

Chapter 4 - Patrol Operations

Patrol

400.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to define the patrol function and address intraorganizational cooperation and information sharing.

400.2 POLICY

The Falls Church Police Department provides patrol services 24 hours a day, seven days a week and will prioritize responses to requests for emergency services using available resources to enhance the safety of the public and department members.

400.3 FUNCTION

Patrol will generally be conducted by uniformed officers in clearly marked law enforcement vehicles in assigned jurisdictional areas of Falls Church. The function of patrol is to respond to calls for assistance and reports of criminal activity, act as a deterrent to crime, enforce state and local laws, identify community needs, provide support and assistance to the community and respond to emergencies.

Patrol services include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Responding to emergency calls for service.
- (b) Apprehending criminal offenders.
- (c) Providing mutual aid and assistance to other agencies for emergency and law enforcement-related activities.
- (d) Preventing criminal acts, traffic violations and accidents, maintaining public order and discovering hazardous situations or conditions.
- (e) Responding to reports of both criminal and non-criminal acts.
- (f) Responding to routine calls for service, such as public assistance or public safety.
- (g) Directing and controlling traffic.
- (h) Carrying out crime prevention activities, such as residential inspections, business inspections and community presentations.
- (i) Carrying out community-oriented policing and problem-solving activities, including the application of resources to improve or resolve specific problems or situations and contacting or assisting members of the public in a positive way.
- (j) Assist the Sheriff's Office in providing courthouse/courtroom security, including operating physical security equipment, searching individuals and the facility, and developing high-risk trial plans and emergency evacuation plans, if applicable.

400.3.1 PATROL ASSIGNMENT

Patrol assignments should include a system that provides for:

- (a) Assignment to operational shifts.

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- (b) Shift rotation, if any.
- (c) Assignment to beats, if any.
- (d) Beat rotation, if any.
- (e) Continuous coverage during shift changes, if the Department operates on a shift schedule.
- (f) Providing information to oncoming shifts of previous shifts' activities in accordance with the Roll call Policy.

400.4 INFORMATION SHARING

To the extent feasible, all information relevant to the mission of the Department should be shared among all divisions and specialized units on a timely basis. Members should be provided with opportunities on a regular basis to share information during the daily roll calls and to attend roll calls of other divisions or specialized units.

Additionally, information should be shared with outside agencies and the public in conformance with department policies and applicable laws. Members are encouraged to share information with other units and divisions.

400.5 CROWDS, EVENTS AND GATHERINGS

Officers may encounter gatherings of people, including, but not limited to, civil demonstrations, public displays, parades, sporting events and civic, social and business events. Officers are encouraged to contact organizers or responsible persons to seek voluntary compliance that may address relevant public safety concerns. Officers should monitor such events as time permits in an effort to keep the peace and protect the safety and rights of those present. A patrol supervisor should be notified when it becomes reasonably foreseeable that such an event may require increased monitoring, contact or intervention.

Officers responding to an event or gathering that warrants law enforcement involvement should carefully balance the speech and association rights of those present with applicable public safety concerns before taking enforcement action.

Generally, officers should consider seeking compliance through advisements and warnings for minor violations, and should reserve greater enforcement options for more serious violations or when voluntary compliance with the law is not achieved.

400.6 COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

The Operations Division Commander should ensure that a community-oriented policing program is established and a program manual is developed that includes at a minimum:

- (a) The mission, organizational values and management principles that support community partnerships.
- (b) A definition of community partnerships as a commitment to a philosophy rather than a program.

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- (c) A list of partnerships and collaborative efforts involving the Falls Church Police Department and persons, groups and businesses within the community.
- (d) Training for officers and community leaders in the theory and concept, as well as function and operation, of community partnerships.
- (e) Recommended training for members in problem-solving models.
- (f) Materials that assist officers in developing support from City officials for the concept of community-oriented policing, with the goal of City wide adoption of the community partnership philosophy.
- (g) A survey of citizens attitudes and opinions, if applicable, that includes:
 - 1. Overall department performance.
 - 2. Overall competency of department employees.
 - 3. Officer attitudes and behavior toward citizens.
 - 4. Concern over safety and security within the department service area as a whole.
 - 5. Recommendations and suggestions for improvements.

Bias-Based Policing

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Issuing Authority:	Chief Mary Gavin

401.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance to department members that affirms the Falls Church Police Department's commitment to policing that is fair and objective.

Nothing in this policy prohibits the use of specified characteristics in law enforcement activities designed to strengthen the department's relationship with its diverse communities (e.g., cultural and ethnicity awareness training, youth programs, community group outreach and partnerships).

401.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Bias-based policing - An inappropriate reliance on actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, age, cultural group, disability, or affiliation with any non-criminal group (protected characteristics) as the basis for providing differing law enforcement service or enforcement. This includes any other noncriminal characteristics prohibited by state law (Va. Code § 15.2-1609.10; Va. Code § 15.2-1722.1; Va. Code § 52-30.1 et seq.).

401.2 POLICY

The Falls Church Police Department is committed to providing law enforcement services to the community with due regard for the racial, cultural or other differences of those served. It is the policy of this department to provide law enforcement services and to enforce the law equally, fairly, objectively and without discrimination toward any individual or group.

401.3 BIAS-BASED POLICING PROHIBITED

Bias-based policing is strictly prohibited.

However, nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit an officer from considering protected characteristics in combination with credible, timely and distinct information connecting a person or people of a specific characteristic to a specific unlawful incident, or to specific unlawful incidents, specific criminal patterns or specific schemes.

401.4 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Every member of this department shall perform his/her duties in a fair and objective manner and is responsible for promptly reporting any suspected or known instances of bias-based policing to

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a supervisor. Members should, when reasonable to do so, intervene to prevent any bias-based actions by another member.

401.4.1 GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) Officers are prohibited from stopping, detaining, searching or arresting anyone solely because of the person's race, sex, sexual orientation, gender, national origin, ethnicity, age, or religion. These characteristics, however, may form part of reasonable suspicion or probable cause when officers are seeking a suspect with one or more of these attributes.
- (b) Reasonable suspicion or probable cause shall form the basis for any enforcement actions or decisions. Individuals shall only be subjected to stops, seizures, or detentions upon reasonable suspicion that they have committed, are committing, or are about to commit an offense. Officers shall document the elements of reasonable suspicion and probable cause in appropriate reports.
- (c) Officers shall observe all constitutional safeguards and shall respect the constitutional rights of all individuals. Interpreters shall be provided for non-English speakers and for hearing impaired persons whenever necessary to protect their constitutional rights.
- (d) Officers shall not use the refusal or lack of cooperation to justify a search of an individual's person or vehicle or a prolonged detention once reasonable suspicion has been dispelled.
- (e) All personnel shall treat citizens with the same courtesy and respect that they would have individuals observe to Department personnel. To this end, personnel are reminded that the exercise of courtesy and respect engenders a future willingness to cooperate with law enforcement.
- (f) Personnel shall facilitate individuals' access to other governmental services whenever possible, and shall actively provide referrals to other appropriate agencies.
- (g) Personnel shall identify themselves by name when requested by an individual and provide the name of their immediate supervisor, or any other reasonable information, if requested and feasible.
- (h) Unless required by law, an individual's refusal to cooperate or provide information does not create any justification for further enforcement action. Refusal to sign a summons or failure to obey a lawful order of an officer are examples of exceptions to voluntary cooperation.
- (i) All personnel are accountable for their actions. Personnel shall justify their actions when required.

401.4.2 REASON FOR CONTACT

Officers contacting a person shall be prepared to articulate sufficient reason for the contact, independent of the protected characteristics of the individual.

To the extent that written documentation would otherwise be completed (e.g., arrest report, field interview (FI) card), the involved officer should include those facts giving rise to the contact, as applicable.

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Except for required data-collection forms or methods, nothing in this policy shall require any officer to document a contact that would not otherwise require reporting.

401.4.3 REPORTING NONCONSENSUAL INVESTIGATORY INTERACTIONS

Each time an officer makes a traffic stop, stops and frisks a person based on reasonable suspicion, or temporarily detains a person during any other investigatory stop, the officer shall record the following information on the appropriate forms provided by the Department (Va. Code § 52-30.2; Va. Code § 52-30.4; 19 VAC 30-240-10):

- (a) The race, ethnicity, age, and gender of the person
- (b) Whether the person spoke English
- (c) Residency of the person
- (d) The reason for the stop, as well as its location and the outcome (action taken)
- (e) Whether any search was made (vehicle or person)_
- (f) Whether the officer used physical force against any person and whether any person used physical force against any officers
- (g) Record ID, Date, Agency ORI, Specific violation, Jurisdiction code, Virginia Crime code, Person Type- (Driver, Passenger or Pedestrian)
- (h) Any other information noted on the designated form

The Operations Division Commander or the authorized designee should establish procedures as necessary for the department's compliance with Va. Code § 52-30.2 and Va. Code § 52-30.4; and 19 VAC 30-240-10).

401.5 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors should monitor those individuals under their command for compliance with this policy and shall handle any alleged or observed violations in accordance with the Personnel Complaints Policy.

- (a) Supervisors should discuss any issues with the involved officer and his/her supervisor in a timely manner.
 - (a) Supervisors should document these discussions, in the prescribed manner.
- (b) Supervisors shall initiate investigations of any actual or alleged violations of this policy.
- (c) Supervisors should take prompt and reasonable steps to address any retaliatory action taken against any member of this department who discloses information concerning bias-based policing.
- (d) Supervisors shall continually reinforce the ethic of impartial enforcement of the laws, and shall ensure that personnel, by their actions, uphold the community's trust in law enforcement.

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401.6 STATE REPORTING

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall collect the information required by law relating to use of excessive force complaints, traffic stops, and other detentions, and shall report that information to the Department of State Police and publish it in the manner provided by law (Va. Code § 15.2-1609.10; Va. Code § 15.2-1722.1; Va. Code § 52-30.2; Va. Code § 52-30.4; 19 VAC 30-240-10; 19 VAC 30-240-20).

All complaints regarding bias-based profiling, including those investigated by a member's immediate supervisor, shall be forwarded to the Deputy Chief for any additional required investigation or disposition.

401.7 ADMINISTRATION

The Administrative Division Commander should review the efforts of the Department to provide fair and objective policing and submit an annual report, including public concerns and complaints, to the Chief of Police. The annual report should not contain any identifying information about any specific complaint, member of the public, or officer. It should be reviewed by the Chief of Police to identify any changes in training or operations that should be made to improve service.

Supervisors should review the traffic stop data, use of excessive force complaint data, and the annual report and discuss the results with those they are assigned to supervise.

401.8 TRAINING

Training on fair and objective policing and review of this policy should be conducted as directed by the Training Coordinator.

Roll call

402.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy discusses the activity of roll call and includes the tasks that should be accomplished during this short period.

402.2 POLICY

Roll call is intended to facilitate the accurate flow of information in order to enhance coordination of activities, improve performance and safety, and outline the expected actions of members.

402.3 ROLL CALL

All divisions and specialized units will conduct regular roll call to discuss, disseminate and exchange information among department members, work groups and other organizations. A supervisor generally will conduct roll call. However, the supervisor may delegate this responsibility to a subordinate member in his/her absence or for training purposes.

Roll call should include, but is not limited to:

- (a) Providing members with information regarding daily activities, with particular attention given to changes in the status of:
 - 1. Wanted persons.
 - 2. Crime patterns.
 - 3. Suspect descriptions.
 - 4. Intelligence reports and photographs.
 - 5. Community issues affecting law enforcement.
 - 6. Major investigations.
- (b) Notifying members of changes in schedules and assignments.
- (c) Reviewing recent incidents for situational awareness and training purposes.
- (d) Providing training on a variety of subjects.
- (e) Conducting periodic personnel inspections.

Supervisors should also ensure that all members are informed about Standing Orders and any recent policy changes.

402.3.1 RETENTION OF ROLL CALL TRAINING RECORDS

Roll call training materials and a curriculum or summary shall be forwarded to the Training Coordinator for inclusion in training records, as appropriate.

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402.4 PREPARATION OF MATERIALS

The member conducting roll call is responsible for preparation of the materials necessary for a constructive roll call.

402.5 TRAINING

Roll call training should incorporate short segments on a variety of subjects or topics and may include:

- (a) Review and discussion of new or updated policies.
- (b) Presentation and discussion of the proper application of existing policy to routine daily activities.
- (c) Presentation and discussion of the proper application of existing policy to unusual activities.
- (d) Review of recent incidents for training purposes.

