

## **Takoma Park Police Temporary Response Protocol During State of Emergency**

In the interest of public safety for our community members, the Takoma Park Police Department will be increasing its efforts to increase social distancing and reduce the chance of spreading the COVID-19 virus. Dispatchers will be screening callers asking questions related to COVID-19 to ensure proper police response and provide adequate protective equipment for our personnel and the caller.

Furthermore, we have implemented a protocol of taking certain police reports for relatively minor and non-violent crimes by telephone. If you are calling to file a police report, you may be told that an officer will call you back to take the information for your report. Any call that involves a direct threat to life or an extensive preliminary on-site investigation will be dispatched as normal and officers will respond to your location. However, we may ask you to meet us outside of your home or place of work and issue you personnel protective equipment to ensure the safety of all parties.

Reports that may be taken over the phone include, but are not limited to:

- Destruction to a vehicle
- Destruction of property/vandalism
- Theft from a vehicle
- Thefts of vehicle parts and accessories
- Tampering with a vehicle
- Attempted vehicle theft
- Credit or debit card theft
- Identify theft

Lost property  
Telephone misuse  
Trespassing (not in progress)  
Burglary of shed/storage facility

By using this procedure, we enable our police officers to remain in service for higher priority calls and assist us in practicing social distancing. Again, we will be responding to all in-progress calls as usual and will evaluate all calls for response protocol on a case-by-case basis under the above listed protocol.

The safety of the Takoma Park Community is of the utmost importance and we urge members of the public to take all necessary precautions to ensure their safety and practice social distancing strategies as appropriate.

These response protocols are temporary and will be evaluated continually to ensure maximum safety to the public and our officers.