

Armondo Pavone
Mayor



March 23, 2020

Police Department Ed VanValey, Chief

To Our Renton Community,

We appreciate your questions and perspectives on how local law enforcement is working to ensure public safety during this difficult time. Due to Governor Jay Inslee's "Stay at Home" order issued on March 23rd, I wanted to share with you what law enforcement's role will be in supporting this new directive. Law enforcement's primary role is to help educate people about how to comply with orders to stay at home. We are not being asked to detain, arrest, ticket or establish checkpoints for compliance. I hope the following guidelines will answer some of your questions:

1. We view our role more as one of education. Educating residents on how to keep themselves safe, how to keep their families safe and most importantly, to keep the rest of the community safe, especially our vulnerable populations.
2. We understand some people need to carry out essential services such as:
 - Safety and security
 - Food, water, shelter
 - Health and medical
 - Energy (power and fuel)
 - Communications
 - Transportation
3. When officers encounter people not complying with an order, we will remind them, as appropriate, of the recommendation and restrictions.
4. Rumors of individuals or businesses needing "passes" or "licenses" to conduct essential services are not true.

As each of us move through this unprecedented situation, remember, we will be doing this together. Our commitment to you and your safety has not and will not change. Renton and its community, its businesses, and guests continue to be our priority. Take care of each other, your neighbors and yourselves, and have no doubt, we will get through this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ed VanValey'.

Chief E. VanValey