



LAW ENFORCEMENT NEWSLETTER

To Serve & Protect

April 2022

State's attorneys: Illinois' SAFE-T Act hinders law enforcement and gives violent offenders a pass

By JACQUELINE M. LACY, ERIC WEIS, NICHOLE KRONCKE and THOMAS A. HAINE

As chief legal officers, we have a sworn duty to protect the people of our counties. However, that promise has become increasingly more difficult to uphold because of Illinois legislation that was signed into law last year. Since the passage of the erroneously named SAFE-T Act, communities across our state have seen record spikes in crime, including rampant carjackings, indiscriminate shootings and homicides. The proposals set forth in House Bill 3653 pose a serious threat to public safety — specifically, to victims and witnesses of violent crimes in our community.



This legislation, at nearly 800 pages, was poorly drafted, passed in the middle of the night with little to no public debate or review, and contained various reactionary requirements inconsistent with long-standing and sound jurisprudence of our country and state.

While the state legislature has since made a handful of changes to the SAFE-T Act, there are still many provisions in the sweeping new law that are not workable and/or create public safety concerns. For example, the law proposes that all defendants charged with criminal acts should be released from custody without posting monetary bail. This abolition of cash bail is set to go into effect Jan. 1, 2023, which will cause major public safety issues. For instance, violent offenders who are released on electronic monitoring and choose to violate the terms of their release have to be in violation for 48 hours before law enforcement can do anything about it.

Furthermore, this denies crime victims their constitutional rights. Article 1, Section 8.1 of the Illinois Constitution, codified in the Rights of Crime Victims and Witnesses Act, mandates that crime victims shall have the right to have their safety and that of their families considered in denying or fixing the amount of bail, determining whether to release the defendant and setting conditions of release after arrest and conviction. Eliminating bail clearly contradicts previously established and superior law, places crime victims at a greater risk to be re-victimized, and unnecessarily subjects witnesses to threats and intimidation.

In addition, the law severely weakens the habitual-crime statutes and “three strikes” sentencing laws. This makes it significantly harder for our criminal justice system to get repeat violent offenders off the streets and behind bars. We can't expect to have any success in keeping our communities safe if we continue releasing the very people who are most likely to commit violent crimes. These statutes were designed for this very purpose: to empower law enforcement and prosecutors to keep violent criminals off the streets.

Most egregiously, however, is that this law substantially strips the people of this state of the ability to charge an individual with what is commonly referred to as “felony murder.” This is a crime in which an individual commits or attempts to commit a forcible felony that results in someone's death. Weakening this long-standing provision simply is inconsistent with the ends of justice.

In short, this poorly drafted law, containing ill-conceived directives, would negatively affect the integrity of every investigation, prosecution and the safety of every citizen of our community. We must stand with the men and women of law enforcement who consistently stand up for us, and we must not allow this law to stand as passed.

We must continue to work to get rid of the dangerous provisions of the SAFE-T Act that hamper the ability of law enforcement to pursue and arrest offenders. Policymakers need to own up to and address the bail reform and electronic monitoring changes that we have already seen result in tragic consequences where similar provisions have been in effect. Those who originally voted for this bill are now realizing that they

may have gone too far when they see more and more citizens from across the state becoming victims of violent crimes, allegedly committed by defendants released without bail pending felony prosecution.

The spring legislative session is scheduled to end in just a couple of weeks, leaving little time for substantive action to address these issues. We need our lawmakers to step up now, and we need to make sure that they hear from the people who work every day to protect their communities.

Behind the Badge: Sheriff Andy Hires

Richland County



MEET SHERIFF
ANDREW HIRES
Richland
COUNTY



[Click the above image to view the video](#)

Paying It Forward

A woman has anonymously funded law enforcement officers' dry cleaning for five years

A Las Cruces, New Mexico, resident's good deed is reverberating throughout the community after she revealed she has anonymously paid for local law enforcement officers' dry cleaning for the past five years.

Donna Stryker came up with the idea after encountering a police officer at the dry cleaner's one day.



