

Armando Pavone
Mayor



Police Department Ed VanValey, Chief

March 27, 2020

To Our Renton Community,

This past week Governor Jay Inslee's "Stay at Home" order was issued as well as updates to the "Essential Business List". We would like to thank our community for their continued support and appreciate everyone who has made adjustments in their lives to follow this order and are staying at home as much as possible.

In my last message I reviewed with you what law enforcement's role would be in supporting this new directive. I wanted to reinforce my message to you that our primary role is to help educate how to comply with the orders to stay at home; not detain, ticket or arrest anyone.

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. The Governor continues to update its "Essential Business" List. Some businesses have provided employee's letters to support their need to be out or as proof their job has been labeled essential. At this time Renton Police Department is not requiring anyone to show them a special pass, letter or license stating they are essential.
3. For information on which businesses are considered essential, or other information related to the Governor's order, go to <https://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/issues/covid-19-resources> If you have questions related to the "Stay at Home" order email coronavirus@kingcounty.gov or if you feel you need to report a violation please call our non-emergency number at 425-235-2121.

During the past few weeks there have been reports from the media that some agencies are reporting cases of harassment targeting the Asian community due to Covid-19 (Coronavirus). While we in Renton have not experienced any reported hate crimes of this nature, we don't want to let the possibility of it occurring go unnoticed or unaddressed. The Renton Police Department has a zero tolerance when addressing hate crimes. Zero. I am asking the Renton Community to report such crimes to their local Police Department should they become aware of or witness an incident.

Our community has shown they understand the severity of the situation and are doing all they can to keep themselves, their families and neighbors safe and healthy. Renton Police Department is committed to the same and want you to know your safety continues to be our top priority.

Sincerely,

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

Chief E. VanValey