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PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Frank Stevenson, Chief of Police
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Nature of Event: Police Operations in Light of COVID-19

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, March 17, 2020

As of today, Lebanon Police Department remains open for business with a few modifications. The health and safety of our staff and members of our community remain our number one priority, and all of these decisions remain subject to immediate change should new information or challenges be presented.

The Lebanon Police Department lobby will not be open for public business. Officers will still respond in-person to emergency, in-progress and 911 calls. If your business requires face-to-face contact, *please inform police personnel if you are exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19*; if you are, officers will wear masks and gloves when responding to the scene to protect our personnel and the public from exposure or potential cross-exposure.

Please be assured that **we can answer many questions and handle multiple situations over the phone via our business line (541-451-1751). We encourage you to use this mode of communication for non-emergent needs.** A variety of public information is also available on our website:

<https://www.ci.lebanon.or.us/police/page/police-department-resources>).

Over the next few weeks, our residents may notice some changes in the service delivery of non-essential functions. Several programs and services have been postponed or delayed to maintain the recommended social distancing advised by the CDC, the OHA, and Linn County Health Department. This service delays include but may not be limited to:

- Records lobby/front counter closure (note that there is a phone in our vestibule where you may speak to staff and request to be connected with an officer)
- Public fingerprinting
- Sex offender registration (contact OSP at this time)
- Citizen ride-alongs
- Facility tours

INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM & TEAMWORK

While our front office counter is closed to the public at this time, our officers are still available to handle urgent matters.

It is important to reduce the impact on our local resources, including emergency medical and hospital systems, during this time. If you are sick or don't feel well, please follow the CDC recommendations; individuals who feel sick or have concerns about a non-life-threatening illness are advised to call their primary care provider or a local urgent care center directly to seek treatment advice. Individuals who are experiencing chest pain, shortness of breath, or other life-threatening symptoms are urged to call 911 immediately.

Lebanon Police Department is asking our community to practice common sense with the local COVID-19 outbreak and follow the CDC guidelines, which include:

- Frequent, vigorous handwashing for at least 20 seconds
- Staying home from ALL activities when you are sick with COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, difficulty breathing)
- Staying away from others who are/may be sick
- Practicing social distancing – staying 6 or more feet away from others

The Lebanon Police Department is committed to providing the same high level of exceptional service to our community throughout this outbreak.

[END]