs. Chief Mylett of Bellevue later noted this will continue to be an **“inform and educate” approach** and police want to educate and NOT have to issue citations
- Governor said on this **latest order, there will be 1-stop online form that people can fill out if they've witnessed a violation** – available through www.coronavirus.gov
- “Our hope is for people NOT to violate this order.” Said if we are going to have first responders and health care providers risking their lives, “the least we can do is comply.”

AG Ferguson

- Work w/ local law enforcement – **goal is 100% voluntary compliance**
- **Don't WANT to have to use** the Attorney General's office to file – but **if necessary, I will**
- If a **non-essential business refuses to close, that endangers the public's health**, it is against the law, it is an unfair labor practice
- Re Governor's March 18, 30-day order prohibiting evictions: **Receiving some complaints re landlords trying to circumvent, do work-arounds, get creative -- will be following up**. Later

said it might not be an eviction per se, but changing terms of a lease and other actions that might be like an eviction that they will be checking on

Chief Batiste

- Thanks folks who have been fully compliant
- **Folks out of compliance – please listen to this and fully comply**
- In our tool kit, we have regulatory tools, citations, arrest is the *last* thing we want to do

Spokane Police Chief, Bellevue Police Chief

- People still able to travel and meet basic needs
- Ask people to be judicious – we're working 24/7 to help
- **Don't confuse "voluntary compliance" with "optional"**
- Bellevue Chief later made point of **"inform and educate"** – was asked about Bellevue keeping a 'heat map' of illegal gatherings. Said **not arresting, detaining, keeping names** – using that as tools and information

Governor

- Speaks to considerable date state has on everything from hospitalization to testing to traffic – and **seeing some success in certain areas**
- **BUT, said there are some very concerning developments – testing the other day for COVID-19 – Skagit County was up 21% from prior, Adams County 19%, Island County 17%, Benton County 16%, Franklin County 15%**
- Emphasized that **people should not be taking "non-essential trips."** Have had an overall reduction in traffic of around 50% - but needs to be more. People should tape photo of nurse on dashboard, think of them, ask "is this trip really necessary?"
- Austin Jenkins of NPR asked Governor when we might know 'how long' this lasts – is school out for year, when will we know? Governor said simply **"can't say," would not be responsible to give a date, have to rely on the data. Will return to normal when it's healthy to do so**
- Mentions **productive discussions with Elon Musk about medical equipment and locating some and also Bill Gates** about additional research into testing
- Mentions **talked to VP Pence this morning and also good discussions with FEMA**, Secretary of the Army, the Corps of Engineers
- Reiterates **plea that we have a national system of directing equipment, prioritizing, setting up a system so don't pit states one vs the other**
- **Appreciates federal help but have critical needs for surge capacity** – PPEs, other medical equipment – Washington not unique in that regard
- **We're going to need a lot more help before we're out of the woods**