

Lauren Davidson

From: Perry Huston
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 12:00 PM
To: Angela Hubbard; Lauren Davidson
Subject: FW: LCB officers assigned to Okanogan County

From: Andi Ervin [mailto:occcandi@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 10:53 AM
To: Sheilah Kennedy; Jim DeTro; Ray L. Campbell
Cc: Perry Huston; Frank Rogers; Lesa Eiffert; David Kirk; Leah Beetchenow; Josie Bent; Andi Ervin; Sally Hutton; Lauri Jones; Sheila Corson; Racie McKee; Stacey Okland; Larry Schreckengast; Teri Kruse; Terri Yaksic; Angela Rios; Lynell Morrison-Nelson
Subject: Fwd: LCB officers assigned to Okanogan County

Below is email correspondence between me and the Deputy Chief of Enforcement for Washington State Liquor Cannabis Board regarding enforcement officers assigned to Okanogan County. To capture what is stated below and put it into perspective:

1. One LCB enforcement officer, Officer Scott Wernecke, is responsible for all enforcement of the 63 licensed pot producers in Okanogan County as well as the 44 pot producers in Douglas County. He is stationed in Wenatchee Washington.
2. One LCB enforcement officer is assigned to enforce both retail alcohol and marijuana in Okanogan and Douglas counties — that position will be vacated on April 16 and we will not have an officer until the person leaving for another position is replaced.

As Okanogan County continues the public process of considering a Conditional Use Permit and associated fees for such a permit, this is important to bear in mind. When fully staffed, LCB only has one officer assigned to over 100 marijuana grows covering two counties, and are stationed in a city in which they do not even work. These officers are not knowledgeable about local conditions. In addition, they have certainly proved, as an agency, that they hold little regard for local concerns — even if those concerns come from the locally elected officials representing the area.

I will be submitting formal written comments at tonight's hearing. But this information is especially important when considering and analyzing this issue. I did not want this point to be lost within a multi-page written comment document, but rather I prefer this to stand alone.

Thank you for considering this information as you move forward with the decisions, process, and fees associated with any associated conditional use permits for marijuana business in Okanogan County.

Andi Ervin
Executive Director
Okanogan County Community Coalition
occcandi@yahoo.com
(509) 322-8436

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Johnson, Steven D (LCB)" <steve.johnson@lcb.wa.gov>
Subject: RE: LCB officers assigned to Okanogan County
Date: March 24, 2016 at 4:20:50 PM PDT
To: Andi Ervin <occcandi@yahoo.com>
Cc: "Starkey, Kevin J (LCB)" <kevin.starkey@lcb.wa.gov>, "Segawa, Mary B (LCB)" <mary.segawa@lcb.wa.gov>

Hello again,

I'm sorry I wasn't clear in my first email but thank you for giving me an opportunity to fix it. In reference to Officer Morehead, he is currently responsible for all licensed retail outlets, both liquor and marijuana in both Okanogan and Douglas County. However, he JUST accepted a transfer to the non-retail marijuana unit and I believe he will be responsible for a large portion of Northcentral Washington. The transfer will be effective on April 16th which will leave his currently assigned area vacant until we can fill it. I don't have an estimated time line for doing that. There are too many variables. Until the position is filled, all complaints or questions should go to Lt. Kevin Starkey who will assign them as needed. Officer Warnecke will then go back to his assigned area since he was handling both his and the area Officer Morehead is taking over. We had an employee resign which created the vacancy.

To clarify the role of officers assigned to the non-retail marijuana, the deal only with marijuana producers and processors. They have the authority to enforce alcohol and tobacco laws and can assist in alcohol and tobacco cases but, generally they don't based on their workload and size of their geographic assignments. The MIW unit referenced below is like the non-retail MJ unit. They have the authority to enforce marijuana and tobacco laws in addition to alcohol but, generally they are strictly alcohol enforcement. All of our officers out of the Wenatchee office cover multiple counties.

I'm not sure about your reference to restructuring. In reference to marijuana and alcohol enforcement, we did restructure after I1183 privatized liquor sales I502 passed legalizing recreational marijuana by adding retail officers statewide and standing up the non-retail marijuana unit. Based on other legislative mandates, we stood up a small tobacco tax team at the end of last year that's focusing on illegal and untaxed cigarettes statewide but they have little to do with alcohol or marijuana enforcement.

Because of Officer Morehead's pending transfer, I would recommend that you reach out directly to Lt. Starkey. I have copied him on this email as well. Lt. Starkey should be able to help you.

Again, I hope this helps but don't hesitate to contact me, or Lt. Starkey, if you have other questions or I'm not clear.

Steven D. Johnson,
Deputy Chief
Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board
Enforcement and Education Division
360.664.1729 phone
steve.johnson@lcb.wa.gov

From: Andi Ervin [<mailto:occcandi@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2016 7:43 AM
To: Johnson, Steven D (LCB) <steve.johnson@lcb.wa.gov>
Subject: Re: LCB officers assigned to Okanogan County

Can you please tell me what geographic area Steve Morehead covers — and is his work limited to the retail stores, and he does not handle the producers and processors? My assumption is that Sgt Knowles handles the producers and processors — can you please define his assigned geographic area?

Since officer Wernecke is “non-retail marijuana” — does that mean he covers the regulation of alcohol and tobacco?

Clearly there has been some restructuring since implementation of the marijuana industry. I am attempting to understand who our local contacts are with LCB— and how much ground they are expected to cover. Our organization works closely with local law enforcement jurisdictions and none of us are sure who is our contact, where they are based, and what ground they are covering.

Andi Ervin
Executive Director
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On Mar 23, 2016, at 5:48 PM, Johnson, Steven D (LCB) <steve.johnson@lcb.wa.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Ms. Ervin,

In the retail unit, Steve Morehead is the officer for that area. In non-retail marijuana, it's Officer Scott Wernecke and in the Manufacturers, Importers, and Wholesale (MIW) it's Sergeant Robert Knowles.

If I can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Johnson,
Deputy Chief
Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board
Enforcement and Education Division
360.664.1729 phone
steve.johnson@lcb.wa.gov

From: Segawa, Mary B (LCB)
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 3:24 PM
To: Johnson, Steven D (LCB) <steve.johnson@lcb.wa.gov>
Subject: FW: LCB officers assigned to Okanogan County

Steve, could you please respond to Andi, me, or both? I don't want to give bad info. ☺ Thanks.

Mary Segawa

Mary Segawa
Public Health Education Liaison
WA State Liquor and Cannabis Board
(360) 664-1771
<https://lcb.wa.gov>

From: Andi Ervin [<mailto:occcandi@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 2:31 PM
To: Segawa, Mary B (LCB) <mary.segawa@lcb.wa.gov>
Subject: LCB officers assigned to Okanogan County

Can you please tell me which LCB officers cover Okanogan County? When I went to LCB's website, it appears some reorganization may have occurred.

I see there are four designated regions — ours being Central/Eastern Washington. Which staff members cover Okanogan County? And what geographic area do they cover? I know Okanogan County used to be covered by officers based out of Chelan County and they covered three or four counties. But I am not sure of the current geographic coverage.

Thanks — I look forward to hearing from you!

Andi Ervin
Executive Director
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