



## **Police Department**

**Brian Johnson**  
*Chief of Police*

As you are aware, South Carolina is in a “State of Emergency” due to COVID-19. Governor McMaster has issued Executive Order No. 2020-13. The Governor’s order specifically prohibits people from gathering in groups of three (3) or more (except in their residence) and asks people that are out shopping to maintain social distancing of at least six (6) feet and to wash and sanitize your hands frequently. If you would like a copy of the Executive Order you may find it at the following link: <https://tapit.us/MYqgN>.

All law enforcement officers are tasked with enforcing this order by dispersing groups larger than three (3) or more. Refusing to disperse or failing to comply with the orders will result in citations being issued for S.C Code of Laws §16-7-10(A) which is “Failure to Comply or Failure to Disperse”, which is a misdemeanor offense with a fine of \$257.50 and/or thirty (30) days in jail.

The City of Barnwell Police Department is tasked with enforcing laws which are to promote public safety. We are doing all we can to protect our officers to ensure that we can continue to provide emergency services to our community. However, we have changed how we can conduct some of our services. Until further notice, our officers will be handling as much business as possibly by phone. They are still responding to emergency calls as needed. All requests for accident reports, incident reports, FOIA requests, etc., can be handled via fax or email at the following: 803-259-3309 (fax) or [hstill@cityofbarnwell.com](mailto:hstill@cityofbarnwell.com) or [asblack@cityofbarnwell.com](mailto:asblack@cityofbarnwell.com).

To be perfectly clear, I want to ensure our citizens that we are still out protecting them and answering calls for service. We are going to enforce the Governor’s Order No. 2020-13 in order to protect our community to include our officers and help our country slow the spread of this virus. Hopefully, we will save lives in the process. I ask all citizens to do their part by maintaining social distancing, frequently washing and sanitizing your hands, stay home as much as possible, and not congregating in groups of more than three (3) in public places.

Thank you and stay safe,

Brian Johnson