



WATERVLIET POLICE DEPARTMENT
158 West Pleasant Street
P.O. Box 404
Watervliet MI 49098

Chief Tim Sutherland
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Fax: (269) 463-3774
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PRESS RELEASE

PERSON MAKING RELEASE: Chief Tim Sutherland

WATERVLIET POLICE CASE # None

DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT: 04/07/20

TYPE OF INCIDENT:

LOCATION OF INCIDENT:

AGENCIES INVOLVED: WPD

VICTIMS: None

ARRESTED PERSONS: None



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NARRATIVE:

Regarding Governor Whitmer's order 2020-21 posted 03/23/20 for all residents to shelter in place and only essential businesses are to be open.

I would like to report that since the order our Watervliet residents and businesses have done a great job in complying with that order, thank you.

We are not out of the woods yet and the CDC and Berrien County Health Department are reporting that we have not seen the peak here in Michigan or Berrien County and it may be several weeks before we see a decline in Covid-19 cases.

Due to warmer weather the Police department is seeing an increase in groups of minor children out and about in the City of Watervliet and using the various parks in groups.

It appears that kids are leaving the house and meeting up and forming groups, this is a clear violation of the stay home order and recommendation of 6 feet apart for social distancing, keep in mind that kids are not as effected by Covid-19 as older persons but they can carry the disease and infect Parents, grandparents, etc.

We know that it has been hard for you and your kids to stay inside and we are not requesting that they stay indoors all the time but having personal contact with each other endangers us all, we are all in this together.

As I write this, we have had our second fatality in Berrien County due to Covid-19 today and three more confirmed cases in the Watervliet area.

At this time we are maintaining limited access in our City Parks in the way of keeping gates locked and making playground and skate park equipment off limits. The parking areas to Hays park off Baldwin Dr. and parking lot to Flaherty Park are available and we are allowing persons to walk their dogs and use the parks for outdoor exercise but social distance guidelines are being enforced.

The Berrien County River Park has not been opened up by the County parks department at this time and gates are locked.

Children found in groups by the Police Department will have their parent or guardian contacted and the parent or guardian may be arrested or given a citation with jail time up to 90 days and fines up to \$1000.00



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Respectfully Submitted

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