



HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP POLICE

Christopher E. Engelhart
Chief of Police

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March 27, 2020

An Updated Message from the Chief of Police

I hope you and your family, friends and coworkers are faring well during this unprecedented crisis. I wanted to take a minute to update you regarding the COVID-19 virus outbreak and the status of the Police Department.

The Police Department continues to be fully operational but operating under the revised protocols announced in my March 13, 2020 letter in order to limit our exposure to the public & vice versa.

We are extremely appreciative of the kindness that has been expressed and shown to us as we continue to work under this new environment. We are also extremely appreciative of the donations of much needed sanitizing cleaners to the Police Department. Please remember to show gratitude to other emergency service workers, including fire, EMS, and emergency dispatchers. And let's not forget all the other workers that are helping keep healthcare facilities, utilities, food stores, gas stations, etc. operating so that we can care for the sick and get the everyday essentials we need for our families.

Rest assured that our dedication to Protect and Serve has never been stronger. We want to make it clear that no one has been given permission to violate any laws during this crisis. Although we are attempting to limit our interactions, we will make arrests and issue summons for offenses throughout this ordeal when necessary. We do not want anyone trying to take advantage of this situation. In addition, residents & businesses should be cautious of potential scams by unscrupulous persons trying to prey on the vulnerable & those scared about an uncertain future. Please, pay particular attention when driving. Drivers tend to get distracted during stressful times which can be hazardous even with less traffic on the streets.

The Police Department can now receive complaints by an on-line incident reporting system via our CRIMEWATCH account (<https://bucks.crimewatchpa.com/hilltownwppd>). Additionally, a similar on-line reporting platform will be available on the Police Department's section of the Hilltown Township website (www.hilltown.org) within the next week. These are not a substitute for calling 9-1-1 for emergencies or 215-453-6011 when a police response is otherwise required. These additional tools give us the ability to handle non-priority calls when our resources and time permit. Also, remember to follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/HilltownPolice/>).

Please keep in contact with your friends, family, neighbors & coworkers throughout this ordeal. Reach out to make sure they are not in need of any supplies & help them when possible. Remember those who may be struggling both emotionally & financially during this time. We also remind everyone to continue to abide by Governor Wolf's orders pertaining to social gatherings, social distancing, stay-at-home (Call 215-328-8500 to report suspected social order violations) & cease non-life sustaining business activity (Call 1-800-383-0371 & press 2 for consumer protections to report suspected business activity violations).

Additional information and resources regarding COVID-19 can be found by visiting the Bucks County COVID-19 web page (<https://covid19-bucksgis.hub.arcgis.com/>).

Be kind & respectful. Do not hoard! And share when you can.

When we get through this, and we will, we can get back to our normal routines and celebrate but also remember those that were lost and the lives that were forever changed.

I again thank you for your continued patience, cooperation & support! If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Engelhart', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christopher Engelhart

Chief of Police

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