



Date: March 16, 2020

From: Connecticut Food Association

To: Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

Re: COVID-19 challenges

Over the last several weeks, Connecticut's grocery community has seen a surge in customer traffic and panic buying from state consumers. In some instances, there have been altercations in store parking lots and unruly behavior in a handful of our stores.

By way of this message, we are asking for your help. In order to maintain public safety in Connecticut's food stores, we are asking for a proactive partnership with each of our state's local law enforcement agencies to identify and solve problems before they occur.

An increased police presence in parking lots of supermarkets and other big-box retailers would go a long way in deterring customers who may be intent on breaking the law or creating problems for the majority of law-abiding customers.

In the spirit of active community policing, we encourage officers to come into stores and meet with local owners and store managers who are on the front lines of keeping Connecticut's families supplied with food and home necessities during this challenging time.

We need your help in the coming weeks to keep our retail locations a safe space and a place which embodies the spirit of the hundreds of Connecticut communities our stores service.

In advance, let me say thank you on behalf of Connecticut's grocers for all you do every day to keep our state's residents safe. Please feel free to reach out with questions and any other information you feel relevant to this undertaking.