

Good Afternoon:

The City of Philadelphia has updated its posture concerning the Covid-19 pandemic. Beginning today (March 17, 2020), the City is suspending all public-facing services. To that end, most municipal buildings will be closed to the public, as the City tries to limit the potential for exposure to Covid-19. Patrol Districts will remain open to the public.

In addition, beginning Wednesday, March 18, 2020, only essential employees will be required to come in to work. If you have questions about who is essential and non-essential, please consult with your supervisor.

In tandem with the City's enhanced response, the Police Department will also be making modifications to several of our existing protocols. These adjustments include the following:

- Effective Today (March 17, 2020), during the 4pm x 12am tour, arrests for the following offenses will be effectuated via Arrest Warrant:

- § All Narcotics Offenses
- § Theft from persons
- § Retail Theft
- § Theft from auto
- § Burglary
- § Vandalism
- § All Bench warrants
- § Stolen auto
- § Economic crimes (bad checks, fraud)
- § Prostitution

- Officers who encounter persons who would ordinarily be arrested for these offenses, and processed at a detective division immediately following arrest, will adhere to the following procedures:

- Temporarily detain the offender for the length of time required to confirm identity (this may require the deployment of mobile fingerprint scanners).

- Prepare all relevant paperwork (e.g., 75-48, 75-48A, etc.).

- Release offender.

- Submit all paperwork to the detective division of occurrence.

- The assigned detective will prepare an arrest affidavit and submit to DACU for review. If charges are approved, the assigned detective will obtain an Arrest Warrant. The warrant will be served at a later time, as conditions dictate.

- **If an officer believes that releasing the offender would pose a threat to public safety, the officer will notify a supervisor, who will review the totality of the circumstances and utilize discretion, in the interest of public**

safety, in determining the appropriate course of action.

- Personnel from several plain-clothes specialized units will be temporarily reassigned to uniform patrol duties.
- The “Live Stop” vehicle impoundment program will be suspended until further notice.
- In-service MPO and other types of training will be temporarily suspended.
- Roll calls will be modified to ensure proper social distancing; and officers will take measures to ensure the same when responding to calls for service.
- Instructions regarding the maintenance of Sending & Receiving Sheets for Covid-19 related issues are forthcoming.
- Commanding Officers will monitor sick usage by personnel for each tour, and report manpower deficiencies through the chain-of-command.
- Instructions regarding overtime usage and documentation related to Covid-19 are forthcoming.
- Police Radio will redirect certain calls for service to district operations rooms.

- It is also imperative that police personnel cease planning and participating in events involving the gathering of ten or more persons.

Most importantly, we want all of our members to stay healthy. You have control over the most important things you can do to protect yourself.

The first is to respect the recommended social distance of 6-feet (when possible) during interactions with people. Also, wash your hands regularly with soap and water. Please wear nitrile gloves. And when removing the gloves, do so without touching the outside of the glove. Whether wearing protective gloves or not, do not touch your face. OEM is in the process of purchasing additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for all officers.

While we are interested in creating as many barriers to exposure as possible, the health department tells us masks are not needed for protection from the virus. Masks should be worn by people who have Covid-19, to prevent them from spreading the coronavirus.

Please remain vigilant, as your safety and that of your family is paramount.

We realize that this is a significant amount of information to absorb. Accordingly, you can expect to have a supervisor brief you on this and other matters surrounding Covid-19. As this pandemic situation is inherently fluid, updates and further instruction will be provided as conditions dictate.

Sincerely,

Danielle M. Outlaw