



GREGORY D. TOTTEN
District Attorney

SHERIFF BILL AYUB
Ventura County Sheriff's Office

CHIEF KEN CORNEY
Ventura Police Department

CHIEF SCOTT WHITNEY
Oxnard Police Department

VENTURA COUNTY

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Ventura County Sheriff's Office
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Port Hueneme Police Department

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Simi Valley Police Department

INTERIM CHIEF ISH CORDERO
Santa Paula Police Department

CAPTAIN AARON GOULDING
California Highway Patrol

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As we continue to navigate through significant changes brought on by the COVID-19 virus, we, as your law enforcement leaders in Ventura County, would like to provide some clarity on a few issues.

Some of the recent public health orders require the complete shutdown of some businesses, such as bars, gyms, and movie theaters in an effort to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus in our communities. Those orders also include restrictions against non-essential travel and gatherings. These are responsibilities shared by all of us throughout the county to do our part to help each other on a societal level.

We have been asked what enforcement actions we would take to ensure compliance with the public health directives. Our stance is that we will respond to complaints from the public with the goal of gaining voluntary compliance.

Owners and employees of many local businesses are certainly feeling the strain of these sudden changes that directly affect their livelihoods. We understand the frustration and uncertainty in dealing with these temporary restrictions. It is our intention to work with business owners to ensure they are aware of and comply with the directives without the need for any enforcement action.

In contrast, when dealing with circumstances where criminals try to take advantage of this situation by initiating scams, price gouging, or any other fraudulent activity, we will take immediate action to terminate the activity and bring those involved to justice.

As neighbors, we have an obligation to work together to lessen the impact of this pandemic and solve the problem as a community. Please be kind to each other and be patient when getting supplies at local stores. The shortages we are seeing are not a result of supplies not being available. They are a result of a few people buying large quantities of certain items out of fear and greed. That only results in problems for your friends and neighbors who need to buy the same items that you do.

We will get through these difficult times and come out stronger if we work together as a team and follow the guidance of our community leaders.