Crime and Disaster Scene Integrity

403.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance in handling a major crime or disaster.

403.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Falls Church Police Department to secure crime or disaster scenes so that evidence is preserved, and to identify and mitigate the dangers associated with a major crime or disaster scene for the safety of the community and those required to enter or work near the scene.

403.3 SCENE RESPONSIBILITY

The first officer at the scene of a crime or major incident is generally responsible for the immediate safety of the public and preservation of the scene. Officers shall also consider officer safety and the safety of those persons entering or exiting the area, including those rendering medical aid to any injured parties. Once an officer has assumed or been assigned to maintain the integrity and security of the crime or disaster scene, it shall be maintained until the officer is properly relieved by a supervisor or other designated person.

403.4 FIRST RESPONDER CONSIDERATIONS

The following list generally describes the first responder's function at a crime or disaster scene. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive, is not necessarily in order and may be altered according to the demands of each situation:

- (a) Broadcast emergency information, including requests for additional assistance and resources.
- (b) Provide for the general safety of those within the immediate area by mitigating, reducing or eliminating threats or dangers.
- (c) Locate or identify suspects and determine whether dangerous suspects are still within the area.
- (d) Provide first aid to injured parties if it can be done safely.
- (e) Evacuate the location safely as required or appropriate.
- (f) Secure the inner perimeter.
- (g) Protect items of apparent evidentiary value.
- (h) Secure an outer perimeter.
- (i) Identify potential witnesses.
- (j) Start a chronological log noting critical times and personnel allowed access.

403.5 SEARCHES

Officers arriving at crime or disaster scenes are often faced with the immediate need to search for and render aid to victims, and to determine if suspects are present and continue to pose a threat.

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Once officers are satisfied that no additional suspects are present and/or there are no injured persons to be treated, those exigent circumstances will likely no longer exist. Officers should thereafter secure the scene and conduct no further search until additional or alternate authority for the search is obtained, such as consent or a search warrant.

403.5.1 CONSENT

When possible, officers should seek written consent to search from authorized individuals. However, in the case of serious crimes or major investigations, it may be prudent to also obtain a search warrant.

403.6 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Criminal Investigation Section Commander is responsible for:

- (a) Ensuring reasonable access to qualified personnel, equipment and supplies for processing crime scenes.
- (b) Establishing and reviewing procedures for collecting, processing and preserving physical evidence in the field.
- (c) Establishing and reviewing procedures for photographing, video-recording and other imaging used to collect and preserve evidence.
- (d) Establishing and reviewing procedures for processing, developing, lifting and labeling fingerprints.
- (e) Establishing and reviewing procedures for the safe collection, storage, transportation and submission of biological and other evidence for DNA testing and evaluation.

403.7 EXECUTION OF HEALTH ORDERS

Any sworn member of this department is authorized to enforce lawful orders of the local health officer that have been issued for the purpose of preventing the spread of any contagious, infectious or communicable disease (Va. Code § 32.1-48.02).

Special Weapons and Tactics Team

404.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the specialized support of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) in handling critical field operations where circumstances demand specialized skills, equipment and tactics.

404.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Negotiation team - Designated officers, including those in a multijurisdictional team, who are specifically trained and equipped to provide skilled verbal communications to de-escalate or effect surrender in situations where suspects have taken hostages or barricaded themselves or are suicidal.

Tactical team - Designated officers, including those in a multijurisdictional team, who are specifically trained and equipped to resolve critical incidents that are so hazardous, complex or unusual that they may exceed the capabilities of first responders or investigators. This includes, but is not limited to, hostage taking, barricaded suspects, snipers, terrorist acts and other high-risk incidents. As a matter of department policy, a tactical team may also be used to provide observation, intelligence gathering and security details in the interest of the Department, deploy covert and overt protection details during high profile events, serve high-risk warrants, both search and arrest, and other duties as assigned where public and officer-safety issues necessitate such use.

404.2 POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Falls Church Police Department to maintain a SWAT Team, either internally or through participation in a regional team, comprised of negotiation and tactical teams, and to provide the equipment, manpower and training necessary to maintain such teams. The SWAT should develop sufficient expertise and resources to perform basic operational functions such as:

- (a) Command and control
- (b) Containment
- (c) Entry/apprehension/rescue
- (d) Observation and intelligence gathering
- (e) Security and overwatch
- (f) Immediate action operations
- (g) Other related duties as required

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404.3 CAPABILITIES

This department acknowledges that training needs may vary based on the experience level of team members, team administrators and potential incident commanders. Therefore, with the preservation of innocent human life being paramount, nothing in this policy shall prohibit the SWAT team from responding to a situation that exceeds their training level due to the exigency of the circumstances.

404.4 MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION

The SWAT Commander shall be selected by the Chief of Police.

404.4.1 TEAM SUPERVISORS

The negotiation team and tactical team will be under the direction of designated team supervisors, who shall be selected by the Chief of Police upon specific recommendation by the SWAT Commander.

The primary responsibility of the team supervisors is to oversee the operation of their teams, which includes deployment, training, first-line supervisor participation and other duties as directed by the SWAT Commander.

404.5 READINESS

An operational readiness assessment should be conducted to determine the type and extent of SWAT missions and operations appropriate to this department. The assessment should consider the capabilities, training and limitations of the SWAT and should be reviewed annually by the SWAT Commander or the authorized designee.

404.5.1 EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS

The SWAT Commander, with approval of the Chief of Police, shall appoint a team supervisor to perform operational readiness inspections of all SWAT equipment at least quarterly. The result of the inspection will be forwarded to the SWAT Commander in writing. The inspections will include personal equipment issued to members of the SWAT, operational equipment maintained in the SWAT facility and equipment maintained or used in SWAT vehicles.

404.5.2 MULTIJURISDICTIONAL OPERATIONS

The SWAT Commander, with approval of the Chief of Police, including any relevant specialized teams and supporting resources, should develop protocols, agreements, memorandums of understanding (MOUs) or working relationships to support multijurisdictional or regional responses.

- (a) If it is anticipated that multijurisdictional SWAT operations will regularly be conducted, multi-agency and multidisciplinary joint training exercises should occur.
- (b) Members of the Falls Church Police Department SWAT shall operate under the policies, procedures and command of the Falls Church Police Department when working in a multi-agency situation.

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404.6 PROCEDURES

Situations that necessitate the need for a SWAT response vary greatly from incident to incident and often demand on-scene evaluation. The guidelines allow for appropriate on-scene decision-making and development of organizational and operational procedures.

404.6.1 ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURES

The Department shall develop a separate written set of organizational procedures that should address, at a minimum:

- (a) Specific missions the SWAT is capable of performing.
- (b) SWAT organization and function.
- (c) Member selection, retention and termination criteria.
- (d) Training and required competencies, including record production and retention.
- (e) Procedures for notification, activation, deactivation and deployment.
- (f) Command and control issues, including a clearly defined command structure and dedicated lines of communication.
- (g) Multi-agency response.
- (h) Out-of-jurisdiction response.
- (i) Specialized functions and supporting resources.

404.6.2 OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

The Department shall develop a separate written set of operational procedures in accordance with the determination of the SWAT's level of capability, using sound risk-reduction practices. The operational procedures should be patterned after the National Tactical Officers Association's (NTOA) SWAT Standard for Law Enforcement Agencies. Because such procedures are specific to SWAT members and outline negotiation, tactical and officer-safety issues, they are not included within this policy.

The operational procedures should include, at a minimum:

- (a) Designation of members who are responsible for developing an operational or tactical plan prior to, and/or during SWAT operations (time permitting).
 - 1. All SWAT members should have an understanding of operational planning.
 - 2. SWAT training should include planning for both spontaneous and planned events.
 - 3. SWAT planning should incorporate medical emergency contingency plans as part of the SWAT operational plan.
- (b) Plans for mission briefings conducted prior to an operation, unless circumstances require immediate deployment.

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1. When possible, briefings should include the specialized teams, certified tactical dispatchers and other supporting personnel.
- (c) Protocols for a sustained operation to be developed that may include relief, rotation of members and augmentation of personnel and resources.
- (d) A generic checklist to be worked through prior to initiating a tactical action as a means of conducting a threat assessment to determine the appropriate response and resources necessary, including the use of the SWAT.
- (e) Roles for the negotiations team and negotiators.
- (f) A standard method of determining whether a warrant should be regarded as high risk.
- (g) A method for deciding how best to serve a high-risk warrant with all reasonably foreseeable alternatives being reviewed in accordance with risk/benefit criteria prior to selecting the method of response.
- (h) Protocols for post-incident scene management, including:
 1. Documentation of the incident.
 2. Transition to investigations and/or other divisions.
 3. Debriefing after every deployment of the SWAT.
 - (a) After-action team debriefing provides evaluation and analysis of critical incidents, affords the opportunity for individual and team assessments, helps to identify training needs and reinforces sound risk management practices.
 - (b) Such debriefing should not be conducted until involved members have had the opportunity to individually complete necessary reports or provide formal statements.
 - (c) In order to maintain candor and a meaningful exchange, debriefing will generally not be recorded.
 - (d) When appropriate, debriefing should include specialized teams and supporting or assisting personnel.
- (i) A sound risk management analysis.
- (j) Standardization of equipment deployed.

404.7 OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

The following are guidelines for the operational deployment of the SWAT. Generally, the tactical team and the negotiation team will be activated together. It is recognized, however, that the teams can be activated independently as circumstances dictate. The tactical team may be used in a situation not requiring the physical presence of the negotiation team, such as warrant service

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operations. The negotiation team may be used in a situation not requiring the physical presence of the tactical team, such as handling a suicidal person. Operational deployment of the specialized teams shall be at the discretion of the SWAT Commander.

404.7.1 APPROPRIATE USE

Incidents that may result in the activation of the SWAT include:

- (a) Barricaded suspects who refuse an order to surrender.
- (b) Incidents where hostages are taken.
- (c) Individuals who are threatening suicide and have refused to surrender.
- (d) Arrests of potentially armed or dangerous persons.
- (e) Any situation that could threaten or undermine the ability of the Department to preserve life, maintain social order and ensure the protection of persons or property.
- (f) High profile public events that are deemed to require additional security measures.
- (g) Any other events, incidents and operations where Command Staff deems SWAT expertise may be beneficial to the overall mission.

Requests by field personnel for assistance from the SWAT team or from a neighboring jurisdiction's SWAT team must be approved by the Chief of Police or authorized designee.

404.7.2 ON-SCENE DETERMINATION AND NOTIFICATION

The supervisor-in-charge at the scene of a particular event will be designated as the Incident Commander and will assess whether the SWAT team is to respond to the scene. The Incident Commander shall notify the SWAT Commander, or a member of Command Staff and a determination will be made as to the deployment of SWAT.

The Watch Commander should brief the SWAT Commander about the incident. Such information should include:

- (a) The type of crime involved.
- (b) The number of suspects, identity and criminal history.
- (c) The known weapons and resources available to the suspect.
- (d) If the suspect is in control of hostages and/or barricaded.
- (e) Whether contact has been made with the suspect and whether there have been demands.
- (f) If potential victims are still within the inner perimeter.
- (g) If the suspect has threatened or attempted suicide.
- (h) The location of the command post and a safe approach to it.
- (i) The extent of any inner or outer perimeter and the number of personnel involved.
- (j) Any other assets or resources at the scene including other involved agencies.
- (k) Any other important facts critical to the immediate situation.

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The SWAT Commander, Command Staff, or team leader shall then follow current callout procedures.

The Watch Commander will notify the Operations Division Commander as soon as practicable.

404.7.3 FIELD PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES

While waiting for the SWAT to respond, field personnel should, if determined to be safe and practicable and sufficient resources exist:

- (a) Establish an Immediate Action Team in case the suspect takes action. The response team's tasks may include:
 - 1. Taking action to mitigate a deadly threat or behavior either inside or outside the location.
 - 2. Securing any subject or suspect who may surrender or attempt to escape.
- (b) Evacuate any injured persons in the zone of danger.
- (c) Evacuate or provide safety instructions to other people in the zone of danger.
- (d) Establish an inner and outer perimeter.
- (e) Establish a command post outside of the inner perimeter.
- (f) Attempt to establish preliminary communication with the suspect. Once the SWAT has arrived, all negotiations should generally be halted to allow the negotiation and tactical teams time to organize, position and assume the appropriate roles and responsibilities.
- (g) Plan for, and stage, anticipated resources.

