



698 PACIFIC WAY • P. O. BOX 2510 • GEARHART, OREGON 97138 • (503) 738-5501

December 28, 2020

TO: MAYOR PAULINA COCKRUM AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: CHIEF OF POLICE

SUBJECT: WHAT'S TRENDING...

Mayor Cockrum had asked me to make a report concerning "What's Trending" as far as concerns or happenings with the police department and community. First let us get the obvious (maybe not by some) out of the way:

COVID has restricted some of our operations ranging from custody arrests to mere contacts.

CIVIL UNREST has restricted some of our operations through legislative changes and court rulings.

Crime within the city is still at a low level. Though with court rulings and legislative changes, keeping the criminals or law violators at bay, has changed. The task of tracking and removing individuals has been diminished. Trespass complaints has risen and unless these individuals have committed a crime while trespassing, they do not even have to ID themselves, which is becoming very common practice for them.

Drugs, alcohol and mental health issues are on the rise. I have enclosed our "DE-ESCALATION TACTICS" for your review. Two weeks ago, I, 5 other law enforcement officers, a parole and probation officer, a Medix operator, an ex-girlfriend and a mental health crisis worker all participated in this de-escalation situation. In the end after 2 ½ hours, I used my taser on this felon and he was taken into custody without injury to himself or others.

Even with the media coverage concerning law enforcement, citizens are still calling law enforcement (911) for situations that are not criminal in nature and often law enforcement can take no action on. If we were to take some sort of action, more likely than not, law enforcement would be violating someone's rights. I have a very good criminal case pending that involves: Bias Crime II, Menacing & Telephonic Harassment. The printed evidence is overwhelming. However, in a civil action the victim brought against the suspect (restraining order), the Circuit Court Judge ruled that the suspects comments were "Freedom of Speech". Any criminal actions by the District Attorney may be delayed or terminated in this case.

I want the citizens of Gearhart to continue to reach out to me or my officers at any time. Before dialing 911, take a moment and ask yourself, is the situation an imminent danger of physical injury. Social Media seems to be the mainstream of passing along untruth rumors. Before someone that wants to hide behind a computer screen under a false identity spreads rumors about the department or me, call me. I will tell anyone the truth, even if it's not PC to do so.

We have been wearing body cams for over 9 years now. Wearing cams have been very helpful in criminal prosecutions and dispelling lies talked about the situation or our actions in general. However, even with body cam footage, it appears that what you see and hear, is no longer the truth as told by some citizens. Citizens seem to believe only what they want to see or hear, even if the truth is being presented in color on a screen.

Looking forward to 2021, we have a six-month Legislative Session starting in January and I believe there will be further restrictions placed upon law enforcement. There will continue to be court rulings that will also negatively impact our abilities to perform our job. I will agree with anyone, that there are individuals who should not be in the law enforcement profession. That these individuals should be weeded out. However, some of these legislative changes and court opinions have impacted the citizens, we are trying to protect.


Jeffrey T. Bowman
Chief of Police



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DE-ESCALATION TACTICS

THE GEARHART POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL ATTEMPT TO DE-ESCALATE ALL SITUATIONS WHEN THERE SEEMS TO BE A CONFLICTED SITUATION. THIS DEPARTMENT DOES NOT HAVE ALL THE RESOURCES IMMEDIATELY ON HAND TO HANDLE EVERY CONFLICT THAT MIGHT ARISE. OFTEN IT WILL TAKE TIME FOR RESOURCES TO ARRIVE AT ANY GIVEN LOCATION DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION. THE GEARHART POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL ALWAYS ACT IN A PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL MANNER REGARDLESS OF ANY GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAY ARISE.

THE GEARHART POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL CONSIDER ANY NUMBER OF OPTIONS AVAILABLE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SUBJECT(S) BEHAVIOR: IS THE SUBJECT(S) PRESENTING AN IMMEDIATE THREAT, WAS A CRIME COMMITTED, WHAT TYPE OF INCIDENT IS IT, IS THE SUBJECT(S) EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED, DRUG OR ALCOHOL INVOLVEMENT, AND ANY OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE IMMEDIATE TIME.

SOME TACTICS MAY BE: DISENGAGING AND LEAVING THE SCENE BY OFFICER(S), PAPER ARRESTS INSTEAD OF PHYSICAL CUSTODY, PROVIDING THE SUBJECT(S) WITH COMFORT ITEMS, GIVING WARNING COMMANDS WITH PLENTY OF TIME FOR THE SUBJECT(S) TO PROCESS SUCH COMMANDS AND MORE DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION AT THE IMMEDIATE MOMENT.

THE MAIN GOAL OF THE GEARHART POLICE DEPARTMENT AT ANY GIVEN INCIDENT LOCATION IS FOR ALL PARTIES (INCLUDING NON-PARTICIPANTS) IS TO WALK AWAY SAFE AND UNHARMED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE INCIDENT. EVEN WHEN AN ARREST IS MADE AND SUBJECT(S) ARE TAKEN INTO PHYSICAL CUSTODY. THE GOAL IS THAT THE SUBJECT(S) ARE UNHARMED AND AS WELL AS THE OFFICER(S).


JEFFREY T. BOWMAN
CHIEF OF POLICE