



Billy Hewes
MAYOR

GULFPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

MAYOR COUNCIL FORM OF GOVERNMENT
2220 15TH STREET
P.O. DRAWER "S"
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI 39501
228.868.5959



Leonard Papania
CHIEF OF POLICE

November 15, 2017

Media Outlets

To Whom it May Concern,

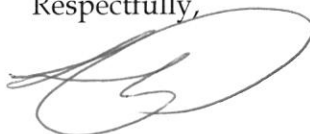
The Gulfport Police Department has changed the process of distributing information for media release. These changes are being implemented to insure that members of the public are afforded the opportunity of access to accurate and full information from the Gulfport Police Department. This process will also allow media outlets equal access to information originating from the police department.

- When the police department has information that needs to be distributed to the public a press release will be prepared.
- A Twitter notification will be sent from the police department that indicates a press release is available. There will be a hyperlink in that Twitter notification that will bring a reader to the police department website media release section.
- If a media outlet has any follow up inquiries regarding a release, they should email those inquiries to the Gulfport Police Public Information Officer. These questions will be evaluated. If there is an update to the press release based upon these inquiries, a follow up Twitter notification with a similar hyperlink will be sent making the new information available. Generally, follow up inquiries will be addressed during regular business hours, unless warranted otherwise.
- If the police department chooses to make a video statement regarding any relevant body of information to be distributed, a video will be prepared and a Twitter notification with a hyperlink will be distributed.
- In the event a press interview is requested, media outlets will be provided reasonable notice that such will occur. Any press interviews will be recorded in full by the police department and distributed similarly by Twitter notification which will make available unedited statements.
- Media outlet request for specific stories will be reviewed on a case by case basis and may be subjected to the above listed process.

Telephonic inquiries can still be made with the Gulfport Police Public Information Officer. However, telephonic inquiries will be evaluated in the same format and may be referred to the aforementioned processes.

Our intention is to insure that demands of speed, created by the quick flow of information in media and social media, does not cause the production of inaccurate information being distributed to the community we serve.

Respectfully,



Leonard J. Papania
Chief of Police
City of Gulfport

cc: Mayor Billy Hewes
CAO John Kelly
City Council President Rusty Walker
Councilmember Myles Sharpe
Councilmember R. Lee Flowers
Councilmember Kenneth Casey
Councilmember Cara Pucheu
Councilmember Ella Holmes Hines
Councilmember Ron Roland
City of Gulfport Public Information Officer Chris Vignes
WJZD Owner Rip Daniels
WLOX General Manager Rick Williams
WXXV News Director Joe Sullivan
Sun Herald President and Publisher Shannon Wall
Gulfport Police Department Facebook
Gulfport Police Department Website (gulfportpolice.net)