



FLAGLER BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

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CHIEF MATTHEW P. DOUGHNEY

MEDIA RELEASE

March 24, 2020

“Flagler Beach Officer Tests Positive for Coronavirus”

Late yesterday afternoon our Department received confirmation from the Flagler County Health Department that one (1) of our Sworn Police Officers tested positive for the Coronavirus. “Our Officer has been at home since exhibiting symptoms last week and the Health Department is actively monitoring the Officers condition” stated Flagler Beach Police Chief Matt Doughney. Doughney continued by stating that “the Officer is resting as comfortably as possible and my concern is for the health of all members of the Police Department, as well as our community”.

Over the last week, the Flagler Beach Police Department has taken the following proactive measures under the guidance of our local Health Department;

- The front lobby to the Police Department is closed
- Fingerprinting for the public has been suspended indefinitely
- Hand sanitizer stations have been placed at all entrances and exits to the Department
- Social distancing is discussed daily at each Patrol shift briefing
- Before the start of each shift, all members of the Department must have their temperature taken and they’re additionally asked a series of questions to identify any possible Coronavirus symptoms
- Any members of the Department exhibiting Coronavirus symptoms will be sent home to self-isolate and monitor their condition
- All Sworn Officers have been provided PPE equipment
- The areas of the Department accessed by the Officer that tested positive have been cleaned

As a precautionary measure, a second Flagler Beach Officer has been isolated at home since last week as well, due to that Officer having direct contact with the Officer that tested positive.

Chief Doughney concluded by stating “We’re in daily contact with our local Health Department and we appreciate their sensitivity to this situation. We’re grateful for their guidance and direction to ensure that we as a Department are doing everything possible to protect the health, safety and welfare of our Team and their families. The reality of this situation is that First Responders are human and we’re not immune to the Coronavirus. While our Department is the first locally to have a First Responder test positive for this virus, more than likely it will not be the last”.