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			Distribution: All
Title: CIVIL DISTURBANCES/CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE		Section: Field Situations	
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I. Purpose

The purpose of this General Orders is to establish guidelines for managing crowds and preserving the peace during civil disturbances.

II. Policy

How law enforcement officers deal with crowds in civil actions, whether in demonstrations or civil disturbances, has direct bearing on their ability to prevent property damage, injury, or loss of life and minimize disruption to persons who are uninvolved. Officers confronting civil disturbances and those called upon to assist in these incidents shall follow the procedures as enumerated in this General Order to protect life, property, and First Amendment rights.

III. Definitions

- A. Civil Disturbance:** An unlawful assembly as defined by state statutes and local ordinances. Normally, a gathering that constitutes a breach of the peace or any assembly of persons where there is a threat of collective violence, destruction of property, or other unlawful acts. These are typically, but not always, spontaneous occurrences requiring the emergency mobilization of police forces and related emergency services.
- B. Demonstration:** A legal assembly of persons organized primarily to express political or other doctrine or views. These are typically scheduled events that allow for police planning. They include but are not limited to marches, protests, and other assemblies that are largely designed to attract the attention of onlookers, media, and others. Demonstrations can evolve into civil disturbances that necessitate enforcement actions. Although crowd control may be necessary at sporting events, festivals, concerts, celebratory gatherings, and related events, these are not defined as demonstrations.
- C. Crowd Control:** Techniques used to address unlawful public assemblies, to include a show of force, crowd containment and dispersal equipment and strategies, and preparations for multiple arrests.
- D. Crowd Management:** Techniques used to manage lawful assemblies before, during, and after the event for the purpose of maintaining their lawful status as accomplished through event planning, pre-event contact with group leaders, issuance of permits, intelligence gathering, personnel training and other means.



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IV. Regulations

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V. Procedures

A. General Management and Organization Principles

1. By law, this jurisdiction shall impose reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of expressing First Amendment rights. This department shall place only those limitations and restrictions on demonstrations necessary to maintain public safety and order and, to the degree possible, allow uninhibited commerce and freedom of movement for uninvolved persons.
2. Organization of responsibilities shall be as follows unless otherwise designated by the Chief of Police:
 - a. The department's All Hazard Plan will be implemented and the Chief of Police, or designee, will be the incident commander (IC) at the scene of mass demonstrations and civil disturbances.
 - b. In the case of widely dispersed demonstrations, each incident may be treated as a separate and distinct incidents and multiple incident commanders shall be assigned at the direction of the Chief of Police.
3. In addition to responsibilities outlined in the department's All Hazard Plan, the IC shall do the following:
 - a. Authorize such use of force and engagement with the crowd as deemed necessary to resolve unlawful situations.
 - b. Authorize the use of arrest as a means of curtailing unlawful behavior.
 - c. Designate an investigator, from this department or another, for the force investigation team who shall be responsible for monitoring, assessing, and investigating allegations or instances of officer misconduct and uses of force.
4. Officers shall be briefed at the staging area on the type of crowd being monitored and told what to expect from participants and what types of responses the department can be prepared to employ. They shall also be informed that the IC, or a designee, will order the response deemed appropriate and that they will act in concert with and follow the direction of the IC, or the designee.
5. Mass arrests will be avoided when arrest avoidance is reasonable in the interests of safety and security.