404.7.4 ON-SCENE COMMAND RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon arrival of the SWAT at the scene, the Incident Commander shall brief the SWAT Commander and team leaders. Upon review, it will be the SWAT Commander's decision, with input from the SWAT Team Leader and the Incident Commander, whether to deploy the SWAT Team. Once the SWAT Commander authorizes deployment, the SWAT Commander or the authorized designee will be responsible for the tactical response and negotiations. The Incident Commander shall continue to supervise the command post operation, outer perimeter security, evacuation and media access and will support the SWAT Team. The Incident Commander and SWAT Commander or the authorized designee shall maintain direct communication at all times.

404.7.5 COMMUNICATIONS WITH SWAT MEMBERS

All persons who are non-SWAT members should refrain from any non-emergency contact or interference with any SWAT member during active negotiations. SWAT operations require the utmost in concentration by involved members and, as a result, no one should interrupt or communicate with SWAT members directly. All non-emergency communications shall be channeled through the negotiation team or tactical team supervisor or the authorized designee.

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404.8 TACTICAL TEAM ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

The tactical team was established to provide a skilled and trained team for deployment to events that require specialized tactics, in situations where suspects have taken hostages and/or barricaded themselves, and in prolonged or predictable situations where persons who are armed or suspected of being armed pose a danger to themselves or others.

The following procedures serve as directives for the administrative operation of the tactical team.

404.8.1 SELECTION OF TACTICAL MEMBERS

The SWAT Commander shall advertise a notification of selection process for the SWAT Team. Interested officers who are off probation shall submit a memorandum of interest to the SWAT Commander. Those qualifying applicants will then be invited to participate in the testing process. The order of the tests will be at the discretion of the SWAT Commander. The testing process will consist of an oral interview, physical agility test, and firearm qualification.

- (a) Oral interview: The oral interview will be conducted by individuals selected by the SWAT Commander. Applicants will be evaluated by certain criteria, which includes:
 - 1. Recognized competence and ability, as evidenced by performance.
 - 2. Demonstrated good judgment and understanding of the critical role of a tactical team member.
 - 3. Special skills, training or appropriate education as it pertains to this assignment.
 - 4. Commitment to the SWAT Team, realizing that the additional assignment may necessitate unusual working hours, conditions and training obligations.
- (b) Physical agility: The physical agility test is designed to determine the physical capabilities of the applicant as they relate to performance of tactical team-related duties. The test and scoring procedure will be established by the SWAT Commander. A minimum qualifying score shall be attained by the applicant to be considered for the position.
- (c) Firearm qualification: Candidates will be invited to shoot the SWAT basic drill for the handgun. A minimum qualifying score established by the Rangemaster must be attained to qualify.

The Team Supervisor shall submit a list of successful applicants to the SWAT Commander for final selection.

404.8.2 TACTICAL TRAINING

SWAT team training should be coordinated with the SWAT Commander. The SWAT Team Leader may conduct monthly training exercises that include a review and critique of members and their performance in the exercises, in addition to specialized training. Training shall consist of the following:

- (a) Each tactical team member shall perform a physical fitness test once each year. A minimum qualifying score must be attained by each team member.

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- (b) Any tactical team member failing to attain the minimum physical fitness qualification score will be notified of the requirement to retest. Within 30 days of the previous physical fitness test date, the member required to qualify shall report to a team supervisor and complete the entire physical fitness test. Failure to qualify after a second attempt may result in dismissal from the team.
- (c) Those who are on vacation, are ill or are on light-duty status with a medical professional's note of approval on the test date shall be responsible for reporting to a team supervisor and taking the test within 30 days of their return to regular duty. Any member who fails to arrange for and perform the physical fitness test within the 30-day period shall be considered as having failed to attain a qualifying score for that test period.
- (d) Each tactical team member shall complete an annual tactical team handgun qualification course. The qualification course shall consist of the SWAT basic drill for the handgun. Failure to qualify will require the team member to seek remedial training from a Rangemaster who has been approved by the SWAT Commander. Team members who fail to qualify will not be used in SWAT operations until qualified. Team members who fail to qualify must retest within 30 days. Failure to qualify within 30 days, with or without remedial training, may result in dismissal from the team.
- (e) Each tactical team member shall complete an annual tactical qualification course for any specialty weapon issued to, or used by, the team member during tactical team operations. Failure to qualify will require the team member to seek remedial training from a Rangemaster who has been approved by the SWAT Commander. Team members who fail to qualify on their specialty weapon may not utilize the specialty weapon on SWAT operations until qualified. Team members who fail to qualify must retest within 30 days. Failure to qualify with specialty weapons within 30 days may result in the team member being removed from the team or permanently disqualified from use of that particular specialty weapon.

404.8.3 TACTICAL TEAM EVALUATION

Continual evaluation of a team member's performance and efficiency as it relates to the positive operation of the team shall be conducted by the team leader. The performance and efficiency level, as established by the team supervisor, will be met and maintained by all tactical team members. Any member of the tactical team who performs or functions at a level less than satisfactory shall be subject to dismissal from the team.

404.9 UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

SWAT specialized teams from this department should wear uniforms that clearly identify them as law enforcement members. It is recognized that certain tactical conditions may require covert movement. Attire may be selected that is appropriate to the specific mission.

404.9.1 EQUIPMENT

SWAT specialized teams from this department should be adequately equipped to meet the specific missions identified by the Department.

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404.9.2 FIREARMS

Weapons and equipment used by the SWAT specialized teams and any supporting resources should be department-issued or approved, including any modifications, additions or attachments.

404.10 TRAINING

The SWAT Commander shall conduct an annual SWAT training needs assessment to ensure that training correlates to the team's capabilities and department policy.

404.10.1 TRAINING SAFETY

Use of a designated safety officer should be considered for all tactical training.

404.10.2 INITIAL TRAINING

Tactical and negotiation team members and team supervisors should not be deployed until successful completion of a basic SWAT course or its equivalent that has been approved by this department.

- (a) To avoid unnecessary or redundant training, previous training completed by members may be considered equivalent when the hours and content or topics meet or exceed requirements determined by the Department.
- (b) Untrained members may be used in a support or training capacity.

404.10.3 UPDATE/REFRESHER TRAINING

Tactical and negotiation team members, team supervisors and certified tactical dispatchers should complete update or refresher training every 24 months.

404.10.4 MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Command and executive personnel are encouraged to attend training for managing the SWAT functions at the organizational level. This is to ensure that those who provide active oversight at the scene understand the purpose and capabilities of these specialized teams.

Command personnel who may assume incident command responsibilities should attend a tactical commander or critical incident commander course or its equivalent that has been approved by this department.

404.10.5 SCENARIO-BASED TRAINING

SWAT specialized teams should participate in scenario-based training that simulates the critical field operations environment. Such training is an established method of improving performance during an actual deployment.

404.10.6 TRAINING DOCUMENTATION

Individual and team training shall be documented and records maintained by the Training Coordinator. Such documentation shall be maintained in each member's training file. A separate department SWAT training file shall be maintained with documentation and records of all team training.

Ride-Alongs

405.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for a ride-along with members of the Falls Church Police Department. This policy provides the requirements, approval process, hours of operation and member responsibilities for ride-alongs.

405.2 POLICY

Ride-along opportunities may be provided to the members of the public, City employees and members of this department to observe and experience, first-hand, various functions of the Falls Church Police Department. The term “ride-along” includes riding as a passenger with an officer on patrol or observing the work day of members engaged in other functions within the Department, such as Emergency Communications Center.

405.3 ELIGIBILITY

A ride-along may be available to Falls Church residents and business owners, students currently attending class in Falls Church and those employed within the City of Falls Church. Efforts will be made to accommodate all interested persons. However, any applicant may be disqualified without cause from participating.

Factors that may be considered in disqualifying an applicant include, but are not limited to:

- Being under 15 years of age.
- Prior criminal history.
- Pending criminal action.
- Pending lawsuit against this department or the City.
- Denial by any supervisor.

405.4 AVAILABILITY

A ride-along is available most days of the week, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Exceptions to this schedule may be made as approved by the Chief of Police or authorized designee.

405.5 REQUESTS TO PARTICIPATE

Generally, ride-along requests will be maintained and scheduled by the Watch Commander. The applicant will complete and sign all applicable ride-along forms. If the applicant is under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian must be present to complete the waiver form. Information requested will include a valid state-issued identification card or driver's license number, birthdate, address and telephone number.

The Watch Commander will schedule a date, based on availability, generally one week after the date of application. If approved, a copy of the waiver form will be forwarded to the appropriate division as soon as possible for scheduling considerations.

If the request is denied, a representative of this department will advise the applicant of the denial.

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405.6 PROCEDURES

Once approved, ride-along applicants will be allowed to participate no more than once every six months. An exception may apply to the following law enforcement-involved participants:

- Explorers
- Volunteers
- Chaplains
- Auxiliaries
- Falls Church Police Department applicants
- Any others with approval of a Command Staff member
- Students enrolled in any department-approved dispatcher training course

An effort will be made to ensure that no more than one member of the public will participate in a ride-along or job observation during any given time period. Normally, no more than one ride-along participant will be allowed in department vehicles at a given time.

Ride-along requirements for department Explorers are covered in the Explorers Policy.

405.6.1 OFF-DUTY PARTICIPATION

Off-duty members of this department or any other law enforcement agency, and employees of the City, will not be permitted to participate in a ride-along with on-duty members of this department without the express consent of the Chief of Police or authorized designee.

In the event that such participation is permitted, the off-duty department member, other law enforcement agency personnel or City employee shall not:

- (a) Be considered on-duty.
- (b) Represent him/herself as a member of this department or any other law enforcement agency.
- (c) Participate in any law enforcement activity except as emergency circumstances may require.

405.6.2 CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK

All ride-along applicants are subject to a criminal history check. The criminal history check may include a local records check and a Virginia Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) check prior to approval of the ride-along.

405.6.3 SUITABLE ATTIRE

Any person approved to participate in a ride-along is required to be suitably dressed in a collared shirt, blouse or jacket, slacks and shoes. Sandals, t-shirts, tank tops, shorts and ripped or torn pants are not permitted. The Watch Commander or a supervisor may refuse a ride-along to anyone who is not dressed appropriately.

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405.7 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

The assigned department member shall consider the safety of the ride-along or job observation participant at all times. The member shall maintain control over the participant and shall instruct the individual about the conditions that necessarily limit his/her participation. Instructions should include:

- (a) The participant will follow the directions of the department member.
- (b) The participant will not become involved in any investigation, handling of evidence, discussions with victims or suspects, reading an individual's criminal history or other protected information, or handling any police department equipment.
- (c) Participation may be terminated at any time by the member if the participant interferes with the performance of the member's duties.
 - 1. If the ride-along is in progress, the member may return the participant to the point the ride originated.
- (d) Participants may be allowed to continue a ride-along during the transportation and booking process, provided it does not jeopardize their safety.
- (e) Members will not allow participants to be present in any location or situation that would jeopardize the participant's safety or cause undue stress or embarrassment to a victim or any other member of the public.
- (f) Participants who are not law enforcement officers shall not be permitted to accompany the department member into a private residence without the express consent of the resident or other authorized person.

The member assigned to provide a ride-along shall advise the emergency communications technician that a ride-along participant is present in the vehicle before going into service. An officer with a ride-along participant should use sound discretion when encountering a potentially dangerous situation, such as a high-speed pursuit and, if feasible, let the participant out of the vehicle in a well-lit public place. The emergency communications technician will be advised of the situation and as soon as practicable have another department member respond to pick up the participant at that location. The ride-along may be continued or terminated at this time.

Conduct by a person participating in a ride-along that results in termination of the ride, or is otherwise inappropriate, should be immediately reported to the Watch Commander and such information forwarded to the Operations Division Commander. The member should enter comments regarding the reasons for terminating the ride-along on the waiver form.

Upon completion of the ride-along, the member shall return the waiver form to the Watch Commander.

Hazardous Material Response

406.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Exposure to hazardous materials presents potential harm to department members and the public. This policy outlines the responsibilities of members who respond to these events and the factors that should be considered while on-scene, including the reporting of exposures and supervisor responsibilities.

406.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Hazardous material - A substance which, by its nature, containment or reactivity, has the capability of inflicting harm during exposure; characterized as being toxic, corrosive, flammable, reactive, an irritant or strong sensitizer and thereby posing a threat to health when improperly managed.

406.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Falls Church Police Department to respond to hazardous material emergencies with due regard for the safety of the public and those members responding to such incidents.

406.3 HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE

Members may encounter situations involving suspected hazardous materials, such as at the scene of a traffic accident, chemical spill or fire. When members come into contact with a suspected hazardous material, they should take certain steps to protect themselves and other persons.

