



**DE-ESCALATE WASHINGTON**  
*Building bridges between communities and police*

December 27, 2017

Contact: Leslie Cushman

[leslie.cushman.olympia@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.cushman.olympia@gmail.com)

360.280.0087

## **De-Escalate Washington to File Signature Petitions for I-940** **Measure would promote public safety, community trust in law enforcement**

De-Escalate Washington, the sponsors of Initiative 940 (I-940), will file signature petitions at the Washington Secretary of State's Elections Division (520 Union Ave. SE in Olympia) tomorrow, December 28, at 1:00 pm. Campaign supporters will gather at the United Churches of Olympia (11011 Ave. SE) at 11:30 am and will begin marching to the Elections Division office together with families of victims of police violence at 12:30 pm.

I-940 would require law enforcement to receive violence de-escalation and mental health training, and would reform the state's criminal liability standard for the use of deadly force to require officers to act in good faith.

"We would like to thank the many volunteers and the campaign staff who have worked for months across the state to bring this issue before the legislature," said Nina Martinez, chair of the Latino Civic Alliance and member of De-Escalate Washington's leadership team. "Today is an important step in the effort to reduce violence in our communities."

"Action on this issue is long overdue, and I give my heartfelt thanks to the hundreds of thousands of Washington voters who have sought action by signing petitions for I-940," said Annalesa Thomas, the mother of Leonard Thomas who was killed by police in 2013. "Their engagement is providing healing and empowerment to the family members of loved ones whose lives were lost due to police violence."

To qualify I-940 for consideration during the 2018 state legislative session, De-Escalate Washington must submit 259,622 valid signatures. De-Escalate Washington intends to submit more than 355,000 signatures.

Once the Secretary of State certifies a qualifying number of valid signatures, the initiative will be referred to the Washington Legislature for consideration during its 2018 session. If the legislature does not pass I-940, the measure will go onto the November 2018 general election ballot.

Supporters of I-940 will speak before the signatures are submitted, including:

- Lisa Earl and James Rideout, the mother and uncle of Jackie Salyers;
- Uyen Le and Xuyen Le, the aunts of Tommy Le;
- Marilyn Covarrubias, the mother of Daniel Covarrubias; and
- Katrina Johnson, the cousin of Charleena Lyles.

More information about I-940 is available at [www.deescalatewa.org](http://www.deescalatewa.org).