



*****For Immediate Release*****

Captain Deion Glover
Government and Media Relations

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Contact: Chris Loftis - WSP Director of Communications
Phone: (360) 485-3983 (cell) (360) 596-4013 (office)
Email: Chris.Loftis@wsp.wa.gov

UPDATE - WSP Refers Charges **on Seven Additional Individuals Who Blocked I-5**

- **Charges Vary - Once Again Include: 2nd Degree Criminal Trespass, Failure to Disperse, Disorderly Conduct, and Obstruction**
- **WSP Continues to Seek Public's Assistance in Identifying Additional Persons of Interest**

Olympia, Wash. - The Washington State Patrol (WSP) has referred charges for seven additional individuals (3 Males and 4 Females) who played roles in the protest and purposeful blocking of Interstate 5 in downtown Seattle on the afternoon of January 6, 2024. This brings the total number of individuals with referred charges so far to twelve. The charges vary by individual, but include 2nd Degree Criminal Trespass, Failure to Disperse, Disorderly Conduct, and Obstruction. As with the first set of referred charges announced last week, all have been referred to the King County Prosecutor's Office who will make the final determination on what can be filed based on the evidence.

Incident Recap - On Saturday, January 6, 2024, beginning shortly after 1:00 p.m., all north-bound lanes of I-5 were closed in downtown Seattle for approximately five hours after protestors illegally blocked the safe flow of traffic by the stopping and abandoning of 12 vehicles. In a coordinated effort, a large group of protestors cut through a WSDOT safety fence and began to occupy the freeway road surface. They refused to leave the area and subsequently eight individuals bound themselves together in a manner designed to further delay attempts at safe evacuation. As WSP gathered the equipment and personnel resources necessary to safely and effectively process a large crowd that was using choreographed tactics of delay, a squall of threatening weather dispersed the crowd before any on-site arrests commenced. After the protestors left the freeway, the abandoned vehicles had to be searched, using bomb-sniffing dogs, before being towed away.

WSP has collected additional high resolution footage of the events and included with this press release are photos of additional individuals believed to have played a role in the dangerous freeway takeover in January. Anyone with information on their identities or whereabouts or has additional video or photographs that might assist in the continuing investigation is asked to contact WSP at sistips@wsp.wa.gov or Sergeant Chase Van Cleave at (425) 240-4161.

WSP reiterates that while we fully support and regularly protect the public's rights to gather and protest, the freeway is not the place to do so. Simply put – it is illegal and extremely dangerous. It cannot and will not be tolerated.

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WSP - PHOTO GALLERY 2/16/2024 UPDATE – Persons of Interest – January 6, 2024 FREEWAY CLOSURE



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