"I was right here and actually there was a police officer in front of me," she remembered. "I thought what if I paid for his uniform and I think I talked to whoever was here that day and you know they had already paid for it and then so the next time I caught it and I was able to pay for the uniform and I was like well what if I just leave money."

Stryker said she wasn't sure if she wanted to come forward, but she thought her idea might encourage others who are doing good deeds in the city of just over 100,000 people.

"Las Cruces is not really recognized for the goodness and generosity of every single person I run into anyway and people pay it forward all the time and I thought that if I came forward maybe it would inspire someone else to do something," she told KRQE News.

Vanessa Sanchez, the wife of a Las Cruces Sheriff's sergeant, described her feelings after discovering

that her husband's dry cleaning had already been paid for.

"It completely warmed my heart and I started crying and to me, it was just an amazing feeling because my husband gets that gratitude on a daily sometimes but as a spouse to feel that it was amazing," she said.

Dan Schneider, the owner of Comet Cleaners, has an arrangement with Stryker. She drops the money off every month, which is then distributed to all the store's locations in the city to go toward law enforcement dry cleaning.

"Law enforcement officers represent our city and the departments they work under, so they have to look their best and in a professional way so we're glad to be a part of that to help them," said Schneider, who also offers discounts for law enforcement and military personnel.

Article [HERE](#)

Please help us spread the word!



National Police Week

May 11 - 16, 2022

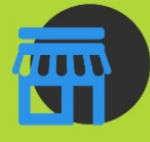
Respect. Honor. Remember.



What is Police Week?

National Police Week occurs every May and is a collaborative effort of many organizations dedicated to honoring America's law enforcement community.

The ISA participates in Police Week by attending Illinois Police Memorial Ceremony and honoring law enforcement officers who have given their lives in the performance of their duty.



How Can I Get Involved as a Business?

Set up a window display or hang a thin blue line flag to show your support of local Law Enforcement. Be one of the first 50 businesses to sign up to show support for Illinois Law Enforcement during Police Week & receive the above "We Stand with Illinois Law Enforcement" sticker from the ISA for free!

www.ilsheriff.org/signup



How Can I Get Involved as an Individual/Family?

Buy blue lightbulbs for your porch lights during Police Week, put up a sign in your front yard or purchase an ISA Solidarity Kit and hand out "Thank you Officer" cards to local police!

www.ilsheriff.org/solidarity-package



Why is Police Week Important?

2021 was a devastating year for law enforcement deaths in Illinois.

Many officers are growing tired and weary, others are leaving the professional all together or accepting positions in neighboring states. Let's show local police they are appreciated & supported as they work to protect us each and every day.



Police Week Events

To view a National Police Week Event near you, visit: policeweek.org & illinoispolice memorial.org

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association now has a **Video page** featuring select body/dash camera footage, ISA heroes and Behind the Badge videos. This page will be updated frequently. *Click the image below to view!*



Announcing

VIDEOS

on ISA's website

Ivy Jacobsen had a horrific childhood. At school, she befriended the school resource officer who would change her life



The Eastmont School District and the East Wenatchee Police Department are excited to announce Officer Ivy Jacobsen as their School Resource Officer (SRO). Between now and June she will complete 93 hours of SRO specific training and begin on March 28th.

[#eastmontschools](#)



4:07 PM · Mar 9, 2022



[By Pete O'Cain](#)

The Wenatchee World, Wash.

As a teen, Marysville Middle School was a respite from home for East Wenatchee police officer Ivy Jacobsen — her "seven hours of freedom," as she said in an interview.

Home was abusive. Her father sexually abused her and was violent toward her mother and two younger siblings.

At school, she befriended a school resource officer named Dave White. She didn't tell White about home. Not at first.

Jacobsen disclosed the abuse to authorities a few years later while a sophomore in high school, and White was the arresting officer,

she said.

This week, life came full circle for Jacobsen: she was announced as the new school resource officer for the Eastmont School District, just like White.

