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TO: ALL BERGEN COUNTY CHIEFS OF POLICE, POLICE DIRECTORS, OFFICERS-IN-CHARGE, AND SHERIFF

FROM: PROSECUTOR MARK MUSELLA

DATE: March 16, 2020

SUBJECT: BERGEN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIRECTIVE NO. 2020-2 LAW ENFORCEMENT PREPARATION AND RESPONSE TO COVID 19 – CORONAVIRUS

The outbreak, and spread of the Covid 19 – coronavirus in Bergen County presents an acute challenge to Bergen County law enforcement. As first responders to criminal and other emergent situations and continuous personal interaction with the public, law enforcement officers face a particular vulnerability of both contracting and spreading the virus. Law enforcement agencies must therefore take all reasonable precautions in counselling their officers and enforcing measures, such as the use of safety equipment (ie. masks, gloves, etc.), social distancing when possible, and constant attention to personal hygiene to prevent the contracting and spread of the virus. A general overview of procedures to prevent the contracting and spread of Covid 19 is available from the Center for Disease Control at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-cov/prepare/prevention.html>.

I have directed efforts in the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office ("B.C.P.O.") to help prevent our personnel from contracting or spreading Covid 19 through unnecessary personal interaction. These efforts include the assessment of essential functions to release employees from non-essential work commitments and generally reducing the duty requirements of all legal, law enforcement and support staff. We have also taken measures to ensure that the B.C.P.O's support of Bergen County law enforcement agencies will continue throughout the present emergency.

In addition, as the Chief Law Enforcement Officer of Bergen County, with the responsibility to protect the health and safety of our officers and ensure our public safety mission, I am directing all Bergen County law enforcement executives to take similar actions in their departments. All Bergen County law enforcement executives must therefore immediately implement procedures to assess the responsibilities and functions of their departments, identify



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essential functions, and reduce or eliminate non-essential functions. Law enforcement executives must also take all reasonable and necessary steps to avoid unnecessary personal interactions among all personnel, among divisions and units within departments, and to reduce the duty requirements of law enforcement and civilian staff, consistent with preserving the public safety.

The spread of Covid 19 also has the potential to impact individual agencies to the extent that they may need assistance to continue to meet their public safety responsibilities. I am therefore directing all Bergen County law enforcement agencies to report on a rolling basis, the number (without names) of all confirmed Covid 19 diagnoses of law enforcement and civilian personnel in their departments and of all medically mandated Covid 19 quarantines. This reporting should be made to Lieutenant David Agar of the B.C.P.O. Intelligence Unit at dagar@bcpo.net. This information will aid the assessment of the impact of Covid 19 on Bergen County law enforcement, indicate whether any agencies may need assistance in meeting essential law enforcement responsibilities, and aid county law enforcement in planning for and providing that assistance.

Any Bergen County law enforcement agency which requires such assistance should contact the B.C.P.O. Chief of Detectives Robert Anzilotti at ranzilotti@bcpo.net, (201)226-5651 office, (551)265-3146 cell.

As always, I thank you for your cooperation.



MARK MUSELLA
BERGEN COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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