



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local law enforcement supports Governor Walz’s “Stay at Home” Executive Order through education and encouragement efforts

March 26, 2020 – Rochester, Minnesota – The Olmsted County Sheriff Office (OCSO) and Rochester Police Department (RPD) are strongly encouraging residents to abide by the regulations put forth in Governor Walz’s “Stay at Home” Executive Order ([EO #20-20](#)), but local law enforcement will not be actively looking for violators of the EO on the roadways.

“The data we’re seeing so far confirms our belief that Minnesotans are self-regulating,” said Rochester Police Chief James Franklin. “People are implementing social distancing guidelines and – for the most part – staying home.”

OCSO and RPD will continue to enforce traffic and other violations, but they will not be pulling over citizens in relation to the EO #20-20. They also want to reinforce that individuals are encouraged to get fresh air and exercise outdoors, but do so while maintaining social distancing recommendations.

Other States are requesting drivers receive employer-issued permissions to travel for their work, but at this time, this paperwork is not being requested or checked by local law enforcement in Minnesota.

While the Governor’s Order does not specifically address every workplace or employee function, Olmsted County Sheriff Kevin Torgerson reminds residents that it does offer a general sense of what is deemed essential while the “Stay at Home” order is in effect. “We encourage people to use their best sense of judgment in determining whether they must travel,” said Sheriff Torgerson. “Staying at home and isolated away from other people is in the best interest of everyone’s health and safety at this time including our deputies and officers.”

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