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B. Use of Force

1. The department's use-of-force policy is equally applicable to enforcement actions in the context of both mass demonstrations and civil disturbances. That is, officers may use only such force as reasonably appears necessary to protect themselves or others from physical harm, to restrain or subdue a resistant individual, or to bring an unlawful situation safely and effectively under control.
2. Unity of action and command and control are key to effective handling of demonstrations and civil disturbances. Thus, unless exigent circumstances require immediate action, officers shall not independently make arrests or employ force without command authorization. In exigent circumstances, supervisors shall independently authorize the use of force or such other tactics in accordance with this department's use-of-force policy and this General Order.
3. All officers providing assistance to this department through mutual aid shall be briefed on the mutually agreed upon provisions of those agreements relating to the use of force and protocols for crowd control prior to deployment.
4. The following restrictions and limitations on the use of force shall be observed during mass demonstrations and civil disturbances:
 - a. Canine teams may respond as backup as appropriate but shall not deploy the dog for crowd control. Canines shall remain in patrol vehicles or other secure locations and, whenever reasonably possible, out of the view of demonstrators. Canines may be deployed in isolated circumstances related to pursuit of suspects in buildings and related environments.
 - b. Fire hoses shall not be used for crowd containment or dispersal.
 - c. Motor vehicles may be used to surround and move persons as appropriate but shall not be brought into contact with them for purposes of containment or dispersal.
 - d. Non-deadly projectiles shall not be fired indiscriminately into crowds.
 - e. Direct fired impact munitions, to include beanbag rounds, shall not be used for crowd control or management during demonstrations. Direct-fire impact munitions may be used where reasonable during civil disorders against specific individuals who are engaged in conduct that poses a threat of death, great bodily harm, or serious property damage, when the individual can be properly targeted. When reasonably possible, a verbal warning shall be issued prior to the use of impact munitions.
 - f. Electronic control weapons (ECW) shall be used during civil disturbances only for purposes of restraint or arrest of non-compliant and resistant identified individuals when alternative lesser means of control are not available or are unsuitable and only when the individual can be accurately targeted. ECWs may not be fired indiscriminately into crowds.
 - g. Officer issued aerosol restraint spray (OC) may be used against specific individuals who are engaged in unlawful acts or conduct or actively resisting arrest, or as necessary in a defensive capacity when other alternatives



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would likely be inadequate or are unavailable. It shall not be used indiscriminately against groups of people, in demonstrations or crowds where bystanders would be unreasonably affected, or against passively resistant individuals.

- h. High-volume OC delivery systems are designed for and may be used in civil disturbances against groups of people engaged in unlawful acts or endangering public safety and security with approval of the IC. Whenever reasonably possible, a warning shall be issued prior to the use of these systems.
- i. Expandable batons shall be used primarily as a defensive weapon or as a means of overcoming resistance, as when it is used in the two-hand horizontal thrust on a police line, as a show of force, or as a means to contain or disperse a crowd in this manner.

C. Demonstrations

1. Preparation for responding to a demonstration shall be assigned to the Investigations Section Commander (Planning Section Chief). The Commander shall ensure that a written incident action plan (IAP) is developed for approval by the Chief of Police.
2. Every effort shall be made to identify and make advance contact with the leaders of the demonstration. A decision on personnel, resources, and related needs shall be based in part on information obtained from leaders, department intelligence, and other sources. Answers to the following additional questions shall be collected:
 - a. What type of event is involved?
 - b. When is it planned?
 - c. Is outside opposition to the event expected?
 - d. How many participants are expected?
 - e. What are the assembly areas and movement routes?
 - f. What actions, activities, or tactics are anticipated, to include use of demonstrator devices designed to thwart arrest?
 - g. Have permits been issued?
 - h. Have other agencies, such as fire and EMS, been notified?
 - i. Is there a need to request mutual aid?
 - j. Will off-duty personnel be required?
 - k. Have demonstration leaders been identified together with their past history of conduct at such events? Is it possible to meet with group leaders?
3. Based on this and related information, the Investigations Section Commander will develop a departmental action plan together with outside agencies where necessary. The plan shall address provisions for the following and be distributed to all affected command and supervisory officers:
 - a. Command assignments and responsibilities.



