



# EL CERRITO POLICE DEPARTMENT

10900 SAN PABLO AVENUE • EL CERRITO, CA 94530-2391  
TEL (510) 215-4400 • FAX (510) 235-6618

March 19, 2020

Dear El Cerrito Community,

The El Cerrito Police Department has made changes to our operations, in response to the coronavirus threat. Our community is currently under orders to shelter in place. This means that many businesses have closed their doors while essential stores remain open. We have answered a number of calls from the public asking for clarification about the Health Officer's order. We have had people report that builders are still working on residential construction projects and that people are out walking and jogging. These are allowed activities under the current order.

If you want clarification on the health order, please follow this link:

<https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/64474/Stay-at-Home-Except-for-Essential-Needs-FAQ>

Contra Costa County has also established a coronavirus hotline at (844) 729-8410.

The Police Department has made some changes in operations to adjust to the challenges posed by this virus. The police department normally deploys with a team concept. This means that officers are assigned to work with the same group of officers each day of their work week. We believe this style of deployment will help isolate virus outbreaks from affecting the broader department. We have taken additional action to reduce the impact of virus spread.

- We sent home some employees to reduce the chance of virus spread.
- We closed our lobby to the public and suspended Live Scan fingerprinting services. If you have business with the El Cerrito Police Department, please call ahead at (510) 215-4400.
- We created split work groups to limit employee interaction across the agency.
- We created a relief team to help ensure that we have healthy officers, in the event a team becomes exposed.
- We are adhering to social distancing standards.
- We significantly increased cleaning procedures in the building and patrol vehicles.
- We deployed CDC recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to protect officers and the public.

• We increased the types of reports that can be made through our online reporting service. To make a report online, please follow this link:

<https://www.el-cerrito.org/985/Online-Police-Reporting>

- We are suspending enforcement of residential parking permits.
- We are in regular communication with our EMS and law enforcement partner agencies.
- We authorized officers to contact community members by telephone first for non-emergency responses.

The El Cerrito Police Department is committed to keeping our community safe, during these challenging times. We want to reassure our community that if you have an emergency and need the police to respond, we will come.

Stay safe and healthy.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Keith', with a stylized, cursive script.

Paul Keith  
Chief of Police