The fire department is the agency trained and equipped to properly respond to and mitigate most incidents involving hazardous materials and biohazards.

Responders should not perform tasks or use equipment without proper training. A responder entering the area may require decontamination before he/she is allowed to leave the scene, and should be evaluated by appropriate technicians and emergency medical services personnel for signs of exposure.

406.4 CONSIDERATIONS

The following steps should be considered at any scene involving suspected hazardous materials:

- (a) Make the initial assessment of a potentially hazardous material from a safe distance.
- (b) Notify Emergency Communications Center, appropriate supervisors, the appropriate fire department and hazardous response units.
 1. Provide weather conditions, wind direction, a suggested safe approach route and any other information pertinent to responder safety.
- (c) Wear personal protective gear, being cognizant that some hazardous material can be inhaled.

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- (d) Remain upwind, uphill and at a safe distance, maintaining awareness of weather and environmental conditions, until the material is identified and a process for handling has been determined.
- (e) Attempt to identify the type of hazardous material from a safe distance using optical aids (binoculars or spotting scopes) if they are available. Identification can be determined by:
 - 1. Placards or use of an emergency response guidebook.
 - 2. Driver's statements or shipping documents from the person transporting the material.
 - 3. Information obtained from any involved person with knowledge regarding the hazardous material. Information should include:
 - (a) The type of material.
 - (b) How to secure and contain the material.
 - (c) Any other information to protect the safety of those present, the community and the environment.
- (f) Provide first aid to injured parties if it can be done safely and without contamination.
- (g) Make reasonable efforts to secure the scene to prevent access from unauthorized individuals and to protect and identify any evidence.
- (h) Begin evacuation of the immediate and surrounding areas, dependent on the material. Voluntary evacuation should be considered; mandatory evacuation may be necessary and will depend on the type of material.
- (i) Establish a decontamination area when needed.
- (j) Activate automated community notification systems, if applicable.
- (k) Notify the Virginia Department of Emergency Management Hotline (Va. Code § 44-146.18).

406.5 REPORTING EXPOSURE

Department members who believe they have been exposed to a hazardous material shall immediately report the exposure to a supervisor. Each exposure shall be documented by the member in an incident report that shall be forwarded via chain of command to the Watch Commander as soon as practicable. Should the affected member be unable to document the exposure for any reason, it shall be the responsibility of the notified supervisor to complete the report.

Injury or illness caused or believed to be caused by exposure to hazardous materials shall be reported the same as any other on-duty injury or illness, in addition to a crime report or incident report as applicable.

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406.5.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

When a supervisor has been informed that a member has been exposed to a hazardous material, he/she shall ensure that immediate medical treatment is obtained and appropriate action is taken to mitigate the exposure or continued exposure.

To ensure the safety of members, safety equipment is available from supervisors. Safety items not maintained by this department may be available through the appropriate fire department or emergency response team.

Hostage and Barricade Incidents

407.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for situations where officers have legal cause to contact, detain or arrest a person, and the person refuses to submit to the lawful requests of the officers by remaining in a structure or vehicle and/or by taking a hostage.

The scope of this policy is not intended to address all variables that officers encounter during their initial response or when a hostage or barricade situation has developed. This policy does not require or recommend specific strategies or tactics for resolution as each incident is a dynamic and rapidly evolving event.

407.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Barricade situation - An incident where a person maintains a position of cover or concealment and ignores or resists law enforcement personnel, and it is reasonable to believe the subject is armed with a dangerous or deadly weapon.

Hostage situation - An incident where it is reasonable to believe a person is:

- Unlawfully held by a hostage-taker as security so that specified terms or conditions will be met.
- Unlawfully held against his/her will under threat or actual use of force.

Real-time location data - Any data or information concerning the current location of an electronic device (Va. Code § 19.2-70.3).

407.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Falls Church Police Department to address hostage and barricade situations with due regard for the preservation of life and balancing the risk of injury, while obtaining the safe release of hostages, apprehending offenders and securing available evidence.

407.3 COMMUNICATION

When circumstances permit, initial responding officers should try to establish and maintain lines of communication with a barricaded person or hostage-taker. Officers should attempt to identify any additional subjects, inquire about victims and injuries, seek the release of hostages, gather intelligence information, identify time-sensitive demands or conditions and obtain the suspect's surrender.

When available, department-authorized negotiators should respond to the scene as soon as practicable and assume communication responsibilities. Negotiators are permitted to exercise flexibility in each situation based upon their training, the circumstances presented, suspect actions or demands, and the available resources.

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407.3.1 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Officers who are supervising a hostage or barricade situation may order a telephone company to interrupt, reroute, divert or control any telephone communications service as is reasonably necessary (Va. Code § 18.2-50.2).

During an emergency situation, an officer may request to track a cell phone or other wireless device without a warrant when (Va. Code § 19.2-70.3(E)):

- (a) The officer reasonably believes that the data is needed to prevent immediate danger to a person and there is not sufficient time to obtain a warrant.
- (b) Consent has been given by the owner or user of the phone or next of kin of the owner or user, as applicable.
- (c) A call for emergency services has been made from the phone.

Within three days after any such tracking, the officer should submit a report to the appropriate court detailing the underlying facts that led to the tracking (Va. Code § 19.2-70.3(E)).

407.4 FIRST RESPONDER CONSIDERATIONS

First responding officers should promptly and carefully evaluate all available information to determine whether an incident involves, or may later develop into, a hostage or barricade situation.

The first responding officer should immediately request a supervisor's response as soon as it is determined that a hostage or barricade situation exists. The first responding officer shall assume the duties of the supervisor until relieved by a supervisor or a more qualified responder. The officer shall continually evaluate the situation, including the level of risk to officers, to the persons involved and to bystanders, and the resources currently available.

The handling officer should brief the arriving supervisor of the incident, including information about suspects and victims, the extent of any injuries, additional resources or equipment that may be needed, and current perimeters and evacuation areas.

407.4.1 BARRICADE SITUATION

Unless circumstances require otherwise, officers handling a barricade situation should attempt to avoid a forceful confrontation in favor of stabilizing the incident by establishing and maintaining lines of communication while awaiting the arrival of specialized personnel and trained negotiators. In the interim, the following options, while not all-inclusive or in any particular order, should be considered:

- (a) Ensure injured persons are evacuated from the immediate threat area if it is reasonably safe to do so. Request medical assistance.
- (b) Assign personnel to a contact team to control the subject should he/she attempt to exit the building, structure or vehicle, and attack, use deadly force, attempt to escape or surrender prior to additional resources arriving.
- (c) Request additional personnel, resources and equipment as needed (e.g., canine team, air support).

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- (d) Provide responding emergency personnel with a safe arrival route to the staging location.
- (e) Evacuate uninjured persons in the immediate threat area if it is reasonably safe to do so.
- (f) Attempt to obtain a line of communication and gather as much information on the subject as possible, including weapons, other involved parties, additional hazards or injuries.
- (g) Establish an inner and outer perimeter as circumstances require and resources permit to prevent unauthorized access.
- (h) Evacuate bystanders, residents and businesses within the inner and then outer perimeter as appropriate. Check for injuries, the presence of other involved subjects, witnesses, evidence or additional information.
- (i) Determine the need for and notify the appropriate persons within and outside the Department, such as command officers and the Falls Church City Office of Communications (PIO).
- (j) If necessary and available, establish a tactical or exclusive radio frequency for the incident.
- (k) Establish an Incident Command.

407.4.2 HOSTAGE SITUATION

Officers presented with a hostage situation should attempt to avoid a forceful confrontation in favor of controlling the incident in anticipation of the arrival of specialized personnel and trained hostage negotiators. However, it is understood that hostage situations are dynamic and can require that officers react quickly to developing or changing threats. The following options, while not all-inclusive or in any particular order, should be considered:

- (a) Ensure injured persons are evacuated from the immediate threat area if it is reasonably safe to do so. Request medical assistance.
- (b) Establish an Immediate Action Team in the event it becomes necessary to rapidly enter a building, structure or vehicle, such as when the suspect is using deadly force against any hostages (see the Rapid Response and Deployment Policy).
- (c) Assign personnel to the Immediate Action Team to control the subject should he/she attempt to exit the building, structure or vehicle, and attack, use deadly force, attempt to escape or surrender prior to additional resources arriving.
- (d) Assist hostages or potential hostages to escape if it is reasonably safe to do so. Hostages should be kept separated, if practicable, pending further interview.
- (e) Request additional personnel, resources and equipment as needed (e.g., canine team, air support).
- (f) Provide responding emergency personnel with a safe arrival route to the location.
- (g) Evacuate uninjured persons in the immediate threat area if it is reasonably safe to do so.

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- (h) Coordinate pursuit or surveillance vehicles and control of travel routes.
- (i) Attempt to obtain a line of communication and gather as much information about the suspect as possible, including any weapons, victims and their injuries, additional hazards, other involved parties and any other relevant intelligence information.
- (j) Establish an inner and outer perimeter as resources and circumstances permit to prevent unauthorized access.
- (k) Evacuate bystanders, residents and businesses within the inner and then outer perimeter as appropriate. Check for injuries, the presence of other involved subjects, witnesses, evidence or additional information.
- (l) Determine the need for and notify the appropriate persons within and outside the Department, such as command officers and the PIO.
- (m) If necessary and available, establish a tactical or exclusive radio frequency for the incident.

407.5 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon being notified that a hostage or barricade situation exists, the supervisor should immediately respond to the scene, assess the risk level of the situation, establish a proper chain of command and assume the role of Incident Commander until properly relieved. This includes requesting Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) response if appropriate and apprising the SWAT Commander of the circumstances. In addition, the following options, listed here in no particular order, should be considered:

- (a) Ensure injured persons are evacuated and treated by medical personnel.
- (b) Ensure the completion of necessary first responder responsibilities or assignments.
- (c) Request crisis negotiators, specialized assignment members, additional department members, resources or equipment as appropriate.
- (d) Establish a command post location as resources and circumstances permit.
- (e) Designate assistants who can help with intelligence information and documentation of the incident.
- (f) If it is practicable to do so, arrange for video documentation of the operation.
- (g) Consider contacting utility and communication providers when restricting such services (e.g., electric power, gas, telephone service).
- (h) Ensure adequate law enforcement coverage for the remainder of the City during the incident. The supervisor should direct nonessential personnel away from the scene unless they have been summoned by the supervisor or Emergency Communications Center. Identify resource staging area for arriving officers and equipment. Identify casualty collection area and landing zone for medevac aircraft.
- (i) Identify a media staging area outside the outer perimeter and have the department PIO or a designated temporary media representative provide media access in accordance with the Media Relations Policy.

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- (j) Identify the need for mutual aid and the transition or relief of personnel for incidents of extended duration.
- (k) Debrief personnel and review documentation as appropriate.

407.6 SWAT RESPONSIBILITIES

It will be the SWAT Commander's decision, with input from the Incident Commander, whether to deploy the SWAT during a hostage or barricade situation. Once the SWAT Commander authorizes deployment, the SWAT Commander or the authorized designee will be responsible for the tactical response and negotiations. The Incident Commander shall continue to supervise the command post operation, outer perimeter security, evacuation and media access, and will support the SWAT. The Incident Commander and the SWAT Commander or the authorized designees shall maintain direct communications at all times.

407.7 REPORTING

Unless otherwise relieved by a supervisor or Incident Commander, the handling officer at the scene is responsible for completion and/or coordination of incident reports.

Response to Bomb Calls

408.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines to assist members of the Falls Church Police Department in their initial response to incidents involving explosives or explosive devices, explosion/bombing incidents or threats of such incidents. Under no circumstances should these guidelines be interpreted as compromising the safety of first responders or the public. When confronted with an incident involving explosives, safety should always be the primary consideration.

408.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Falls Church Police Department to place a higher priority on the safety of persons and the public over damage or destruction to public or private property.

408.3 RECEIPT OF BOMB THREAT

Department members receiving a bomb threat should obtain as much information from the individual as reasonably possible, including the type, placement and alleged detonation time of the device.

If the bomb threat is received on a recorded line, reasonable steps should be taken to ensure that the recording is preserved in accordance with established department evidence procedures.

The member receiving the bomb threat should ensure that the Watch Commander is immediately advised and informed of the details. This will enable the Watch Commander to ensure that the appropriate personnel are dispatched, and, as appropriate, the threatened location is given an advance warning.

408.4 GOVERNMENT FACILITY OR PROPERTY

A bomb threat targeting a government facility, including public schools, may require a different response based on the government agency.

