A Discussion -Traffic Enforcement on Port Property

Jordan Stephens, Anderson Hunter Law Firm Frank Chmelik, CSD Attorneys at Law

The Issues

In a broader sense, what are the "best practices" to enforce port rules and regulations on port properties, such as parks, boat launches and parking lots?

Port's own roads and parking lots open to the public. What are the "best practices" for enforcing traffic laws on these port roads?

RCW 53.08.220 (Port Rules and Regulations)

- A port district may formulate all needful regulations for the use by tenants, agents, servants, licensees, invitees, suppliers, passengers, customers, shippers, business visitors, and members of the general public of any properties or facilities owned or operated by it
- Request the adoption, amendment, or repeal of such regulations as part of the ordinances of the city or town or county in which such properties or facilities are situated.
- A city, town, or county, as the case may be, may adopt such regulations as part of its ordinances or resolutions, or amend or repeal such regulations in accordance with the terms of the request.
- Once adopted the port's regulations shall be redressed in the same manner as other police regulations of the city, town, or county, and it shall be the duty of all law enforcement officers to enforce such regulations accordingly.

RCW 53.08.230 (Traffic Enforcement on Port Roads)

- File a plat with the County Auditor showing "private streets, alleys, access roads, parking areas, parks and other places as the port district may wish to have treated as public for purposes of motor vehicle or other police regulations"
- the motor vehicle regulations of the city, town or county, as the case may be, in which the areas described in the plat are situated, shall apply to such areas as though they were public streets, alleys, access roads, parking areas, parks or other places.
- it shall be the duty of all state and local law enforcement officers to enforce such regulations accordingly.

Other Items and Issues

- DUIs are enforced on any roadway (public or private)
- Can the Port impose time limits on ADA parking?
 - RCW 46.19.050(5) permits "local jurisdictions" to impose time limits of no less than 4 hours for on-street ADA parking. Title 46 defines "local authorities" as any public entity having authority to adopt police regulations.
- Where would the ticket revenue go?
 - Roads
 - Port rules and regulations
- Could Port employees issue parking tickets?
 - Interlocal with the Sheriff or the Police Department
 - Who get's the revenue?
 - Is that a good idea?
- Is "trespassing" a remedy?