



***BOROUGH OF WEST CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT***  
*PENNSYLVANIA*

*DIANNE HERRIN*  
*MAYOR*  
*JAMES MOREHEAD*  
*CHIEF OF POLICE*

*MUNICIPAL BUILDING*  
*401 E. GAY STREET*  
*WEST CHESTER, PA 19380*  
*PHONE: (610) 696-1452*

*June 1, 2020*

**Statement From The Mayor and Chief of Police: Status of Rallies**

Our business owners and residents can expect rallies almost daily, if not daily, at the old courthouse. Our Police Department will be on hand at all times. As of now, we have not verified any significant threats to the Borough. We will alert you should concerns develop.

We have scheduled an event for Thursday, June 4, to be held in partnership with the West Chester Police Department (WCPD) and The Mayor's Office, Fredda Maddox and the Chester County Sheriff's Office, the West Chester NAACP, and Ms. Lillian DeBaptiste. This event is a response to many requests for people in our community to gather and have a voice in the ongoing national discourse about police brutality against people of color. We believe it is our obligation to provide a venue for our community to come together as peacefully and safely as possible. We will close parts of Gay Street and High Street to allow for a procession leaving Borough Hall at 6:30 pm, and we will stand near the Courthouse steps for a series of six brief speeches. All of the speeches will focus on our community's response to injustice, and how we can move forward into a better future together. We will have substantial police protection at the ready and are requiring mask-wearing. We recognize this has the potential to be a large gathering and we did not make this decision lightly. We realize that, with or without us, people will gather, and we believe it is best if we provide this opportunity to gather as safely and respectfully as possible, with a full police presence at the ready. Further, as a result of this event, a previously-scheduled rally originally slated for June 5<sup>th</sup> at 5pm has been cancelled, and they will be joining us instead. Pending unforeseen circumstances, this should enable our businesses to open on June 5<sup>th</sup> as permitted by Governor Wolf.

The WCPD is monitoring all social media platforms and the internet for chatter, and we will be the first to inform you should our officers identify any significant threats. For now, if you are a business owner concerned about your business, you may consider the following efforts:

- Remove wares from the front window.
- Consider frequenting your place of business so you can keep an eye on everything and alert the WCPD if you see anything at all you feel needs to be investigated or addressed.
- Keep doors locked whenever you see or hear something that makes you uncomfortable.
- We are not asking anyone to board up their windows. While this is up to the store owners, this can have unintended consequences by inviting crime.
- Call our 24/7 Dispatch Department for any reason: 610.696.2700.

Mayor Dianne Herrin  
Chief of Police James Morehead