



**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

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Government and Media Relations

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## **Statement from Chief John R. Batiste on Recent Incidents**

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to everyone who has been impacted by the recent events in both New Orleans and Las Vegas. The heartless taking of innocent life, the causing of significant injuries, and the use of explosive violence have no place in our society. The Washington State Patrol appreciates the good work being done by local, state, and federal law enforcement in responding to and investigating both of these cases. We are especially appreciative of the two New Orleans Police Officers injured in the attack and wish them and all the other surviving victims full and speedy recoveries.

After these two incidents, the Washington State Patrol has been asked if there is any reason for increased concern in our area. We have no reports of any additional or unique threats at this time.

However, in an age of increased conflict and division, we will reiterate our standing advice to everyone - always stay situationally aware and be ready to avoid, escape from, appropriately react to, or report dangerous situations when you are in public. Whether at work or simply out and about, it is always a good idea to make note of your best exit routes in case there is an emergency. And, of course, if you see something, say something. Don't ever hesitate to call 911 or alert nearby security or police if you sense danger or see someone acting suspiciously. More often than not, there is a simple and innocent explanation and outcome. But just in case, please be aware and vigilant.

We cannot, and will not, live our lives in fear, but we can and must always use reasonable caution and care as we navigate our daily lives.

Be strong, Washington. Public safety is a shared responsibility, and the Washington State Patrol appreciates your attention and assistance.

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