"He saved my life," Jacobsen said of her mentor. She added he "essentially inspired me in that I wanted to be a public servant in service to others. In order to be a servant like him I had to become a police officer."

Her father was convicted of rape and child molestation in 2013 and sentenced to 16 years in prison,

according to KUOW in Seattle.

On Wednesday, the East Wenatchee Police Department announced Jacobsen will be the new school resource officer for the Eastmont School District.

Jacobsen said she hopes to be a voice for victims who "helps others in their journey of getting help and seeking their justice" like her former school resource officer in Marysville. That's why she's public about her personal experiences with abuse.

Jacobsen joined the East Wenatchee Police Department in 2021 after spending the first four years of her career with the Bothell Police Department where she was named its top officer in 2020. She also worked as a spokesperson for Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center, a nonprofit organization that works with victims of child physical and sexual abuse.

The police department hasn't had a school resource officer in more than a decade.

The Eastmont School Board approved an agreement with the city of East Wenatchee in October to share costs. The position is expected to cost \$135,000, including salary and benefits, with the school district paying about \$81,000 and the city paying about \$54,000.

State legislation requires police departments to seek input from school districts when selecting a school resource officer, but the selection is ultimately made by the individual police department. Two East Wenatchee officers applied for the position and gave presentations to Eastmont officials detailing their personal backgrounds and plans for the position.

As a school resource officer, Jacobsen will be tasked with intervening with students and connecting them with services to avoid trouble.

The majority of her time will be spent at Eastmont High School and Eastmont and Sterling junior high schools, though Jacobsen is expected to also make visits to the district's six elementary schools.

"For the first year we're really just laying the groundwork for getting the SRO program started at the Eastmont School District," said Chief Rick Johnson.

"Our plan obviously is we're reestablishing a connection with that community," Johnson said.

He noted that, during the school day, Eastmont High School is the largest population center in the city. That's roughly 1,450 people, according to the school district.

"She's going to be their community cop," Johnson said.

To that affect, Jacobsen said she wants to help restore public trust in police.

By June, Jacobsen is expected to complete 93 hours of training specific to work as a school resource officer: 13 hours online, followed by 40 hours of basic SRO training in Ellensburg and then another 40 hours of advanced school resource officer training in the Tri-Cities, Johnson said.

Among her top priorities will be to examine existing emergency actions plans — procedures to follow in disasters or emergencies.

"I plan on walking through schools with Ballard (Ambulance) to see that they agree with the emergency plans," Jacobsen said. "We need to have that open communication and make it clear with not only patrol, but with schools and medical teams that we would be working with as well."

Her first day is March 28.

"My approach with our kiddos here is I want them to be able to trust me," Jacobson said.

The Cebrin Goodman Teen Institute
is open to all 7th - 12th grade students for the 2022-2023 school year!



What is the Cebrin Goodman Teen Institute (CGTI)?

CGTI is a youth leadership program that gives students the knowledge, confidence and skills to live a drug and alcohol-free life. Our Mid-Year conference offers our youth opportunities to hear from and work with renowned speakers, connect with peers from across the state, expand prevention education & more. Our conference serves as a foundation for skill development, youth and adult networking and, of course, fun!

Who Can Attend?



CGTI is open to all 7th - 12th grade students for the 2022-2023 school year, coming with a team or individually. This event is for students who are or want to be leaders in their schools and communities! We also encourage an adult from the school/community to attend to support the student's action plan.



What is the ISA Scholarship?

This application is for an Illinois Sheriffs' Association (ISA) scholarship. Scholarships are open to middle and high school students entering 7th-12th grade for the next (2022-2023) school year. There are a limited amount of scholarships awarded each year. Once submitted, your application will go through a review process and you will be contacted by CGTI at a later date with further details. Priority goes to those who have not received an ISA scholarship before.

www.ilsheriff.org/youth-2

[ISA Store Now Open!](#)



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Hats, Visors, Dog
Collars & Leashes,
and more!



THANK YOU

Illinois Officers