408.4.1 FALLS CHURCH POLICE DEPARTMENT FACILITY

If the bomb threat is against the Falls Church Police Department facility, the Watch Commander will direct and assign officers as required for coordinating a general building search or evacuation of the police department, as he/she deems appropriate.

408.4.2 OTHER COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL FACILITY OR PROPERTY

If the bomb threat is against a county or municipal facility within the jurisdiction of the Falls Church Police Department that is not the property of this department, the appropriate agency will be promptly informed of the threat. Assistance to the other entity may be provided as the Watch Commander deems appropriate.

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408.4.3 FEDERAL BUILDING OR PROPERTY

If the bomb threat is against a federal building or property, the Federal Protective Service should be immediately notified. The Federal Protective Service provides a uniformed law enforcement response for most facilities, which may include use of its Explosive Detector Dog teams.

If the bomb threat is against a federal government property where the Federal Protective Service is unable to provide a timely response, the appropriate facility's security or command staff should be notified.

Bomb threats against a military installation should be reported to the military police or other military security responsible for the installation.

408.5 PRIVATE FACILITY OR PROPERTY

When a member of this department receives notification of a bomb threat at a private facility or property in the City of Falls Church, the member receiving the notification should obtain as much information as reasonably possible from the notifying individual, including:

- (a) The location of the facility.
- (b) The nature of the threat.
- (c) Whether the type and detonation time of the device is known.
- (d) Whether the facility is occupied and, if so, the number of occupants currently on-scene.
- (e) Whether the individual is requesting police assistance at the facility.

Whether there are any internal facility procedures regarding bomb threats in place, such as:

- (a) No evacuation of personnel and no search for a device.
- (b) Search for a device without evacuation of personnel.
- (c) Evacuation of personnel without a search for a device.
- (d) Evacuation of personnel and a search for a device.

The member receiving the bomb threat information should ensure that the Watch Commander is immediately notified so that he/she can communicate with the person in charge of the threatened facility.

408.5.1 ASSISTANCE

The Watch Commander should be notified when police assistance is requested. The Watch Commander will make the decision whether the Department will render assistance and at what level. Information and circumstances that indicate a reasonably apparent, imminent threat to the safety of either the facility or the public may require a more active approach, including police control over the facility.

Should the Watch Commander determine that the Department will assist or control such an incident, he/she will determine:

- (a) The appropriate level of assistance.

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- (b) The plan for assistance.
- (c) Whether to evacuate and/or search the facility.
- (d) Whether to involve facility staff in the search or evacuation of the building.
 - 1. The person in charge of the facility should be made aware of the possibility of damage to the facility as a result of a search.
 - 2. The safety of all participants is the paramount concern.
- (e) The need for additional resources, including:
 - 1. Notification and response, or standby notice, for fire and emergency medical services.

Even though a facility does not request police assistance to clear the interior of a building, based upon the circumstances and known threat, officers may be sent to the scene to evacuate other areas that could be affected by the type of threat, or for traffic and pedestrian control.

408.6 FOUND DEVICE

When handling an incident involving a suspected explosive device, the following guidelines, while not all inclusive, should be followed:

- (a) No known or suspected explosive item should be considered safe regardless of its size or apparent packaging.
- (b) The device should not be touched or moved except by the bomb squad or military explosive ordnance disposal team.
- (c) Personnel should not transmit on any equipment that is capable of producing radio frequency energy within the evacuation area around the suspected device. This includes:
 - 1. Two-way radios.
 - 2. Cell phones.
 - 3. Other personal communication devices.
- (d) The appropriate bomb squad or military explosive ordnance disposal team should be summoned for assistance.
- (e) The largest perimeter reasonably possible should initially be established around the device based upon available personnel and the anticipated danger zone.
- (f) A safe access route should be provided for support personnel and equipment.
- (g) Search the area for secondary devices as appropriate and based upon available resources.
- (h) Consider evacuation of buildings and personnel near the device or inside the danger zone and the safest exit route.

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- (i) Promptly relay available information to the Watch Commander including:
 1. The time of discovery.
 2. The exact location of the device.
 3. A full description of the device (e.g., size, shape, markings, construction).
 4. The anticipated danger zone and perimeter.
 5. The areas to be evacuated or cleared.

408.7 EXPLOSION/BOMBING INCIDENTS

When an explosion has occurred, there are multitudes of considerations that may confront the responding officers. As in other catastrophic events, a rapid response may help to minimize injury to victims, contamination of the scene by gathering crowds, or any additional damage from fires or unstable structures.

408.7.1 CONSIDERATIONS

Officers responding to explosions, whether accidental or a criminal act, should consider the following actions:

- (a) Assess the scope of the incident, including the number of victims and extent of injuries.
- (b) Request additional personnel and resources, as appropriate.
- (c) Assist with first aid.
- (d) Identify and take appropriate precautions to mitigate scene hazards, such as collapsed structures, bloodborne pathogens and hazardous materials.
- (e) Assist with the safe evacuation of victims, if possible.
- (f) Establish an inner perimeter to include entry points and evacuation routes. Search for additional or secondary devices.
- (g) Preserve evidence.
- (h) Establish an outer perimeter and evacuate if necessary.
- (i) Identify witnesses.

408.7.2 NOTIFICATIONS

When an explosion has occurred, the following people should be notified as appropriate:

- Fire department
- Bomb squad
- Command Staff
- Additional department personnel, such as investigators and forensic services
- Field supervisor

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- Watch Commander
- Other law enforcement agencies, including local, state or federal agencies, such as the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)
- Other government agencies, as appropriate

408.8 CROWD CONTROL

Only authorized members with a legitimate need should be permitted access to the scene. Spectators and other unauthorized individuals should be restricted to a safe distance as is reasonably practicable given the available resources and personnel.

408.8.1 PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE

As in any other crime scene, steps should immediately be taken to preserve the scene. The Watch Commander should assign officers to protect the crime scene area, which could extend over a long distance. Consideration should be given to the fact that evidence may be embedded in nearby structures or hanging in trees and bushes.

Crisis Intervention Incidents

409.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for interacting with those who may be experiencing a mental health or emotional crisis. Interaction with such individuals has the potential for miscommunication and violence. It often requires an officer to make difficult judgments about a person's mental state and intent in order to effectively and legally interact with the individual.

409.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Person in crisis - A person whose level of distress or mental health symptoms have exceeded the person's internal ability to manage his/her behavior or emotions. A crisis can be precipitated by any number of things, including an increase in the symptoms of mental illness despite treatment compliance; noncompliance with treatment, including a failure to take prescribed medications appropriately; or any other circumstance or event that causes the person to engage in erratic, disruptive or dangerous behavior that may be accompanied by impaired judgment.

409.2 POLICY

The Falls Church Police Department is committed to providing a consistently high level of service to all members of the community and recognizes that persons in crisis may benefit from intervention. The Department will collaborate, where feasible, with mental health professionals to develop an overall intervention strategy to guide its members' interactions with those experiencing a mental health crisis. This is to ensure equitable and safe treatment of all involved.

409.3 SIGNS

Members should be alert to any of the following possible signs of mental health issues or crises:

- (a) A known history of mental illness
- (b) Threats of or attempted suicide
- (c) Loss of memory
- (d) Incoherence, disorientation or slow response
- (e) Delusions, hallucinations, perceptions unrelated to reality or grandiose ideas
- (f) Depression, pronounced feelings of hopelessness or uselessness, extreme sadness or guilt
- (g) Social withdrawal
- (h) Manic or impulsive behavior, extreme agitation or lack of control
- (i) Lack of fear
- (j) Anxiety, aggression, rigidity, inflexibility or paranoia

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Members should be aware that this list is not exhaustive. The presence or absence of any of these signs should not be treated as proof of the presence or absence of a mental health issue or crisis.

409.4 COORDINATION WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The Chief of Police should designate an appropriate Division Commander to collaborate with mental health professionals to develop an education and response protocol. It should include a list of community resources to guide department interaction with those who may be suffering from mental illness or who appear to be in a mental health crisis (Va. Code § 9.1-187).

409.5 FIRST RESPONDERS

Safety is a priority for first responders. It is important to recognize that individuals under the influence of alcohol, drugs or both may exhibit symptoms that are similar to those of a person in a mental health crisis. These individuals may still present a serious threat to officers; such a threat should be addressed with reasonable tactics. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to limit an officer's authority to use reasonable force when interacting with a person in crisis.

Officers are reminded that mental health issues, mental health crises and unusual behavior are not criminal offenses. Individuals may benefit from treatment as opposed to incarceration.

An officer responding to a call involving a person in crisis should:

- (a) Promptly assess the situation independent of reported information and make a preliminary determination regarding whether a mental health crisis may be a factor.
- (b) Request available backup officers and specialized resources as deemed necessary and, if it is reasonably believed that the person is in a crisis situation, use conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques to stabilize the incident as appropriate.
- (c) If feasible, and without compromising safety, turn off flashing lights, bright lights or sirens.
- (d) Attempt to determine if weapons are present or available.
- (e) Take into account the person's exhibited mental and emotional state and potential inability to understand commands or to appreciate the consequences of his/her action or inaction, as perceived by the officer.
- (f) Secure the scene and clear the immediate area as necessary.
- (g) Employ tactics to preserve the safety of all participants.
- (h) Determine the nature of any crime.
- (i) Request a supervisor, as warranted.
- (j) Evaluate any available information that might assist in determining cause or motivation for the person's actions or stated intentions.
- (k) If circumstances reasonably permit, consider and employ alternatives to force.

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409.6 DE-ESCALATION

Officers should consider that taking no action or passively monitoring the situation may be the most reasonable response to a mental health crisis.

Once it is determined that a situation is a mental health crisis and immediate safety concerns have been addressed, responding members should be aware of the following considerations and should generally:

- Evaluate safety conditions.
- Introduce themselves and attempt to obtain the person's name.
- Be patient, polite, calm and courteous and avoid overreacting.
- Speak and move slowly and in a non-threatening manner.
- Moderate the level of direct eye contact.
- Remove distractions or disruptive people from the area.
- Demonstrate active listening skills (i.e., summarize the person's verbal communication).
- Provide for sufficient avenues of retreat or escape should the situation become volatile.

Responding officers generally should not:

- Use stances or tactics that can be interpreted as aggressive.
- Allow others to interrupt or engage the person.
- Corner a person who is not believed to be armed, violent or suicidal.
- Argue, speak with a raised voice or use threats to obtain compliance.

409.7 INCIDENT ORIENTATION

When responding to an incident that may involve mental illness or a mental health crisis, the officer should request that the emergency communications technician provide critical information as it becomes available. This includes:

- (a) Whether the person relies on drugs or medication, or may have failed to take his/her medication.
- (b) Whether there have been prior incidents or suicide threats/attempts, and whether there has been previous police response.
- (c) Contact information for a treating physician or mental health professional, if applicable.

Additional resources and a supervisor should be requested as warranted.

409.8 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

A supervisor should respond to the scene of any interaction with a person in crisis. Responding supervisors should:

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- (a) Attempt to secure appropriate and sufficient resources.
- (b) Closely monitor any use of force, including the use of restraints, and ensure that those subjected to the use of force are provided with timely access to medical care (see the Handcuffing and Restraints Policy).
- (c) Absent an imminent threat to the public, consider strategic disengagement. This may include removing or reducing law enforcement resources or engaging in passive monitoring.
- (d) Ensure that all reports are completed and that incident documentation uses appropriate terminology and language.
- (e) Conduct an after-action tactical and operational debriefing, and prepare an after-action evaluation of the incident to be forwarded to the Division Commander.
- (f) Evaluate whether a critical incident stress management debriefing for involved members is warranted.

409.9 INCIDENT REPORTING

Members engaging in any oral or written communication associated with a mental health crisis should be mindful of the sensitive nature of such communications and should exercise appropriate discretion when referring to or describing persons and circumstances.

Members having contact with a person in crisis should keep related information confidential, except to the extent that revealing information is necessary to conform to department reporting procedures or other official mental health or medical proceedings.

409.9.1 DIVERSION

Individuals who are not being arrested should be processed in accordance with the Civil Commitments Policy.

Members encountering a person who is sufficiently stable, and who is not arrested or committed, should provide information and direction for appropriate emergency self-help treatment services (Va. Code § 9.1-189).

409.10 NON-SWORN INTERACTION WITH PEOPLE IN CRISIS

Non-sworn or clerical members may be required to interact with persons in crisis in an administrative capacity, such as dispatching, records request and animal control issues.

