



*A Message from Chief McCarthy | March 27, 2020*

## **Mendota Heights Police Department is Prepared**

As many of you know, emergency management is a primary function of any government. Mendota Heights has a designated Emergency Manager (the Chief of Police) who contracts with the Dakota County Domestic Preparedness Group to make sure that we are ready to face whatever type of emergency that might occur.

We have plans in place for all kinds of emergencies. Our plans, equipment, and training all have to be flexible so that no matter the problem, we have the tools to fix it. In the case of COVID-19, we have taken several steps to keep our community safe such as:

- Yearly, mandatory training for all officers on bloodborne pathogens and personal protective gear.
- We have enacted our Continuity of Operations plan, identifying what critical city functions need to continue in the short and long term.
- We have tasked our IT and HR staff with implementing the ability for critical staff to work from home while ensuring we have everything we need to keep citizens safe.
- We had a stock of 300 N95 masks. Over the past two weeks, we have been able to triple our inventory.
- We have purchased supplies to increase our ability to respond to those citizens who are having trouble breathing and recovering at home.
- We have developed several emergency staffing models.

The next two weeks are going to be crucial in our efforts to save the lives of those people who contract COVID-19. In the next two weeks we are:

- Taking possession of an ultra-violet light that will allow us to sanitize our non-disposable gear.
- Creating regional emergency staffing models with our Dakota County Partners.
- Refreshing Officer's training on proper oxygen delivery and management.

We do all of this while still responding to the day-to-day demands of running a city. We cannot accomplish all that needs to be done unless you assist us by complying with the Governor's order and stay home.

*Chief McCarthy*