



## Clark County Sheriff's Office

707 West 13th Street • PO Box 410 • Vancouver, WA 98666 • (360) 397-2366 • Fax (360) 397-2367

Chuck E. Atkins, Sheriff

Dear Sheriffs, Police Chiefs and Law Enforcement Community,

My name is Chuck E. Atkins and I am the Sheriff of Clark County Washington. I am writing this letter to show my support and give my endorsement for a great movement within my county. It is the "Inspiring Kindness" campaign, powered by Life Vest Inside! If you have heard of this already then you know what the Kindness Citation program is all about and know of its value. If you haven't heard of it then please take the time to hear out the individual that is providing this to you. My participating deputies have changed the lens by which my community is seen through by their involvement. Our goal is to change the lens that the community sees our deputies through, create relationships within our community and recognize the power of kindness one face-to-face contact at a time.

The Kindness Citation is a tool that gives every one of my deputies the opportunity to take action when they see any act of kindness. The face-to-face interaction with law enforcement and our community, when things haven't gone totally wrong, does an untold amount of good for the relationship that my deputies have with those they serve. It also allows for those being recognized, an opportunity to pay it forward! At an even greater level, the Kindness Citation creates a bridge allowing the people we serve to see the law enforcement officer/deputy in a light that they may not have had before. In turn, improving the perception that some have regarding those that wear the badge.

It is no secret that in our profession today we are not seen by many as the protectors and servants that we really are. We can complain about it and continue to see the division and animosity that is happening or we can take action to do our part to change this perception, one Kindness Citation at a time.



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I encourage you to take a leap of faith and see the results for yourself. I made the decision to not make this a mandatory program that every deputy was expected to do...because the Sheriff said so! I made the decision to select a few deputies that embodied the program as first implementers. This is when other deputies noticed the difference that was being made, the positive exposure that it brought and have requested to be part of it also!

If you would like to talk to me personally, I would enjoy having a conversation with you about the change this is making in my community.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck E. Atkins".

Sheriff Chuck E. Atkins