



MONROE THIS WEEK

July 23, 2021 • Volume 7/Edition 29



Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition includes a message from Chief Jolley, details on a rental assistance assistance program, open positions at the City, the Community Human Services Needs Assessment Survey, the lifesaving awards given to four of our Monroe Police Officers, the upcoming Lake Tye Triathlon, the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan Town Hall, Grocery Outlet's Give \$5 Get \$5 Food Drive, and new opportunities for student representatives on the Monroe School Board.



Please contact me with any and all feedback regarding the articles below. I can be reached at GThomas@MonroeWA.gov.

Yours in Service,



Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF JOLLEY

As Police Chief, I want to keep Monroe residents aware of the service and public safety impacts present within our community. Earlier this year, the Washington State Legislature enacted several pieces of legislation which will affect how we deliver law enforcement services moving forward. Beginning Sunday, July 25, 2021, you may observe some changes in our policing efforts.



Vehicle Pursuits: A result of House Bill 1054, vehicular pursuits are no longer permitted, unless the following factors are met:

1. Probable cause exists for a violent offense or sex offense as defined in RCW 9.94A.030, or escape as defined in RCW 9A.76; or reasonable suspicion exists for DUI under RCW 46.61.502;
2. The pursuit must be necessary for identifying or apprehending the person; and
3. The suspect poses an imminent threat to safety, and the risk of failing to apprehend or identify is greater than the safety risks of the pursuit under the circumstances.

Amongst other crimes, state law now prohibits vehicular pursuits for Misdemeanor Assault (DV or not), Residential Burglary, Theft of a Firearm, Assault in the 3rd Degree, Hate Crimes, and Assault of a Child in the 3rd Degree. Monroe Police Officers will no longer pursue for property crimes, as well as misdemeanor offenses up to and including some domestic violence crimes. Officers will pursue only under heightened legal thresholds for violent crimes like Robbery, Drive by Shooting, or Vehicular Assault.

Whether or not a suspect flees from our officers, we remain committed to identifying, arresting, and holding those accountable who commit crime within our community. While arrest is made more efficient when a crime is in progress or has just occurred in the presence of our officers, know that we will investigate criminal activity, regardless of whether the suspect(s) got away. We

will continue to file cases into municipal and superior court where arrest is reasonable and appropriate.

Chokeholds, Tear Gas and No-Knock Warrants: Chokeholds, the use of tear gas and no-knock warrants are strictly prohibited with very limited exception. This legislative action will require minimal change with our pre-existing policy and standard.

Use of Force: House Bill 1310 implements more restrictive use of force guidelines for law enforcement officers. In the context of our policy, "use of force" means the application of physical techniques or tactics to another person, in support of a legitimate law enforcement purpose. In 2020, this amounted to force being used in 0.17% of our calls for service.

Under House Bill 1310, law enforcement officers are now required to have probable cause before using force. Pre-existing standards and policy allowed force when an officer possessed reasonable suspicion. This legislative change will vastly affect our service to the public, perhaps most visible with behavioral health contacts or when officers are engaged in community caretaking functions with individuals in crisis. Absent a crime, our officers possess no legal authority to escort, remove, physically assist, or otherwise use force with individuals in crisis, unless there is imminent threat of bodily injury.

As many of you know, the City of Monroe employs a part-time Social Worker, along with a Community Outreach Officer. Their role includes partnering with our community service providers, aiding vulnerable members of our community who possess addiction and/or behavioral health issues. By nature of their work, this team participates in a statewide alliance of co-responders, consisting of behavioral health professionals, police officers and firefighters performing like-minded work. This group, the Co-Responder Outreach Alliance (CROA), has expressed their concern with House Bill 1310, specifically being the legislation omitting provisions about involuntary detention. As law enforcement, we are left without guidance about appropriate uses of force when responding to individuals who are under the influence of drugs, who may be suicidal, or who otherwise are experiencing a behavioral health crisis. In our previous responses to incidents like these, our force applications would be as innocuous as giving someone an arm escort and/or guiding an individual to a stretcher. These actions are now prohibited. Using a minimal amount of force has prevented further escalation and allowed an individual to be evaluated and treated, thereby preventing them from hurting themselves or others. Under the new law, these force actions are now prohibited. In practice, and absent any criminal elements, Monroe Police Officers are left to merely suggest and encourage individuals to seek help voluntarily.

House Bill 1310 also requires law enforcement officers to use de-escalation practices. At the [Monroe Police Department](#), these standards are already written into policy and are routinely used by our police officers in their call responses. We employ two Patrol Tactics Instructors, who, along with a group of other county-wide trainers, are responsible for training Snohomish County Law Enforcement personnel using best practice curriculum on de-escalation patrol tactics.

While the methods in which law enforcement officers perform their work are changing, please know that the men and women of the Monroe Police Department demonstrate their commitment to lawful, constitutional policing, on a daily basis. We remain committed to providing the highest level of service to everyone in our community, aligning our actions with both standard and law. We consider it an honor to serve this community, and we are thankful for your support.

