



## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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### **Drive-By Birthday Parties End as Phase 1 of Reopening Begins**

(BRISTOL, CT: May 21, 2020) – Today the Bristol Fire Department and Bristol Police Department announced they will no longer be scheduling drive-by birthday appointments and have set an end date of Sunday, May 31 as the last day for these birthday processions. All drive-by birthdays that have already been scheduled will be honored from now until May 31, unless there is an emergency call at that time.

During the last few months while Bristol families have been in isolation during the stay home – stay safe measures put in place due to COVID-19, both the Bristol Fire Department and Police Department have been participating in ‘drive-by parties’ for children’s birthdays allowing them to be able to celebrate while staying safe.

“Since Phase 1 of reopening the State began this week and people are able to get out and do more with less restrictions, it is important to begin focusing on getting back to more normal work schedules and redirecting our focus on training and the daily operations of our department,” stated Bristol Fire Chief Mark Flynn. “We thank the entire community for their ongoing support of the Bristol Fire Department.”

“We thoroughly enjoyed participating in these celebratory drive-by birthdays. The smiles and joy amongst the community were contagious, as we were smiling and enjoying the processions just as much. I personally participated in some of these processions and it was a thrill. This was a great partnership and we were privileged to partake. This was community engagement at its finest during a very difficult time,” stated Bristol Police Chief Brian Gould.

“The balance between normalcy and maintaining social distance is difficult for children to grasp,” said Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu. “With the temporary shut down of so many police and fire trainings and community functions, this was a great way for the first responders to continue to serve the public by interacting with the kids and keeping their spirits up.”

“Bringing a smile and sense of community to those they serve has boosted the morale of both the community and the City’s first responders,” stated City Councilwoman Brittany Barney, who serves as council liaison to the Fire Board.

Visit the Bristol Fire Department’s Facebook page to view videos and photos of the drive-by birthday processions: <https://www.facebook.com/bristolctfire>

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