



Township of Belleville *New Jersey*

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Residents Are Asked to Report Non-Emergency Incidents to Police Through Township's Website

BELLEVILLE, NJ – APRIL 3, 2020 –The Belleville Police Department is asking residents to report all non-emergency incidents through the municipal website in an attempt to protect those who protect and serve the Township.

By going online and filling out a report at www.BellevilleNJ.org, township residents will be helping police officers maintain social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Once a resident completes a report from the home page of the website, police will promptly receive the information, process it and follow up, if applicable.

“Residents who use this new online process will save us from dispatching a police officer to interact,” Police Chief Mark Minichini explained. “By asking residents to report minor incidents electronically, we can still serve the public while safely practicing social distancing. This will keep the men and women in our department healthy and allow them to continue to do their jobs during this state of emergency.”

Minichini urged residents to still call the police to report any emergency, any crime in progress or if an injury has occurred. Also, the loss or theft of prescription medication - narcotic or otherwise - cannot be reported online.

For any incident that requires a police officer to respond, residents can dial the police non-emergency number 973-450-3333. For emergencies, resident should still use 9-1-1.

Residents who don't have access to a computer can call the police station and give any non-emergency information to an officer over the phone.

The Police Department is taking many precautions during the COVID-19 outbreak. For example, officers are using personal protection equipment such as gloves and masks when appropriate. They are also decontaminating vehicles at the end of their shifts.

“I've never been prouder of the members of our Police Department,” Mayor Michael Melham said. “Although they must put themselves in harm's way to protect and serve, they remain fully

dedicated to the safety and well-being of each resident. We are lucky to have these men and women, as well as their brothers- and sisters-in-service: the firefighters and the EMS workers.”

Although social distancing has proven to be the best defense against the spread of COVID-19, it comes at a price for Minichini and the members of the Belleville Police Department who embrace “community policing.”

“We miss interacting with our residents,” he said. “That close relationship we try to foster with those we serve is as important as ever. We look forward to going back to our normal police procedures, such as our bicycle patrol in which we regularly connect with residents in each neighborhood.”

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