Sincerely,

Jeff Jolley
Chief of Police

SNOHOMISH COUNTY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Are you at risk of eviction due to the pandemic? Do you need help paying your rent? You may qualify for help.

Snohomish County, in partnership with the [Volunteers of America Western Washington](#), [Cocoon House](#), [Workforce Snohomish](#), and other partner organizations, is accepting applications for emergency rental assistance. This program is intended to help prevent evictions by paying past due, current, and future rent and utilities for eligible households.



Rental assistance is focused on those in greatest need who have been impacted because of income loss or other factors affecting housing stability due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Current funding will not be able to meet all rental assistance needs, but is expected to make a significant impact for those most in need. Visit [Snohomish County's Coronavirus Response & Community Resource Hub](#) to find out if you are eligible and how to apply today.

THE CITY OF MONROE HAS OPEN POSITIONS

Looking to serve the community you live in? The City of Monroe has a few positions open, including Public Works Director, Plans Examiner, Probations Counselor, and Parks Planning Manager. Please visit our [Employment Opportunities](#) page for more information and job qualifications.



COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY NOW OPEN

Please help the City and our service providers by taking our 2021 Community Human Services Needs Assessment Survey. The City has solicited proposals for a consultant to conduct a community needs assessment, gap analysis and facilitated program development for the City of Monroe and the Sky Valley, including the cities of Snohomish, Sultan, Gold Bar, and unincorporated Snohomish County. The assessment will be used to inform myself, the Monroe City Council, and community stakeholders of the human service needs in the Sky Valley area.



Visit [our website](#) for both the Spanish and English versions of the survey, and to learn more information about the project.

MONROE POLICE OFFICERS RECEIVE LIFESAVING AWARDS

On Wednesday, July 22, the [Ward Roney Jr. VFW Post 7511](#) presented lifesaving awards to four of our Monroe Police Officers: Natalie Michel, Kaitlin Fisher, Alex Nelson and Shaun Van Eaton. The award presentation recognized their efforts rescuing two children from a frigid pond on February 16, 2021. Post Commander Terry Stinson said, "This incident merely serves as another example of the commitment to others and the community that nearly all police officers exemplify on a daily basis".

Thank you Commander Stinson, Jr. Vice Commander Eric Ciocco, and VFW Dept. of WA Surgeon Drew James, for recognizing the life-saving work of our police officers.



LAKE TYE TRIATHLON COMING UP

The Lake Tye Triathlon is just a few weeks away on Saturday, August 7. This 11th annual USAT-sanctioned race at Lake Tye Park is great for the beginner to the elite. Save the date and come cheer on the athletes.

Please note: There will be a road closure for this event. Fryelands Blvd. will be closed from Currie Road to Tye Street on August 7 from 6:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Detour signs will be posted.



HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR PARKS

Don't forget, next week is the Virtual Town Hall meeting on Thursday, July 29 at 6:00 p.m. where we will be discussing our Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan. Participation information is now available; you can join the meeting by clicking the link [here](#).



Visit the [PROS Plan page](#) to learn more about the project, planning process, meetings and document library, and to join our mailing list or contact us. If you can't make it, stop by the Parks booth at National Night Out on August 3 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Lake Tye Park to get information and share your input.

ONE WEEK LEFT FOR GROCERY OUTLET FOOD DRIVE

If you haven't made it down to Grocery Outlet yet for their Give \$5 Get \$5 food drive, you have just one week left. Donate \$5 or more and receive a coupon for \$5 off a future purchase of \$25 or more. [The Sky Valley Food Bank](#) benefits greatly from this event as all donations stay local. Help fight hunger in our community today!



OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ON SCHOOL BOARD

With commitment to equitable access for all students as their focus, the Monroe School District has made changes to their board policy and procedure pertaining to student representatives on the school board. As we move into the 2021-22 school year, there will now be two student representative positions open to any junior or senior in the Monroe School District. Student representatives attend regular, special, and conference meetings of the board, seek input from and share relevant information with the student body, and vote on board issues in an advisory capacity. For information on how to apply, visit the school district's website [here](#).



UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will next meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, July 27, 2021. The meeting will be held in a hybrid format; members of the public may participate in Monroe City Council meetings both in-person at City Hall and remotely via the Zoom remote meeting platform. Participation information will be posted with the July 27 agenda, which can be accessed by clicking the button below.

Council Agendas/Minutes

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember
Patsy Cudaback



Councilmember
Kevin Hanford



Councilmember
Ed Davis



Councilmember
Jason Gamble

Councilmember
Jeff Rasmussen

Councilmember
Kirk Scarboro

Councilmember
Heather Fulcher

Have a question for your Councilmembers?
Contact them at councilmembers@monroewa.gov



City of Monroe | (360) 794-7400 | 806 West Main Street, Monroe, WA 98272

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by rhuebner@monroewa.gov powered by



Try email marketing for free today!