



HUDSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

911 MUNICIPAL DRIVE • HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS 01749

TEL: 978-562-7122 • FAX 978-568-9660

www.facebook.com/hudsonmapolice

March 16, 2020

Dear residents, businesses, and visitors to the Town of Hudson,

As Chief of Police I have enacted several new procedures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of these changes are internal and involve how our officers will continue to provide vital services to the town, while at the same time remaining safe. However there are also a few changes that the public should be aware of. These are effective immediately and will continue until further notice.

The Hudson Police Department is continuing to monitor the COVID-19 coronavirus and we are continuing to work closely with town administration, the Hudson Fire Department, and health officials. In an effort to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 illness, the Hudson Police Department is asking the community to use increased discretion when seeking police services and avoid coming into the lobby of the police department unless in cases of emergencies. The lobby is closed at this time, however there is a call button that will ring to the communications center inside the building. Our comm center is staffed 24/7 with 2 call takers.

The Hudson Police Department will always respond immediately to all 911 emergencies and calls for service.

We will be temporarily allowing our officers to take reports over the phone for any issue or incident that we feel does not require a visit to a home or a building. Some examples of these situations may be neighbor disputes and civil matters, credit card fraud and identity theft, and calls for advice. Citizens calling for police services will be screened by our call takers to determine if an immediate police response is needed or if the report can be taken via the telephone.

Car seat inspections and installations, as well as civilian fingerprint card requests, are temporarily suspended until further notice.

For any and all record requests, please call our records office at 978-562-7122, ext. 262, or email the records clerk at tosborne@townofhudson.org.

New and renewal application processes for licenses to carry firearms (LTC) are temporarily suspended. For information regarding LTC applications, please contact the licensing office at 978-562-7122, ext. 212, or email at mvroom@townofhudson.org. Contact the licensing officer if your current LTC is due to expire soon. This process can be done on-line, through the officer, and will prevent any delay.

While we appreciate the gesture, food brought into the station by members of the community shall not be accepted. Eating from a large common tray of food is an effective way to spread an illness.

If you have a situation or an incident that can be resolved by speaking with a police officer on the phone, please call our business line at 978-562-7122. **And please continue to use 911 for all emergencies and medical calls.**

Our call takers and officers will utilize appropriate enhanced screening of emergency medical callers and provide responding officers with early notification of symptomatic patients so proper personal protective equipment can be used by all providers with close patient contact. These questions are not meant to be invasive, rather are intended to keep both the officer and the citizen safe during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Citizens who do report to the station will also be screened to determine if the report can be filed via the phone as well. And in some cases it may be appropriate for the officer to conduct the interview outside of the lobby and away from the common areas. Each situation is unique and will be screened for the appropriate response. We encourage citizens to call the police department via telephone ahead of time before traveling to the station to make a report.

Finally, with the recent closings pursuant to Governor Baker's most recent announcement, we encourage everyone to remain calm. We will get through this together. These are deeply unsettling times, but as a community we will persevere. Please continue to follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Social distancing is critical in helping to prevent the spreading of the virus. Please adhere to the governor's order. Remember, our children are watching and they will learn from our actions.

We understand that some of these changes may be an inconvenience to the public. We ask for your consideration as we concentrate our efforts on being prepared to safely maintain our mission of providing a safe community for all who live, work and visit the Town of Hudson.

We want to assure the community that we are here to serve and will continue to provide the level of community care that we take great pride in. We are simply rethinking how we can best maintain the safety and well-being of all, while at the same time not hindering our ability to provide critical police services to the public. These precautions are in effect to maintain social distancing and limit close personal contact and to help reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Richard P. DiPersio

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. DiPersio', with a stylized, cursive script.

Chief of Police