

For Immediate Release

PR #: 2000081

Date Issued: Jun 25, 2020 - 4:26pm

Washoe County Sheriff Darin Balaam's official statement regarding Governor's mask directive

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Sheriff Darin Balaam recommends community members continue to exercise common sense, be aware of CDC guidelines, and the recent directive from the Governor's Office regarding the wearing of masks, especially high-risk groups.

"It would be inappropriate for deputies to criminally enforce Governor Sisolak's mask mandate or social distancing," said Balaam. "Due to the minor nature of the offenses, the potential for negative encounters, and various ways the order could be violated our deputies will instead continue in an educational capacity in partnership with the Washoe County Board of Health."

The Sheriff's Office would like to remind you that 911 is for emergencies only. Community members who would like to report potential mask and/or social distancing violations are asked to call Washoe311.

Additionally, in response to multiple questions regarding wearing a mask in regards to concealing and carrying a weapon, it is not illegal to wear a mask and carry per NRS 202.3653.

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to preserving a safe and secure community with professionalism, respect, integrity and the highest commitment to equality. Sheriff Darin Balaam is the 27th person elected to serve as the Sheriff of Washoe County since the Office was created in 1861. The Washoe County Sheriff's Office strives to ensure public safety by building trust and creating partnerships within the diverse communities in which we serve. We will promote the dignity of all people supported by our words and actions through open communication while fostering an environment of professionalism, integrity and mutual respect.

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