

Arkadelphia Police Department

514 Clay Street, Arkadelphia, AR 71923

Phone: (870) 246-4545 Fax: (870) 246-1812

To Our Community:

In the last few days our President and Governor have declared a public health emergency, and the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus a pandemic. We must be proactive and take precautions now to mitigate the spread of the virus in our community. Out of an abundance of caution, the Arkadelphia Police Department is implementing minor adjustments in our operating procedures to ensure we can continue to provide the safety and core services our community depends on daily. In order to accomplish these goals, we must protect the health and well-being of the public and our police officers.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), social distancing is believed to be one of the most effective methods of preventing the spread of COVID-19. In an effort to prevent the introduction and/or the spread of the virus, and to ensure the safety of our community and our employees, the Arkadelphia Police Department is following CDC guidelines, and we have implemented the following temporary plan:

- Effective immediately, many non-violent criminal reports may be taken by telephone. These reports include, but are not limited to: criminal mischief, minor theft, harassing communications, illegal dumping, littering, lost property, identity theft, computer/phone/mail scams. You may be asked to schedule a callback or wait momentarily until an officer can call you back. Reports can be made with a live Arkadelphia Police Department employee at (870) 246-4545.
- Our dispatchers are asking more questions to collect a wider range of information from callers to better prepare officers who are responding to calls. This is being done so officers can take more proactive steps; it will not affect officers' response to calls for service. 911 calls will still be the most effective way to report emergencies.
- Officers may ask community members to meet them outside of homes and businesses where appropriate in order to practice social distancing, or may collect information through an open doorway.
- Although extremely limited in quantity, our officers have been issued personal protective equipment, and they may be seen wearing gloves, face masks, protective eyewear and clothing. This is especially true in medical testing environments and/or in environments known to have increased risk of illness.

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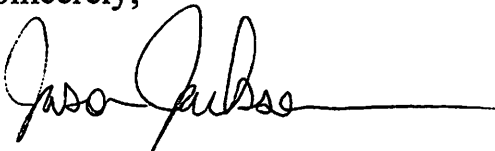
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- The Arkadelphia Police Department attempts to utilize alternatives to arrest when possible, and we are working with the Clark County Sheriff's Office to screen arrestees and employees who may be entering the detention center facilities. This is to reduce the risk of introducing and/or spreading the virus in the detention center environment.
- We would remind people paying fines that you may pay online and that we only accept exact payment amounts, no change is dispensed. You may pay online at <https://access.courtpay.org/payment/?state=AR> and then selecting Clark County District Court in the bottom section drop down menu. Additional payment arrangements can be made by calling the district court at (870) 246-9552.
- We are regularly sanitizing our facilities and our vehicles in an attempt to keep our employees and citizens safe.

On behalf of the men and women of the Arkadelphia Police Department, I want to assure you that public safety is our number one priority; it always has been, and it always will be. The Arkadelphia Police Department continues to work with our local, state, and federal partners to provide the best possible service and response to our community.

We will continue to be the 24-hour, full-service police department that we have always been. Our quality of service and professionalism will continue at the highest level, and only the manner in which we conduct business will change temporarily as we utilize social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19. We are committed to protecting the health and well-being of the public and our officers, and to taking every possible step to ensure we are not unknowingly spreading the virus by the very nature of our job.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Jackson", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jason Jackson
Chief of Police