



## Chesterfield County, Virginia Police Department

10001 Iron Bridge Road – P.O. Box 148 – Chesterfield, VA 23832-0911  
Phone: (804) 748-1266 – Fax: (804) 748-6265 – Internet: chesterfield.gov



**COLONEL JEFFREY S. KATZ**  
Chief of Police

March 19, 2020

Dear Valued Chesterfield Business Owner:

As you are likely aware, the governor and state health inspector have issued an order limiting the number of patrons within a restaurant, movie theater, or gym operating within the Commonwealth. This order includes both regulatory and criminal sanctions for those businesses that violate those guidelines contained within the order. The enforcement responsibility has been delegated to local law enforcement, which is why, as your Chief of Police, I want to reach out to you directly to share a couple of things with you:

Foremost, I want to thank you. Not just for the work you and your staff do each day to keep our community nourished, entertained, and healthy, but also for the immense financial risk and personal sacrifice you have endured to provide these services to our community. Running a successful business is incredibly challenging and times like these shift the challenge from achieving success to ensuring survival; I recognize and appreciate this reality. You are a vital part of the fabric of our community and I want to reassure you that while we expect businesses to comply with the order, we will not be proactively patrolling shopping centers and storefronts looking for violations. You are responsible and valued community partners and we will embark upon this endeavor accordingly.

Our policy will be to ensure that only persons who flagrantly violate this order after previous instances of documented education/warning will face charges. Those folks pose a risk to our community and, frankly, would be syphoning market share from those businesses who are complying with the order and paying attention to the health of their patrons. That's not a footing acceptable to any of us.

In the meantime, if there is anything I, or we, can do for you as your police department, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are here to serve you long after this public health concern is a memory. The strength of our partnership and mutual commitment to our Chesterfield community will see us through.

Respectfully,

  
Col. Jeffrey S. Katz,  
Chief of Police