

## **Tillamook County Sheriff's Office**

5995 Long Prairie Rd. Tillamook, OR 97141

April 2, 2020

Citizens of Tillamook County,

With the onset of the COVID-19 threat this spring and the subsequent social distancing requirements, closures of key governmental operations and executive orders issued by Governor Brown, our office has temporarily suspended Concealed Handgun License (CHL) renewals. The temporary suspension of this program as well as other normal business practices, is designed to protect our staff and the public from the risk of exposure to this very dangerous public health threat.

The Oregon State Sheriff's Association, of which I am a member, have asked the Legislature to extend the expiration of these CHL's until after this emergency situation subsides. At this time the Oregon Legislature has not addressed this issue.

As a result, Oregon Sheriff's are asking our law enforcement partners to use their discretion and refrain from taking criminal action if they encounter an individual with an Oregon CHL that has expired during the dates of March, April, May and June 2020, and the person is carrying concealed and there are no other criminal law violations at issue.

The Tillamook County Sheriff's Office and the other members of the Oregon State Sheriff's Association recognize the importance of this program and the Constitutional rights of the people we serve. During this public health emergency we want to work with the public with the intent to minimize any inconvenience or interruption of services we provide.

I appreciate your understanding and patience as we continue to work together during this unprecedented crisis.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Jim Horton

Sheriff Jim Horton

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