- (a) Members should treat all individuals equally and with dignity and respect.
- (b) If a member believes that he/she is interacting with a person in crisis, he/she should proceed patiently and in a calm manner.
- (c) Members should be aware and understand that the person may make unusual or bizarre claims or requests.

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If a person's behavior makes the member feel unsafe, if the person is or becomes disruptive or violent, or if the person acts in such a manner as to cause the member to believe that the person may be harmful to him/herself or others, an officer should be promptly summoned to provide assistance.

409.11 EVALUATION

The Division Commander designated to coordinate the crisis intervention strategy for this department should ensure that a thorough review and analysis of the department response to these incidents is conducted annually. The report will not include identifying information pertaining to any involved individuals, officers or incidents and will be submitted to the Chief of Police through the chain of command.

409.12 TRAINING

In coordination with the mental health community and appropriate stakeholders, the Department will develop and provide comprehensive education and crisis intervention training to all department members to enable them to effectively interact with persons in crisis.

Officers specifically assigned to a crisis intervention team shall successfully complete training as required by the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) (Va. Code § 9.1-188).

Civil Commitments

410.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for when officers may place a person under an emergency custody civil commitment.

410.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Falls Church Police Department to protect the public and individuals through legal and appropriate use of the civil commitment process.

410.3 AUTHORITY

An officer, based upon his/her observations or the reliable report of others, may take a person into emergency custody for a civil commitment when there is probable cause to believe a person meets the criteria established by state law, which include (Va. Code § 16.1-340(G); Va. Code § 37.2-808(G)):

- (a) The person has a mental illness and because of that mental illness, either:
 - 1. Is a danger to him/herself or others, as evidenced by recent conduct.
 - 2. Is unable to care for him/herself or to protect him/herself from harm.
- (b) The person is in need of treatment.
- (c) The person is unwilling to volunteer or incapable of volunteering for treatment.

If an officer takes a person into emergency custody for a civil commitment, the officer shall transport the person to an appropriate designated location to assess the need for hospitalization or treatment. The officer shall ensure that the Community Services Board (CSB) responsible for conducting the evaluation is notified as soon as practicable once the person is taken into custody (Va. Code § 16.1-340(I); Va. Code § 37.2-808(J)).

An adult taken into emergency custody for a civil commitment shall be provided with a written summary of the emergency custody procedures and the statutory protections associated with those procedures (Va. Code § 37.2-808(M)).

An officer shall also take a person into custody when a court order is issued by any magistrate authorizing emergency custody or temporary detention for a civil commitment. The officer shall then transport the person to the designated medical facility or transfer custody of the person to the alternative transportation provider identified in the order (Va. Code § 16.1-340; Va. Code § 16.1-340.1; Va. Code § 16.1-340.2; Va. Code § 37.2-808; Va. Code § 37.2-809; Va. Code § 37.2-810).

410.3.1 VOLUNTARY EVALUATION

If an officer encounters an individual who may qualify for a civil commitment, he/she may inquire as to whether the person desires to be voluntarily evaluated at an appropriate facility. If the person so desires, the officer should:

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- (a) Depending on the circumstance, transport the person or arrange transportation to an appropriate facility that is able to conduct the evaluation and admit the person.
- (b) Document the circumstances surrounding the individual's desire to pursue voluntary evaluation and/or admission.

If at any point the person changes his/her mind regarding voluntary evaluation, the officers should proceed with an emergency custody for civil commitment evaluation, if appropriate (Va. Code § 16.1-340; Va. Code § 37.2-808).

The officer shall ensure that the CSB responsible for conducting the voluntary evaluation is notified as soon as practicable once the person is taken into custody (Va. Code § 16.1-340(I); Va. Code § 37.2-808(J)).

410.4 CONSIDERATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Any officer handling a call involving a person who may qualify for detention for the purpose of civil commitment should consider, as time and circumstances reasonably permit:

- (a) Available information that might assist in determining the possible cause and nature of the person's action or stated intentions.
- (b) Community or neighborhood mediation services.
- (c) Conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques.
- (d) Community or other resources that may be readily available to assist with mental health issues.
- (e) Crisis intervention team programs (Va. Code § 9.1-187).

While these steps are encouraged, nothing in this section is intended to dissuade officers from taking reasonable action to ensure the safety of the officers and others.

Civil commitments should be preferred over arrest for people who have mental health issues and are suspected of committing minor crimes or creating other public safety issues.

410.5 TRANSPORTATION

When transporting any individual for a civil commitment, the transporting officer should have Emergency Communications Center notify the receiving facility of the estimated time of arrival, the level of cooperation of the individual and whether any special medical care is needed.

Officers may transport individuals in the patrol unit and shall secure them in accordance with the Handcuffing and Restraints Policy. Should the detainee require transport in a medical transport vehicle and the safety of any person, including the detainee, requires the presence of an officer during the transport, Watch Commander approval is required before transport commences.

410.6 TRANSFER TO APPROPRIATE FACILITY

Upon arrival at the facility, the officer will escort the individual into a treatment area designated by a facility staff member. If the individual is not seeking treatment voluntarily, the officer should

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provide the staff member with pertinent information concerning the individual's exhibited behavior and remain present to provide clarification of the grounds for detention, upon request.

Absent exigent circumstances, the transporting officer should not assist facility staff with the admission process, including restraint of the individual. However, if the individual is transported and delivered while restrained, the officer may assist with transferring the individual to facility restraints and will be available to assist during the admission process, if requested. Under normal circumstances, officers will not apply facility-ordered restraints.

410.7 DOCUMENTATION

The officer should complete all applicable forms for the emergency custody for civil commitment, provide it to the facility staff member assigned to the individual and retain a copy for inclusion in the case report.

The officer should also provide a verbal summary to any evaluating staff member regarding the circumstances leading to the involuntary detention.

The officer should notify a supervisor regarding the circumstances of the incident and the action taken during the investigation.

410.8 CRIMINAL OFFENSES

Officers investigating an individual who is suspected of committing a minor criminal offense and who is being taken into custody for a civil commitment should resolve the criminal matter by issuing a warning or a citation, as appropriate.

When an individual who may qualify for a civil commitment has committed a serious criminal offense that would normally result in an arrest and transfer to a jail facility, the officer should:

- (a) Arrest the individual when there is probable cause to do so.
- (b) Notify the appropriate supervisor of the facts supporting the arrest and the facts that would support the detention.
- (c) Facilitate the individual's transfer to jail.
- (d) Thoroughly document in the related reports the circumstances that indicate the individual may qualify for a civil commitment.

In the supervisor's judgment, the individual may instead be transported to the appropriate mental health facility. The supervisor should consider the seriousness of the offense, the treatment options available, the ability of this department to regain custody of the individual, department resources (e.g., posting a guard), and other relevant factors in making this decision.

410.9 FIREARMS AND OTHER WEAPONS

Whenever a person is taken into custody for a civil commitment, the handling officers should seek to determine if the person owns or has access to any firearm or other deadly weapon. Officers should consider whether it is appropriate and consistent with current search and seizure law under the circumstances to seize any such firearms or other dangerous weapons (e.g., safekeeping, evidence, consent).

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Officers are cautioned that a search warrant may be needed before entering a residence or other place to search, unless lawful warrantless entry has already been made (e.g., exigent circumstances, consent). A warrant may also be needed before searching for or seizing weapons.

The handling officer should further advise the person of the procedure for the return of any firearm or other weapon that has been taken into custody.

410.10 TRAINING

This department will endeavor to provide department-approved training on interaction with mentally disabled persons, civil commitments and crisis intervention.

Citation Releases

411.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide members of the Falls Church Police Department with guidance on when to release adults who are suspected offenders on a summons for a criminal offense, rather than having the person held in custody for a court appearance or released on bail.

Additional release restrictions may apply to those detained for domestic violence, as outlined in the Domestic or Family Violence Policy.

411.2 POLICY

The Falls Church Police Department will consider its resources and its mission of protecting the community when exercising any discretion to release suspected offenders on a summons, when authorized to do so.

411.3 RELEASE

A suspected offender shall be released in the field on a summons for any misdemeanor violation of the Code of Virginia or local ordinance unless there is a statutory exception allowing a full custodial arrest. These exceptions include driving a vehicle while intoxicated, public drunkenness, a warrant authorizing custody, or circumstances where an officer can articulate a reasonable belief that the person arrested will continue to commit the unlawful act (Va. Code § 19.2-74).

Full custodial arrests for misdemeanors punishable by jail may be made if the officer can articulate a reasonable belief that the person will fail to appear in court on the person's promise to appear in court. This may include those instances where a person is attempting to hide the person's identity. Full custodial arrests may also be made if the officer can articulate a reasonable belief that the person is likely to cause harm to the person or to any other person.

Full custodial arrest shall be made if the person refuses to give a written promise to appear (Va. Code § 19.2-74). This should not be confused with traffic related offenses which stipulates that any person refusing to give a written promise to appear, the arresting officer shall give such notice of the time and place of the hearing, note such person's refusal to give their written promise to appear on the summons, and forthwith release the individual from custody (Va. Code § 46.2-936).

411.4 CONSIDERATIONS

In determining whether to release a person on a promise to appear in court and when discretion is permitted, officers should consider:

- (a) The type of offense committed.
- (b) The known criminal history of the suspected offender.
- (c) The ability to identify the suspected offender with reasonable certainty.
- (d) Whether there is any record of the individual failing to appear in previous cases or other articulable indications that the individual may not appear in court for this offense.

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- (e) The individual's ties to the area, such as residence, employment or family.
- (f) Whether there is reasonable likelihood that criminal conduct by the individual will continue.

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412.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines to ensure that members of the Falls Church Police Department extend appropriate privileges and immunities to foreign diplomatic and consular representatives in accordance with international law.

412.2 POLICY

The Falls Church Police Department respects international laws related to the special privileges and immunities afforded foreign diplomatic and consular representatives assigned to the United States.

All foreign diplomatic and consular representatives shall be treated with respect and courtesy, regardless of any privileges or immunities afforded them.

For additional guidance, refer to the [Consular Notification and Access Handbook](#).

412.3 CLAIMS OF IMMUNITY

If a member comes into contact with a person where law enforcement action may be warranted and the person claims diplomatic or consular privileges and immunities, the member should, without delay:

- (a) Notify a supervisor.
- (b) Advise the person that his/her claim will be investigated and he/she may be released in accordance with the law upon confirmation of the person's status.
- (c) Request the person's identification card, either issued by the U.S. Department of State (DOS), Office of the Chief of Protocol or, in the case of persons accredited to the United Nations, by the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. These are the only reliable documents for purposes of determining privileges and immunities.
- (d) Contact the DOS Diplomatic Security Command Center at 571-345-3146 or toll-free at 866-217-2089, or at another current telephone number, and inform the center of the circumstances.
- (e) Verify the immunity status with DOS and follow any instructions regarding further detention, arrest, prosecution and/or release, as indicated by the DOS representative. This may require immediate release, even if a crime has been committed.

Identity or immunity status should not be presumed from the type of license plates displayed on a vehicle. If there is a question as to the status or the legitimate possession of a Diplomat or Consul license plate, a query should be run via the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS), designating "US" as the state.

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412.4 ENFORCEMENT ACTION

If the DOS is not immediately available for consultation regarding law enforcement action, members shall be aware of the following:

- (a) Generally, all persons with diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities may be issued a citation or notice to appear. However, the person may not be compelled to sign the citation.
- (b) All persons, even those with a valid privilege or immunity, may be reasonably restrained in exigent circumstances for purposes of self-defense, public safety or the prevention of serious criminal acts.
- (c) An impaired foreign diplomatic or consular representative may be prevented from driving a vehicle, even if the person may not be arrested due to privileges and immunities.
 - 1. Investigations, including the request for field sobriety tests, chemical tests and any other tests regarding impaired driving may proceed but they shall not be compelled.
- (d) The following persons may not be detained or arrested, and any property or vehicle owned by these persons may not be searched or seized:
 - 1. Diplomatic-level staff of missions to international organizations and recognized family members
 - 2. Diplomatic agents and recognized family members
 - 3. Members of administrative and technical staff of a diplomatic mission and recognized family members
 - 4. Career consular officers, unless the person is the subject of a felony warrant
- (e) The following persons may generally be detained and arrested:
 - 1. International organization staff; however, some senior officers are entitled to the same treatment as diplomatic agents
 - 2. Support staff of missions to international organizations
 - 3. Diplomatic service staff and consular employees; however, special bilateral agreements may exclude employees of certain foreign countries
 - 4. Honorary consular officers

412.5 DOCUMENTATION

All contacts with persons who have claimed privileges and immunities afforded foreign diplomatic and consular representatives should be thoroughly documented and the related reports forwarded to DOS.

