



City of Bel-Nor

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April 5, 2024

PUBLIC STATEMENT NOTICE OF CLOSURE OF POLICE DEPARTMENT

Despite our best efforts to avoid this, due to workforce shortages and budgetary issues the Board of Aldermen of the City of Bel-Nor has made the difficult decision to discontinue having its own Police Department. With the ever-increasing costs of insurance, vehicles, and providing competitive wages and benefits, our budget cannot keep up. The City will contract with another agency for law enforcement services. The process of finding a good match for our residents to feel comfortable with began immediately upon receiving notice that some of our officers had been offered positions at other agencies and intended to tender their resignations.

The closure will be effective at the close of business Thursday, April 25, 2024. Since November of 2022 we have had in place a mutual aid agreement with the City of St. John, and our plan right now is to have the St. John police department respond to emergency calls until permanent arrangements can be made.

This was a heart-wrenching decision and the City would like to thank each officer for his loyal service to the residents of Bel-Nor, especially Chief Ford and Captain Seabaugh, who went above and beyond in caring for our residents for 23 and 9 years, respectively.

Please address any questions you may have to Mayor Bill Hook at 314-705-2735 or mayor@cityofbelnor.org.