With the world changing around us, we must adapt and make moves to protect our own in order to sustain our safety and ability to protect our public. That being said, attached are the new squad assignments for the next 2+ months. An official special order will be posted Monday, March 23rd, 2020, detailing all changes.

We are moving from 4 – 4 Officer Squads, to 8 – 3 Officer squads. This move is being done to do everything possible to lower the risk all of you will have for exposure to COVID-19. Along with most of the state moving to essential personnel staffing, we will move to the 3 officer minimum for our squads. The difference, which you will see in the attachments, is that after working 3 straight 12 hour shifts, each officer will be off 9 consecutive days. The reasoning is seeded in the hope that if an officer(s) is exposed, those symptoms will surface (usually between 4-6 days) during that extended time off between tours. The extended time off will also give you 9 days to hopefully be safe and with your families like the rest of the country. To calm worries, even though officers are working less hours, officers paychecks will not change. This is an essential re-assignment in unprecedented times. Due to the fact that officers will be working less hours, be prepared for 2 squads to always be “on-call.” They would be the squads that are on their 7th, 8th and 9th day off, which would then rotate. This will be outlined in the Special Order to be posted 3/23. It will be needed in case our public does not turn quiet and stay at home. We have to be ready to respond if civil unrest does rear its’ ugly head. With multiple grocery stores and a re-opening hospital, we may very well be met by frustrated, scared and stressed individuals.

You will see that other departments in the county will be moving to similar schedules in an attempt be sustainable the next few months to beat this deadly virus. While working with 3 officers is never optimal, the “Stay at Home” order will hopefully continue to slow our call volume. If that is not the case, all departments have been in constant conversation and are aware that we are in this together. Our mutual aid agreements with neighboring and all other county departments will be utilized whenever needed. This new world is also an evolving world, changes could occur if we are faced with even more challenges.

Few points:

-          Civilian personnel are not to report to police headquarters, unless requested by admin. (Cadets/Clerks/Admin. Assist. Evidence Officer)

-          Vacations request are all suspended (contact supervisor with conflicts)

-          Overtime – pay many be delayed, as staffing is limited. You will get paid.

-          Maintain EXAGERRATED Social Distancing (includes shift change)

-          Communicate electronically whenever possible.

-          On your 9 day break, STAY AT HOME  and safe (otherwise would defeat the purpose of this process)

-          Keep you supervisor and all of us updated on any issues as they arise.

-          Admin and our #1 Utility Player (SLEO Pitzo) will very likely fill in on squads when people are sick or need off.

If anyone has any immediate questions or concerns please contact your immediate supervisor to have it addressed.

Remember, that we are in this together. This action is being done because every one of you is extremely important. We must stay healthy, strong and brave in order to protect those in need. We will come out of this stronger and together. I sincerely believe in every one of you and know that Woodbury is in the best possible hands as we fight this world event.