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412.6 DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY

Reference table on diplomatic immunity:

Category	Arrested or Detained	Enter Residence Subject to Ordinary Procedures	Issued Traffic Citation	Subpoenaed as Witness	Prosecuted	Recognized Family Members
Diplomatic Agent	No (note (b))	No	Yes	No	No	Same as sponsor (full immunity & inviolability)
Member of Admin and Tech Staff	No (note (b))	No	Yes	No	No	Same as sponsor (full immunity & inviolability)
Service Staff	Yes (note (a))	Yes	Yes	Yes	No for official acts Yes otherwise (note (a))	No immunity or inviolability (note (a))
Career Consul Officer	Yes if for a felony and pursuant to a warrant (note (a))	Yes (note (d))	Yes	No for official acts Testimony may not be compelled in any case	No for official acts Yes otherwise (note (a))	No immunity or inviolability
Honorable Consul Officer	Yes	Yes	Yes	No for official acts Yes otherwise	No for official acts Yes otherwise	No immunity or inviolability
Consulate Employees	Yes (note (a))	Yes	Yes	No for official acts Yes otherwise	No for official acts Yes otherwise (note (a))	No immunity or inviolability (note (a))
Int'l Org Staff (note (b))	Yes (note (c))	Yes (note (c))	Yes	Yes (note (c))	No for official acts Yes otherwise (note (c))	No immunity or inviolability

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Diplomatic-Level Staff of Missions to Int'l Org	No (note (b))	No	Yes	No	No	Same as sponsor (full immunity and inviolability)
Support Staff of Missions to Int'l Orgs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No for official acts Yes otherwise	No immunity or inviolability

Notes for diplomatic immunity table:

- (a) This table represents general rules. The employees of certain foreign countries may enjoy higher levels of privileges and immunities on the basis of special bilateral agreements.
- (b) Reasonable constraints, however, may be applied in emergency circumstances involving self-defense, public safety or the prevention of serious criminal acts.
- (c) A small number of senior officers are entitled to be treated identically to diplomatic agents.
- (d) Note that consul residences are sometimes located within the official consular premises. In such cases, only the official office space is protected from police entry.

412.7 IMMUNITY FROM ARREST

- (a) Except for treason, felony or breach of the peace, members of the Virginia General Assembly, clerks and their assistants, are privileged from arrest during the Session of the General Assembly and five days before and after the Session.
- (b) Except for treason, felony or breach of the peace, members of the Congress of the United States are privileged from arrest during Session and in traveling to and from Session.
- (c) Witnesses entering the State Commonwealth of Virginia, or traveling through the State enroute to another state, in response to a summons directing them to give testimony are immune from arrest in connection with matters which arose before their entrance into this State under the summons. They are subject to arrest for any violations committed after entry into the State.
- (d) The service of warrants is prohibited inside any courtroom while court is in session.
- (e) Diplomatic officers, their family members, members of their official staff, and their servants are protected by unlimited immunity from arrest, search, detention or prosecution with respect to any criminal or civil case. Employees of diplomatic missions in Washington, D.C. are afforded the same immunity. The determination of whether immunity extends to the family members of the employee depends on the position held by the employee at the Embassy. If someone claims immunity, verify same through the DOS. Diplomats may waive their immunity and stand trial on their charges, however they must go through their missions and the Office of Protocol. In

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addition to the personal diplomatic immunity of diplomats and employees of diplomatic missions, the private residence of a diplomat or employee is inviolable.

- (f) Consular officers are granted limited immunity but are subject to arrest for the commission of any felony that endangers public safety. In addition, Consular officers may be issued a traffic summons when circumstances dictate. "Diplomat" should be written at the top of the traffic summons and a copy will be forwarded to the Office of Foreign Missions, DOS, to include parking citations. Confirmation of liability insurance forms may be issued to diplomats; however copies must be forwarded to the Office of Foreign Missions. No diplomat may be taken into custody for failure to sign a summons. The officer should contact the Office of Foreign Missions and advise them of the charge, after releasing the diplomat.
- (g) These specific procedures will apply concerning offenses committed by persons having unlimited diplomatic immunity:
 - 1. In cases of offenses in which the person claiming immunity is considered to be a serious danger to themselves or others, they may be taken into protective custody, but not charged with any offense. In these instances, the person's Embassy shall be contacted immediately and informed of the situation so that arrangements can be made to release the detainee to the custody of Embassy officials. A copy of the incident report will be written and forwarded to the Office of Protocol.
 - 2. In cases involving accidents with injuries, the Office of Protocol should be notified as soon as possible and a report forwarded.
 - 3. In cases of Driving While Intoxicated involving a diplomat or consular officer, the primary consideration should be to see that the consular officer or diplomat is not a danger to themselves or the public.
 - 4. Based upon a determination of the circumstances, the following options are available:
 - (a) If there is someone in the car who is sober, allow them to drive the diplomat home.
 - (b) Call a taxi and let the diplomat go.
 - (c) Take them to the nearest phone so that a friend or relative may be called.
 - (d) Take them to the Police Department or some other appropriate place where they can recover sufficiently to drive.
 - (e) Under no circumstances shall a Consular's or diplomat's car be impounded, or searched. However, a vehicle may be impounded if it represents a traffic hazard or is improperly registered. If the vehicle is improperly registered, the tags may be seized and returned to the Office of Foreign Missions. A vehicle left with no license plates may be towed.
 - 1. The officer may park it in a safe place or, in cases where the subject is brought to the Police Department; an officer may drive the car to the Department.

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2. Only in cases where the officer considers the diplomat to be a serious danger to themselves or others may the diplomat be physically restrained.
3. At best, this is a sensitive situation. The diplomatic officer should always be treated with respect and courtesy. It should be impressed on the diplomat that the police officer's primary responsibility is to care for their safety and the safety of others. If a diplomat is operating a clearly unsafe motor vehicle, the vehicle cannot be impounded. However, the officer may stop and prohibit the operation of the vehicle and legally park the vehicle.
5. Action taken under the provisions listed above shall be reported on an incident report or CAD call to the Chief of Police who will, in coordination with the City Manager, take steps to inform the Office of Protocol of the DOS, which will in turn communicate with the foreign Embassy concerned in the interest of preventing any recurrence of the offense.
6. To confirm diplomatic immunity, the Dispatcher will check the current diplomatic list and, if further confirmation is required, will contact the DOS Office of Protocol.

412.8 ARREST OF MILITARY PERSONNEL

The arrest of an active duty member of the Armed Forces should be reported as soon as possible to the Armed Forces Police in Washington, D.C. This notification pertains to cases in which the person is taken into physical custody and not released on a summons. The report is to be made regardless of the arrestee's rank, residence, or current duty station.

412.9 RIGHTS OF FOREIGN NATIONALS

- (a) Requirements pertaining to foreign nationals:
 1. When foreign nationals are arrested or detained, they must be advised of the right to have their consular officials notified, even if they are in this country illegally.
 2. In some cases, the nearest consular officials must be notified of the arrest or detention of a foreign national, regardless of the national's wishes. The list of countries which require mandatory notification of consular officials in the event that one of their citizens has been arrested is extensive. Upon the arrest of a foreign national who does not wish to have his consulate notified, if, after reviewing the "Consular Notification and Access Handbook" and/or the DOS Web Site, the mandatory notification status for that country is uncertain, the DOS shall be contacted for guidance. To determine the foreign national's country, in the absence of other information, it may be assumed that it is the country on the passport or other travel document upon which the foreign national travels.
 3. Consular officials are entitled to access to their nationals in detention, and are entitled to provide consular assistance.
 4. When a government official becomes aware of the death of a foreign national, consular officials must be notified.

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Foreign Diplomatic and Consular Representatives

5. When a guardianship or trusteeship is being considered with respect to a foreign national who is a minor or incompetent, consular officials must be notified.
- (b) Diplomatic immunity from arrest or detention:
1. Upon exhibiting proof of diplomatic immunity, persons shall be released upon being stopped for a misdemeanor traffic violation. If questions arise about this procedure, or if an arrest for a felony is necessary, call and advise the DOS Diplomatic Security Command Center.
 2. While a person claiming diplomatic immunity may present any number of identification papers, the only one that is indicative of the level of privilege and immunity is a card issued by the DOS. The holder's level of immunity will be indicated on the card. If a person claiming immunity does not possess this card and the incident involves a criminal offense, officers may detain the person either at the scene or at the Department long enough to verify official status.
 3. When encountering a criminal suspect who claims diplomatic immunity, officers shall first take reasonable measures (including pat-downs or other legal searches) to ensure safety to the public or other officers. Verification of the diplomatic claim shall take place after any danger has been neutralized. A criminal investigation shall proceed as if no valid diplomatic immunity claim has been made. Interviews, interrogations, seizures of evidence, or issuance of warrants shall proceed per Department procedure. In a criminal investigation, the Chief of Police, or his designee, shall remain in contact with the DOS.

Rapid Response and Deployment

413.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Violence that is committed in schools, workplaces and other locations by individuals or a group of individuals who are determined to target and kill persons and to create mass casualties presents a difficult situation for law enforcement. The purpose of this policy is to identify guidelines and factors that will assist officers in situations that call for rapid response and deployment.

413.2 POLICY

The Falls Church Police Department will endeavor to plan for rapid response to crisis situations, and to coordinate response planning with other emergency services as well as with those who are responsible for operating sites that may be the target of a critical incident.

Nothing in this policy shall preclude the use of reasonable force, deadly or otherwise, by members of the Department in protecting themselves or others from death or serious injury.

413.3 CONSIDERATIONS

When dealing with a crisis situation members should:

- (a) Assess the immediate situation and take reasonable steps to maintain operative control of the incident.
- (b) Obtain, explore and analyze sources of intelligence and known information regarding the circumstances, location and suspect involved in the incident.
- (c) Attempt to attain a tactical advantage over the suspect by reducing, preventing or eliminating any known or perceived threat.
- (d) Attempt, if feasible and based upon the suspect's actions and danger to others, a negotiated surrender of the suspect and release of the hostages.

413.4 FIRST RESPONSE

If there is a reasonable belief that acts or threats by a suspect are placing lives in imminent danger, first responding officers should consider reasonable options to reduce, prevent or eliminate the threat. Officers must decide, often under a multitude of difficult and rapidly evolving circumstances, whether to advance on the suspect, take other actions to deal with the threat or wait for additional resources.

If a suspect is actively engaged in the infliction of serious bodily harm or other life-threatening activity toward others, officers should take immediate action, if reasonably practicable, while requesting additional assistance.

Officers should remain aware of the possibility that an incident may be part of a coordinated multi-location attack that may require some capacity to respond to incidents at other locations.

When deciding on a course of action officers should consider:

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- (a) Whether to advance on or engage a suspect who is still a possible or perceived threat to others. Any advancement or engagement should be based on information known or received at the time.
- (b) Whether to wait for additional resources or personnel. This does not preclude an individual officer from taking immediate action.
- (c) Whether individuals who are under imminent threat can be moved or evacuated with reasonable safety.
- (d) Whether the suspect can be contained or denied access to victims.
- (e) Whether the officers have the ability to effectively communicate with other personnel or resources.
- (f) Whether planned tactics can be effectively deployed.
- (g) The availability of rifles, shields, breaching tools, control devices and any other appropriate tools, and whether the deployment of these tools will provide a tactical advantage.

In the case of a barricaded or trapped suspect, with no hostages and no immediate threat to others, officers should consider covering escape routes and evacuating persons as appropriate, while summoning and waiting for additional assistance (e.g., special tactics and/or hostage negotiation team response).

413.5 PLANNING

The Emergency Management Coordinator, in conjunction with the Operations Division Commander, should coordinate critical incident planning. Planning efforts should consider:

- (a) Identification of likely critical incident target sites, such as schools, shopping centers, entertainment venues and sporting event venues.
- (b) Availability of building plans and venue schematics of likely critical incident target sites.
- (c) Communications interoperability with other law enforcement and emergency service agencies.
- (d) Training opportunities in critical incident target sites, including joint training with site occupants.
- (e) Evacuation routes in critical incident target sites.
- (f) Patrol first-response training.
- (g) Response coordination and resources of emergency medical and fire services.
- (h) Equipment needs.
- (i) Mutual aid agreements with other agencies.
- (j) Coordination with private security providers in critical incident target sites.

