



Memorandum

To: Curtis Berry, Director – Rockbridge Regional Emergency Communications Center

From: Mark Riley, Acting Chief – Lexington City Police Department *Captain Mark Riley*

Steve Funkhouser, Sheriff – Rockbridge County *S. Funkhouser*
Keith Hartman, Chief – Buena Vista Police Department

RE: Governor Northam’s Executive Order 61

Date: May 28, 2020

With the new mask regulations going into effect on Friday May 29th, we are writing this to try and streamline our process in handling any complaints of non-compliance. As a time and work savings request for all involved, we would ask that all complainants be referred directly to the Department of Health. Governor Northam was clear that the enforcement of his executive order is not a law enforcement matter and VDH is the primary agency on these matters. Our hopes are to help our dispatchers, law enforcement, the fire marshall, and fire/rescue staff from getting caught up in complaints that we all have no jurisdiction or involvement in.

The Lexington Police Department, Buena Vista Police Department and Rockbridge County Sheriff’s Department will not refuse to talk to anyone as we want to help anyone in need as necessary. We just don’t want someone to call and be sent to several different agencies causing confusion, frustration, and us as a whole, looking like we don’t know what we are doing. We all agree that the referral to the VDH would be the correct way to send complaints that may arise. If VDH needs a member of law enforcement to assist them in any way, we will be there to ensure everyone’s safety. We know that our dispatchers are incredibly busy and have one of the toughest jobs one could have, but we agree that this would take any guess work out of this issue. Also, by immediately directing a caller to the VDH, it would prevent someone from having to discuss their concerns or issues numerous times.

Please feel free to call us with any questions or discussions we need to have. We really want to collaborate and get this right.

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