



**Chief's Report  
Ruston Police Department  
Tuesday, July 20, 2021**

**Chief of Police:**

During the previous 28 days the Police Department logged 145 calls for service, compared to the 89 we reported last meeting.

On July 25<sup>th</sup>, the new police reform laws for Washington State will take effect. I have been collecting a sample of how other police agencies will be implementing them and find differing policies. This is caused by vagueness in many of the Codes and will take a long time for there to be an accepted practice in our immediate area and the State.

Unfortunately, the general public outside of Ruston may experience much confusion or consternation when they have called 911 to find that the police will not respond to mental health crisis until an actual law was violated, or that many misdemeanors or low/mid-level felonies do not result in an immediate arrest even when the police respond.

I have been preparing a presentation for the Council and for our community to give a general overview of the new laws and how law enforcement officers in Washington have altered practices so as to not violate them. Eventually, I'd like to publish an informational document on our Department's website. In the near future, the Department will be deploying body-worn cameras and researching the purchase of additional less-lethal equipment for purchase.

Despite the new laws, I will make decisions and influence our officers to make decisions (often split-second decisions) which continue to protect and promote a high quality of life for our residents and businesses.

Prepared by Nestor Bautista