

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 21, 2021



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WISCONSIN'S LARGEST POLICE GROUP URGES LAWMAKERS TO ACT ON TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

(MADISON, Wis.) – Following the release of numerous recommendations issued Wednesday by the Speaker's Task Force on Racial Disparities Subcommittee on Law Enforcement Policies and Procedures, the executive director of the Wisconsin Professional Police Association (WPPA), Jim Palmer, issued this statement:

"Through the Task Force on Racial Disparities, advocates for communities of color, faith-based organizations, law enforcement, and lawmakers from both parties came together for the first time ever to discuss how to evolve policing in Wisconsin. Resulting from several months of in-depth discussions, the recommendations released today represent a meaningful step forward in strengthening policing and the relationship between law enforcement and the communities it serves. If enacted, these measures will serve to increase law enforcement transparency and accountability, enhance the training and qualifications officers need to meet the demands of their profession, and provide local governments with more resources to better serve the public. We strongly support these measures and urge state lawmakers to act on them as soon as possible.

"Even if lawmakers act on these recommendations, there still remains considerable work to be done, and many members of the subcommittee are committed to continuing the incredibly-important dialogue that the Task Force helped facilitate. None of us wants the results of our efforts to sit on a shelf and collect dust. While the final report is a testament to what can be achieved when motivated, thoughtful, and community-oriented people work together for a common good, it cannot be allowed to mark the end of our efforts.

"The Task Force co-chairs – Rep. Jim Steineke (R- Kaukauna) and Rep. Sheila Stubbs (D-Madison) – deserve great credit for masterfully providing leadership and direction to this diverse group as it worked to build a consensus of support for significant recommendations released today. I commend them for making sure that every member's voice was heard, and I am proud to have had the opportunity to contribute to this significant endeavor. It has been an honor to work alongside these legislative leaders, community representatives and my law enforcement colleagues to arrive at a consensus on some of the vital issues facing our state."

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With more than 10,000 members from over 300 local association affiliates, the WPPA is Wisconsin's largest law-enforcement group. Its mission is to protect and promote public safety, as well as the interests of the dedicated men and women that serve to provide it.