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- b. Manpower, unit structure and deployment.
 - c. Liaison with demonstration leaders.
 - d. Liaison with outside agencies.
 - e. Release of information to the media.
 - f. Transportation, feeding and relief of personnel.
 - g. Traffic management.
 - h. Demonstrator devices, extrication teams, and equipment.
 - i. First aid stations.
 - j. Transportation of prisoners.
 - k. Prisoner detention areas.
 - l. Intelligence.
4. Officers assigned to the event shall monitor crowd activity and:
 - a. Wear their badges and nameplates or other personal identification on the outside of their uniforms at all times;
 - b. Be positioned in such a manner as to minimize contact with the assembly;
 - c. Not engage in conversations related to the demonstration with or be prompted to act in response to comments from demonstrators;
 - d. Maintain a courteous and neutral demeanor;
 - e. Not usually bar persons from entering the demonstration area who reside, are employed or have business of an emergency nature in the area where marked off by a police line unless circumstances suggest that their safety would be jeopardized or their entry would interfere with police operations.
 5. Section Commanders shall establish and maintain communication with demonstration leaders and relay information on crowd mood and intent to the IC.
 6. Supervisors shall maintain close contact with officers under their charge to ensure their compliance with orders, to monitor their behavior and disposition, and to ensure that they are aware of any changes in crowd attitude or intent.
 7. Before ordering forced dispersal of demonstrators, the IC shall determine whether lesser alternatives may be effective. These alternatives include the use of containment and dialogue, as follows:
 - a. Establish contact with crowd leaders to assess their intentions and motivations and develop a mutually acceptable plan for de-escalation and dispersal.
 - b. Communicate to the participants that their assembly is in violation of the law, that the department wishes to resolve the incident peacefully, but that acts of violence will be dealt with swiftly and decisively.
 - c. Negotiate with crowd leaders for voluntary dispersal, or target specific violent or disruptive individuals for arrest.
 8. Prior to issuing dispersal orders, the IC shall ensure that all potentially necessary law enforcement, fire, and EMS equipment and personnel are on hand to



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successfully carry out tactical requirements and contingencies and the logistical requirements related to the potential for making mass arrests are in place.

- a. When the incident commander has made a determination that crowd dispersal is required, he or she shall direct supervisors, where time and circumstances permit, to issue warnings prior to taking physical actions to disperse the crowd.
- b. The warnings shall be issued loudly enough and often enough to be heard by the crowd from stationary vantage points or with the use of a public address system of moving patrol vehicles.
- c. The warning shall consist of an announcement citing the offenses or violations being committed, an order to disperse, and designated dispersal routes. A second and third warning shall be issued at reasonable time intervals before designated actions are taken to disperse the crowd. Where possible, the warnings shall be audio- or video-recorded at a point to the rear of the crowd and the time and names of the issuing officers recorded in the IC's event log.
- d. Specific crowd dispersal tactics shall be ordered as necessary where the crowd does not heed warnings. These include any one or any combination of the following:
 - i. Display of forceful presence to include police lines combined with police vehicles.
 - ii. Crowd encirclement.
 - iii. Multiple simultaneous arrests.
 - iv. Use of high volume OC delivery systems.
 - v. Police formations and use of batons for forcing crowd movement.

D. Spontaneous Demonstrations and Civil Disturbances

Demonstrations or large gatherings of any kind that escalate into disturbances are governed by the policies concerning crowd management, control, and dispersal as identified here with respect to civil disturbances. The first officer to arrive on the scene of a spontaneous demonstration or civil disturbance shall do the following:

1. Observe the situation from a safe distance to determine if the gathering is currently or potentially violent.
2. Notify Communications of the nature and seriousness of the disturbance, particularly the availability of improvised or deadly weapons, its location and estimated number of participants, current activities (such as blocking traffic), direction of movement, and ingress and egress routes for emergency vehicles.
3. Request assistance of a supervisor and any necessary backup and advise as to the present course of action.
4. If approaching the crowd would not present unnecessary risk, instruct the gathering to disperse.



