

A Message From Your Sheriff

On Licensed Gun Stores

March 26th, 2020

Yesterday, the Governor indicated he would defer to Sheriffs in their respective jurisdictions for clarification on whether gun stores are essential businesses that should remain open under his Executive Order.

Licensed firearm retailers provide a valuable public safety service by performing background checks on guns and on ammunition. In doing this, there is assurance that those who cannot legally possess firearms are not allowed to purchase them, and that waiting periods are complied with.

From a law enforcement perspective, we need to ensure that we do not create further public safety risks by driving lawful sales of firearms to an underground or off the books black market during these difficult times. That said, we must balance that need with the need to preserve public health through enforcement of the Governor's Executive Order and the County of San Diego Public Health order.

While I am not asking retail firearms establishments to close, I am asking them to conduct business in accordance with the County of San Diego Public Health order. This means **complying with social distancing**, and no gatherings that bring together ten or more people in a single room or single space at the same time. In order to comply with this order, I am asking all retail firearms establishments to look at alternative sales options which might include **scheduling appointments**. This step will allow firearm retail outlets to continue to provide services during this difficult time while ensuring compliance with public health orders and ensuring customers can transact business in a safe environment. This will also prevent lines from forming outside of businesses which increases stress in our communities.

I am asking the citizens of San Diego County who wish to continue making firearms purchases, to do so in a legal and prescribed manner, transferring and obtaining weapons and ammunition through Federally Licensed dealers. Additionally, follow the Public Health Orders related to social distancing and numbers of people in a space.

Law enforcement will be enforcing the Governor's Executive Order and the County's Public Health Order throughout the county. Voluntary compliance and self-regulation are essential to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Where law enforcement can gain compliance and cooperation we will. Where that is not the case, we will employ additional enforcement options as necessary in order to gain compliance and protect public health and safety.

While we are at work for you, please stay home for us.


Sheriff



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