



# RYE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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To: Rye Board of Selectmen  
From: Chief Kevin Walsh *KW*  
Date: October 5, 2020  
Re: Halloween - Trick or Treat

As part of Governor Sununu's Stay at Home 2.0 order, the Town of Rye continues to lay out safeguards on how Rye can move forward following best health practices. There is transparency between surrounding towns, city, Governor Sununu's office, and with the CDC.

Through my communication with communities surrounding the Town of Rye, I learned the majority are hosting Trick or Treat on October 31<sup>st</sup> between the hours of 4PM to 8PM. The hours vary depending on each community. The Town of North Hampton is the only community hosting Trick or Treat on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

A concern I have is when one community hosts Halloween on a different date than the majority of towns, that community will get larger than normal crowds of kids and adults from different school districts. There is no way to determine who is who and where they are from. Kids will travel for candy.

In 1994, The Town of Rye passed a warrant article indicating Trick or Treat shall be hosted on October 30<sup>th</sup> each year. The warrant article wanted to set consistency, so the date was predetermined. Since 2006 the Board of Selectmen has only canceled Trick or Treat one time. An early ice storm arrived several days before October 30<sup>th</sup>. There were trees and electric wires still down on ground. I asked the Rye Board of Selectmen to postpone Trick or Treat until the safety concerns were addressed by the electric company and Rye Department of Public Works.

Based on the Trick or Treat schedules of Portsmouth, Greenland, Newcastle, Newington, I am asking the Rye Board of Selectmen change Rye's Trick or Treat date from October 30<sup>th</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>. This is also the date Hampton and Exeter are hosting Trick or Treat. By changing the date to match surrounding communities, the adult and child population will self-regulate. I am recommending the hours be 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Below are some suggestions I would like the Board to consider each town department can put out to Rye residents.

Below are suggestions to put out if the Board approves Trick or Treat:

#### Homes who participate in Trick or Treat:

- Only give out pre-wrapped items
- Wear a mask when handing out and collecting treats
- Give out items outside or in a way to keep 6 ft distance (such as behind a storm glass door) and replace treats before each visit of kids
- Do not hand treats directly to kids
- Put out sanitizer

**For Trick or Treat Participants:**

- Parents and kids should be in small groups, preferably family members only and within your neighborhood
- Avoid large groups and going inside homes
- Maintain social distancing while Trick or Treating
- Carry hand sanitizer (gloves are NOT recommended)
- Wear protective masks (this maybe part of a costume if its cloth)
- If a home does not want to participate, please leave all front lights off

STAY AT HOME IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL OR HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS COVID-19.

I want to keep this simple for public awareness. If the Board has a meeting prior to their next scheduled meeting, I ask that this be placed on the agenda so families can start planning.

Cc: Town Administrator Becky Bergeron  
Rye Highway Director Dennis McCarthy  
Rye Fire Chief Mark Cotreau  
Rye Recreation Director Lee Arthur  
SAU Superintendent Sal Petralia  
Rye Junior High Principal Marie Soucy  
Rye Elementary School Principal Suzanne Lull