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5. Attempt to identify crowd leaders and agitators and anyone engaged in criminal acts.
6. The first supervisor in charge at the scene shall assess the situation and request sufficient personnel and related resources to perform the following tasks:
 - a. Deploy officers to the best vantage points to observe and report on crowd actions.
 - b. Establish an outer perimeter sufficient to contain the disturbance and prohibit entrance to the affected area.
 - c. Ensure that, to the degree possible, innocent civilians are evacuated from the immediate area of the disturbance.
 - d. Establish a temporary command post based on proximity to the scene, availability of communications, space and security from crowd participants.
 - e. Continually assess the situation and advise Communications of the status and additional needs.
 - f. Ensure that surveillance points are established to identify agitators, leaders and individuals committing crimes, and to document and report on events as they happen.
7. Where illegal gatherings engaged in civil disturbances cannot be controlled with available field personnel within a reasonable period of time, the Chief of Police, or a designee, shall serve as or appoint an IC to direct operations. The primary objectives of the IC will be as follows:
 - a. Protect persons, including nonparticipants and participants alike, and property at risk.
 - b. Disperse disorderly or threatening crowds in order to eliminate the immediate risks of continued escalation and further violence.
 - c. Effect the arrest of those individual law violators and the removal or isolation of those persons inciting violent behavior.
8. To achieve the forgoing objectives, the IC shall employ tactical operations that include but are not necessarily limited to approaches previously identified in this General Order.
9. In the area outside the perimeter surrounding the disorder site, the IC shall ensure that the following actions are taken:
 - a. Move and reroute pedestrian and vehicular traffic around the disorder.
 - b. Limit access to the disorder to those persons approved by the IC.
 - c. Control unauthorized egress from the disorder by participants.
 - d. Repulse attempts to assist or reinforce the incident participants from outside the area.
10. The IC shall also ensure the following matters are addressed where indicated:
 - a. Ensure that adequate security is provided to fire and EMS personnel in the performance of emergency tasks.
 - b. Ensure that feeding and relief requirements of personnel have been addressed.



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- c. Ensure the adequacy and security of the incident command post and designate a staging area for emergency responders and equipment.
- d. Establish liaison and staging point for media representatives and, to the degree possible, provide them with available information.
- e. Ensure somebody is documenting activities and actions taken during the course of the incident in the IC's event log.
- f. Take photographs and make video recordings of event proceedings.
- g. Take photographs of any injuries sustained by police officers or the public.
- h. Determine the need for full mobilization of sworn officers and the recall of off-duty officers.

E. Mass Arrest

During the course of civil disturbances, it may be necessary to make arrests of numerous individuals over a relatively short period of time. In order for this process to be handled efficiently, safely and legally, the following shall be observed:

1. Except for felony offenses, officers shall not pursue demonstrators into buildings for the purpose of making arrests unless specifically instructed to do so by a supervisor. Supervisors shall accompany and exercise control over members under their command who go on private property or enter buildings to make arrests.
2. Designated, supervised squads of officers shall perform mass arrests.
3. If required, an adequate secure area shall be designated for holding prisoners after initial booking and while awaiting transportation.
4. Arrest teams shall be advised of the basic charges to be recorded in all arrests.
5. Arrestees who are sitting or lying down but agree to walk shall be escorted to the transportation vehicle for processing; two or more officers shall carry those who refuse to walk.
6. At the transport vehicle, the arrestee shall be advised of the charges.
7. The prisoner shall be searched for weapons, evidence and contraband, and where possible, by an officer of the same sex. Such items shall be secured and identified prior to transportation.
8. Photographs shall be taken of the arrestee with the arresting officer, and of the prisoner and any property that is turned over to the transporting officer.
9. Transporting officers shall not accept prisoners without properly prepared field arrest forms and photographs and shall ensure that all property is placed in a container that is legibly marked with the arrestee's name.
10. Upon arrival at the detention facility, the transporting officer shall deliver the prisoner together with the arrest form and personal property.
11. All injured prisoners and those who request medical attention shall be provided medical attention prior to transportation to the detention facility. Photographs shall be taken of all injuries.

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12. All arrested juveniles shall be handled in accordance with this department's procedures for the arrest, transportation and detention of juveniles.

G. Demobilization

When the disturbance has been brought under control, the IC shall ensure that the following measures are taken:

1. All law enforcement officers engaged in the incident shall be accounted for and an assessment and documentation made of personal injuries.
2. Witnesses, suspects, and others shall be interviewed or interrogated.
3. All necessary personnel shall be debriefed as required.
4. All written reports shall be completed as soon as possible after the incident to include a comprehensive after action report containing the basis for the incident, the department's response to the incident, a statement of impact to include the costs of equipment, personnel and related items.