



# JACKSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Christopher Mynderup, Chief of Police

April 13, 2020

Greetings City of Jackson Business Owners,

I hope this letter finds you healthy and safe. These are some very unprecedented and trying times for all of us and I understand having to close a business that you've worked so hard for can be catastrophic. The novel coronavirus pandemic has changed many of the practices and procedures we have all become accustomed to but I want you all to know that my officers will be out there making sure your business is safe and secure.

I also wanted to take this time to let you know a little about me and some of my philosophies. I am the Jackson Police Department's newest Chief. I was officially appointed on July 1st, 2019. But I have been with the Jackson Police Department for over 19 years. I feel fortunate that Jackson is a community that still upholds many of the ideals our great nation was founded on. Having served the community for two decades, I am unable to hide my tremendous pride for this community, my profession and my officers.

When my officers and I chose law enforcement as a way of life, we are prepared to be on the front lines daily dealing with matters that most people would run from. But let me tell you it has been frustrating lately to be in my profession. For example, due to recent changes in laws created by Assembly Bill 109 and Propositions 47 and 57, our State has experienced many of the negative repercussions these bills have created. Just some of the negative repercussions include several of our felony crimes being reclassified as non-violent, most drug possession laws have been downgraded from felonies to misdemeanors, and felony theft amounts have been increased from \$450 to \$950 with no more penalties for criminals committing serial crime. What this means is that now more crimes are deemed as "non-violent" and drug addicts and thieves get a ticket and let go.

As you see, these negative repercussions combined with a recent Ninth Circuit Court decision allowing homeless individuals to camp on public lands when there are no shelter beds available, are many of the reasons for our increased homeless population and causing crime running



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rampant on our streets. No wonder the law-abiding citizens of California wonder why they don't matter.

I'm here to tell the citizens and business owners of Jackson that you do matter. I understand your frustrations surrounding the rise of the homeless populations and criminals not being held to answer for their actions. Just like you, I am frustrated seeing our beautiful community tarnished by the garbage and filth left behind. I say the homeless phenomena in this state is more a societal problem than a law enforcement one. Drug and alcohol addicts need treatment, mental health services need to be overhauled and we need real and comprehensive solutions to the homeless epidemic.

The Jackson Police Department is committed to doing everything in our power to protect and preserve the community we all love. Although we are currently faced with several limitations, I assure you that my officers always investigate crimes to their fullest and arrest those responsible in a manner that is acceptable by law.

It is my commitment to the City to be an open, accountable and accessible police department responsive to your ideas, comments, concerns and needs. Together we can make the City of Jackson a safe place to live, work and play.

I wish everyone good health during these trying times. Call me anytime at 209-223-1771.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Mynderup".

Christopher S. Mynderup, Chief of Police.