

## **A Message from Chief Chris Murtha**

With the recent school and city-wide closures due to COVID-19 being announced in the metro area, I want to assure our community that the Wheat Ridge Police Department will continue to provide essential services and respond when you need us. As a department, we are implementing some changes in our officers' and professional employees' interactions with the public. These changes include minimizing contact at local retirement homes and with other high risk residents to keep those individuals safe from unintended exposure to the virus. For our most vulnerable, if the call is non-emergent, we will take extra precautions by conducting telephone screening of the call for service in an attempt to resolve the matter prior to responding in person.

Our officers have personal protective gear available and will practice social distancing by minimizing group meetings and otherwise keeping a safe distance from others whenever practical. I recommend all residents and business owners follow these same protective guidelines. In our efforts to keep our officers safe, we are seeking additional non-expired N-95 face masks still in the original packaging. If you have face masks you are willing to donate to WRPD, please deliver them to the front door of City Hall between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. M-F and the security guard will receive.

Please note that during this pandemic there will be a reduction in services at the police department including those provided by our Records Unit. If residents need a copy of a police report or wish to file a telephone report during business hours, please call 303-235-2921. For after-hours assistance, please email [policerecords@ci.wheatridge.co.us](mailto:policerecords@ci.wheatridge.co.us) and you will be contacted within 24 hours. Additionally, retrieval of personal property from our evidence vault will require an appointment which can be scheduled by calling 303-237-0200.

This is a scary time for all of us and what we see on television and social media may only increase our levels of anxiety. It is important to remember that good health includes mental well-being so I encourage everyone to take a break from the "bad news" and go for a walk or a run, check in on a neighbor, read a book, tackle a craft with your children, play catch with the dog, or listen to music, just remember to use precautions.

Regular updates are posted on social media and we have also created two other ways for our residents and businesses to stay in touch with decisions being made on behalf of the City of Wheat Ridge. 1) Check out [www.bit.ly/WRCOVID-19](http://www.bit.ly/WRCOVID-19) for regular updates and/or, 2) Subscribe to [Emergency Preparedness Alerts](#) on the website. As a strong caring community, we will get through this.

Stay well and safe,  
Chief Murtha