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SEATTLE PD CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TO BE HONORED BY THE WASHINGTON COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT FOR WORK ON BODY CAMERAS.

Seattle----When the Seattle Police Department received an open records request to produce every video ever recorded by the department, they didn't stonewall or obfuscate like so many other agencies have done. Instead, SPD Chief Operating Officer Mike Wagers offered to work with the requestor on complying with these requests, while balancing privacy concerns and public disclosure requirements.

For taking such a positive, proactive stance, the Washington Coalition for Open Government will present Wagers with a Key Award at tomorrow's city council meeting. Key Awards are given to any person or organization who has done something notable for the cause of open government within the past 12 months.

In November, an anonymous computer programmer filed several massive public disclosure requests for records including for all videos captured by police body cams. The department had planned a six-month trial program to outfit 12 officers with body cams, with a view toward expanding the use of body cams more widely in the future.

The massive requests threatened to derail the test program. The SPD's Wagers responded by asking the programmer if he would withdraw his request and instead work with the department on developing a workable method of complying with such requests in the future, with a goal of balancing privacy concerns and public disclosure requirements.

The department is being recognized for trying to work out a reasonable solution rather than simply stonewalling or abandoning its body-cam initiative.

Join WCOG and help in the non-partisan fight for transparent government and open public participation. WCOG was founded in 2002 by a group of individuals representing organizations with a broad spectrum of opinions and interests but all dedicated to the principles of strengthening the state's open government laws and protecting the public's access to government at all levels. WCOG stands for the principle that transparency and public participation are essential building blocks of good government.

Membership is open to the public. For more information contact WCOG at 6351 Seaview Avenue NW, Seattle, WA 98107-2664, on the web at www.washingtoncog.org, or call (206) 782- 0393.