



TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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County of Bergen – New Jersey 07676

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Richard Skinner
Chief of Police

James Giblin
Director

Dear Residents,

During these very difficult and trying times, I want to reassure our residents that our police officers will continue to strive to provide you with the quick and efficient responses to all of your calls for service. We will remain vigilant in protecting your family, homes and businesses as we all move forward through this unprecedented state of emergency.

That said, our officers are not immune from contracting the COVID-19 virus. We are all taking every precaution possible, but I need to ask for your cooperation and understanding. In order to ensure that the Washington Township Police Department can continue to provide the optimum staffing levels throughout the course of this emergency, the following changes to operations have been initiated:

- The lobby to the police station is open for extreme emergencies only. If you need assistance with a non-emergency, please call the department's desk number at (201) 664-1140. As always, if you have a police emergency, dial 9-1-1.
- The Washington Township Police Department will accept reports over the telephone for non-emergencies. Police personnel will screen your call and determine if it is appropriate to take the report over the phone. If not, a police officer will respond to take the report personally. Police will continue to respond to all emergency calls and other calls where it is determined that a response is necessary.
- The Washington Township Police Department will respond to motor vehicle crashes. In cases of minor crashes, where there are no injuries, no damage to the property of a third party, no pedestrian involvement or no vehicle to be towed, the officer will provide the drivers with a form that they can send to the State of New Jersey and to their insurance companies.
- At certain times, you may encounter police officers wearing personal protection equipment that may include masks, gloves, eye protection and disposable gowns. **Please do not be alarmed.** They are doing so for everyone's protection.
- When dealing with a police officer in person, please try and maintain the **six-foot** social distancing space as recommended by the CDC.
- The Washington Township Police Department has been tasked with enforcing the lawful executive orders issued by the Governor of the State of New Jersey which prohibits such things as trespassing in closed town parks and recreation facilities and gatherings of people more than permitted by the order. The department is seeking your cooperation in voluntary compliance with these directives as we realize they may be inconvenient. Still it is the law and we will enforce it.

As always, thank you for your cooperation and your support of our efforts in keeping our community safe. I hope you and your family stay safe and healthy.

Respectfully,

Richard Skinner
Chief of Police