

Update from Police Chief Mangseth

As a public safety agency, the St. Anthony Police Department (PD) continues to work closely with other city service providers and our community to provide a safe place to live, work and play.

As communities across the nation and the world continue efforts in addressing the coronavirus (COVID-19), our PD has been adjusting practices and procedures to ensure the safety of our staff and members of the public in accordance with recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Center for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization.

Modified policing services during COVID-19

Officers will continue to respond to all calls for service. However, as we monitor this situation and take note of ever-changing recommendations from health experts, we may be required to continue adjusting in-person services.

Residents may continue to encounter situations where low-priority calls are handled over the telephone or through a self-reporting form. Please know these are temporary measures as we work with healthcare partners, local first responders and emergency management partners, as we serve our communities. I encourage folks to contact the PD with any questions or concerns regarding current police operations.

The following PD services have been temporarily suspended during COVID-19:

- Citizen fingerprinting.
- Citizen use of the PD facility for groups/meetings.
- Citizen ride-along events.
- Public tours of the PD facility.
- Group events at the police department (Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc.)

We remain committed to working cooperatively and innovatively to address the challenges encountered by this viral illness and we ask our residents to engage in community hygiene practices as noted in guidelines set forth by the CDC and MDH. [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/share-facts.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/share-facts.html)

Efforts made by our police officers and City staff to monitor compliance related to social distancing, among other orders issued through the Office of the Governor, have focused primarily on education. I remain encouraged by the support received from our residents during this time to continue with Gov. Walz direction and recommendations.

Staying connected and sharing good news

Our Community Engagement Officers along with our entire staff have put a considerable amount of time and consideration into content for our social media platforms in an effort to stay connected and provide up-to-date information to those in our service area. As a result, our online impact and following has increased.

Recently, Lt. Diegnau responded to a call where he and the St. Anthony Village Fire Department (FD) personnel rescued several baby ducks from a storm drain. Lt. Diegnau became aware that a citizen had taken photos of the activity and asked for copies. Those photos were then sent to Officer Rushton who posted them on Facebook. KARE-11 saw the post and highlighted it during their evening newscast. This small yet thoughtful act reflected well on every member of our PD and FD that responded to that call for service.

We value our communities

Thank you for your continued support and patience. Please be assured that this modified level of service will not become the new normal for our agency. We will return to the high-level of personal customer service that we strive to provide as soon as possible.