413.5.1 SCHOOL CRISIS PLANNING

The Chief of Police should annually review the written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans as required by Va. Code § 22.1-279.8.

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413.6 TRAINING

The Training Coordinator should include rapid response to critical incidents in the training plan.

This training should address:

- (a) Orientation to likely critical incident target sites, such as schools, shopping centers, entertainment venues and sporting event venues.
- (b) Communications interoperability with other law enforcement and emergency service agencies.
- (c) Patrol first-response training, including patrol rifle, breaching tool and control device training.
- (d) First aid, including gunshot trauma.
- (e) Reality-based scenario training (e.g., active shooter, disgruntled violent worker).

413.7 SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

The Emergency Management Coordinator, in conjunction with the Operations Division Commander, should ensure that supplies and equipment required for support of rapid response and deployment events is identified and properly stored in a location and manner to ensure operational readiness. These supplies and equipment should be inspected and inventoried no less than semi-annually and any deficiencies should be promptly resolved.

Immigration Violations

414.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines to members of the Falls Church Police Department relating to immigration and interacting with federal immigration officials.

414.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Falls Church Police Department that all members make personal and professional commitments to equal enforcement of the law and equal service to the public. Confidence in this commitment will increase the effectiveness of this department in protecting and serving the entire community and recognizing the dignity of all persons, regardless of their national origin or immigration status.

414.3 VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

To encourage crime reporting and cooperation in the investigation of criminal activity, all individuals, regardless of their immigration status, must feel secure that contacting or being addressed by members of law enforcement will not automatically lead to immigration inquiry and/or deportation. While it may be necessary to determine the identity of a victim or witness, members shall treat all individuals equally and not in any way that would violate the United States or Virginia constitutions.

414.3.1 INQUIRING INTO IMMIGRATION STATUS OF VICTIMS OR WITNESSES

No officer should, in connection with the report, investigation, or prosecution of a crime, inquire into the immigration status of a victim or witness or a parent or guardian of a victim or witness (Va. Code § 19.2-11.02). However, officers may still inquire into the immigration status of a parent or guardian suspected of committing a crime against a minor victim, as well as enforce or implement the provisions of Va. Code § 18.2-59, Va. Code § 18.2-308.09(10), and Va. Code § 18.2-308.2:2(B1) (Va. Code § 19.2-11.02).

414.4 DETENTIONS

An officer should not detain any individual, for any length of time, for a civil violation of federal immigration laws or a related civil warrant.

An officer who has a reasonable suspicion that an individual already lawfully contacted or detained has committed a criminal violation of federal immigration law may detain the person for a reasonable period of time in order to contact federal immigration officials to verify whether an immigration violation is a federal civil violation or a criminal violation. If the violation is a criminal violation, the officer may continue to detain the person for a reasonable period of time if requested by federal immigration officials (8 USC § 1357(g)(10)). No individual who is otherwise ready to be released should continue to be detained only because questions about the individual's status are unresolved.

If the officer has facts that establish probable cause to believe that a person already lawfully detained has committed a criminal immigration offense, he/she may continue the detention and

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may request a federal immigration official to respond to the location to take custody of the detained person (8 USC § 1357(g)(10)).

An officer is encouraged to forgo detentions made solely on the basis of a misdemeanor offense when time limitations, availability of personnel, issues of officer safety, communication capabilities, or the potential to obstruct a separate investigation outweigh the need for the detention.

An officer should notify a supervisor as soon as practicable whenever an individual is being detained for a criminal immigration violation.

414.4.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

When notified that an officer has detained an individual and established reasonable suspicion or probable cause to believe the person has violated a criminal immigration offense, the supervisor should determine whether it is appropriate to:

- (a) Transfer the person to federal authorities.
- (b) Lawfully arrest the person for a criminal offense or pursuant to a judicial warrant (see the Law Enforcement Authority Policy).

414.4.1 PREVIOUSLY DEPORTED FELONS

Officers lawfully detaining a person discovered to be an alien illegally present in the United States who was deported or left the United States after the felony conviction should notify a supervisor of the circumstances. The supervisor may approve custody under Va. Code § 19.2-81.6 if federal immigration officials verify the person's presence in the United States qualifies as a federal criminal act and the federal immigration official indicates a federal criminal hold will be sought.

414.5 ARREST NOTIFICATION TO IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Generally, an officer should not notify federal immigration officials when booking arrestees at a jail facility. Any required notification will be handled according to jail operation procedures. No individual who is otherwise ready to be released should continue to be detained solely for the purpose of notification.

414.6 FEDERAL REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Requests by federal immigration officials for assistance from this department should be directed to a supervisor. The Department may provide available support services, such as traffic control or peacekeeping efforts.

414.7 INFORMATION SHARING

No member of this department will prohibit, or in any way restrict, any other member from doing any of the following regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual (8 USC § 1373):

- (a) Sending information to, or requesting or receiving such information from federal immigration officials
- (b) Maintaining such information in department records

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- (c) Exchanging such information with any other federal, state, or local government entity

414.7.1 IMMIGRATION DETAINERS

No individual should be held based solely on a federal immigration detainer under 8 CFR 287.7 unless the person has been charged with a federal crime or the detainer is accompanied by a warrant, affidavit of probable cause, or removal order. Notification to the federal authority issuing the detainer should be made prior to the release.

414.8 U VISA AND T VISA NONIMMIGRANT STATUS

Under certain circumstances, federal law allows temporary immigration benefits, known as a U visa, to victims and witnesses of certain qualifying crimes (8 USC § 1101(a)(15)(U)).

Similar immigration protection, known as a T visa, is available for certain qualifying victims of human trafficking (8 USC § 1101(a)(15)(T)).

Any request for assistance in applying for U visa or T visa status should be forwarded in a timely manner to the Criminal Investigation Section supervisor assigned to oversee the handling of any related case. The Criminal Investigation Section supervisor should:

- (a) Consult with the assigned investigator to determine the current status of any related case and whether further documentation is warranted.
- (b) Contact the appropriate prosecutor assigned to the case, if applicable, to ensure the certification or declaration has not already been completed and whether a certification or declaration is warranted.
- (c) Address the request and complete the certification or declaration, if appropriate, in a timely manner.
 - 1. The instructions for completing certification and declaration forms can be found on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) website.
- (d) Ensure that any decision to complete, or not complete, a certification or declaration form is documented in the case file and forwarded to the appropriate prosecutor. Include a copy of any completed form in the case file.

414.9 TRAINING

The Training Coordinator should ensure officers receive training on this policy.

Training should include:

- (a) Identifying civil versus criminal immigration violations.
- (b) Factors that may be considered in determining whether a criminal immigration offense has been committed.

Utility Service Emergencies

415.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for addressing City utility service emergencies. This policy will address calls for service that are directed to the Police Department.

415.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Falls Church Police Department to appropriately respond to City emergency utility service requests received by this department.

415.3 UTILITY SERVICE EMERGENCY

A current contact list of City personnel to be notified in the event of a utility service emergency should be available in Emergency Communications Center.

415.3.1 WATER LINES

Water utilities in the City are maintained and serviced by the Fairfax County Water Authority. They should be contacted as appropriate for most issues concerning water utilities.

415.3.2 ELECTRICAL LINES

When a power line poses a hazard, a member of this department should be dispatched to the reported location to protect against personal injury or property damage that might be caused by the power line. The fire department, electric company and/or the public works department should be promptly notified, as appropriate.

415.3.3 RESERVOIRS, PUMPS, WELLS

In the event of flooding or equipment malfunctions involving City reservoirs, pumps or wells, the Fairfax County Water Authority should be contacted as soon as practicable.

415.3.4 NATURAL GAS LINES

All reports of a possible leak of natural gas or damage to a natural gas line shall promptly be referred to the fire department and the local entity responsible for gas lines. A member of this department should be dispatched to the reported location if it appears that assistance such as traffic control or evacuation is needed.

415.3.5 TRAFFIC SIGNALS

A member of this department may be dispatched upon report of a damaged or malfunctioning traffic signal in order to protect against personal injury or property damage that might occur as the result of the damaged or malfunctioning signal. The member will advise Emergency Communications Center of the problem with the traffic signal. The emergency communications technician should make the necessary notification to the appropriate traffic signal maintenance agency as soon as practicable.

A decision to place a signal on flash should include a consultation with the appropriate traffic signal maintenance agency, unless exigent circumstances exist.

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Utility Service Emergencies

415.3.6 SEWER LINES

Sewer lines in the City are maintained and serviced by the Department of Public Works. They should be contacted as appropriate for most issues concerning sewer lines.

Aircraft Accidents

416.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide department members with guidelines for handling aircraft accidents.

This policy does not supersede, and is supplementary to, applicable portions of the Crime and Disaster Scene Integrity, Emergency Operations Plan and Hazardous Material Response policies.

416.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Aircraft - Any fixed wing aircraft, rotorcraft, balloon, blimp/dirigible or glider that is capable of carrying a person or any unmanned aerial vehicle other than those intended for non-commercial recreational use.

416.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Falls Church Police Department to provide an appropriate emergency response to aircraft accidents. This includes emergency medical care and scene management.

416.3 ARRIVAL AT SCENE

Officers or other authorized members tasked with initial scene management should establish an inner and outer perimeter to:

- (a) Protect persons and property.
- (b) Prevent any disturbance or further damage to the wreckage or debris, except to preserve life or rescue the injured.
- (c) Preserve ground scars and marks made by the aircraft.
- (d) Manage the admission and access of public safety and medical personnel to the extent necessary to preserve life or to stabilize hazardous materials.
- (e) Maintain a record of persons who enter the accident site.
- (f) Implementation of an Incident Command System (ICS).

416.4 INJURIES AND CASUALTIES

Members should address emergency medical issues and provide care as a first priority.

Those tasked with the supervision of the scene should coordinate with the Virginia State Police (VSP) and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) before the removal of bodies. If that is not possible, the scene supervisor should secure the scene and photograph the perimeter.

416.5 NOTIFICATIONS

When an aircraft accident is reported to this department, the responding supervisor shall ensure notification is or has been made to NTSB, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the VSP, and when applicable, the appropriate branch of the military.

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Aircraft Accidents

Supervisors shall ensure other notifications are made once an aircraft accident has been reported. The notifications will vary depending on the type of accident, extent of injuries or damage, and the type of aircraft involved. When an aircraft accident has occurred, it is generally necessary to notify the following:

- (a) Fire department
- (b) Appropriate airport tower
- (c) Emergency medical services (EMS)

416.6 CONTROLLING ACCESS AND SCENE AUTHORITY

Prior to NTSB and VSP arrival, scene access should be limited to authorized personnel from the:

- (a) FAA.
- (b) Fire department, EMS or other assisting law enforcement agencies.
- (c) Medical Examiner.
- (d) Air Carrier/Operators investigative teams with NTSB approval.
- (e) Appropriate branch of the military, when applicable.
- (f) Other emergency services agencies (e.g., hazardous materials teams, biohazard decontamination teams, fuel recovery specialists, explosive ordnance disposal specialists).

The NTSB and the VSP have the primary responsibility for investigating accidents involving civil aircraft. In the case of a military aircraft accident, the appropriate branch of the military will have primary investigation responsibility.

After the NTSB, VSP or military representative arrives on-scene, the efforts of this department will shift to a support role for those agencies.

If NTSB, VSP or a military representative determines that an aircraft or accident does not qualify under its jurisdiction, the on-scene department supervisor should ensure the accident is still appropriately investigated and documented.

416.7 DANGEROUS MATERIALS

Members should be aware of potentially dangerous materials that might be present. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Fuel, chemicals, explosives, biological or radioactive materials and bombs or other ordnance.
- Pressure vessels, compressed gas bottles, accumulators and tires.
- Fluids, batteries, flares and igniters.
- Evacuation chutes, ballistic parachute systems and composite materials.

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Aircraft Accidents

416.8 DOCUMENTATION

All aircraft accidents occurring within the City of Falls Church shall be documented. At a minimum the documentation should include the date, time and location of the incident; any witness statements, if taken; the names of FCPD members deployed to assist; other City resources that were utilized; and cross reference information to other investigating agencies. Suspected criminal activity should be documented on the appropriate crime report.

416.8.1 WRECKAGE

When reasonably safe, members should:

- (a) Obtain the aircraft registration number (N number) and note the type of aircraft.
- (b) Attempt to ascertain the number of casualties.
- (c) Obtain photographs or video of the overall wreckage, including the cockpit and damage, starting at the initial point of impact, if possible, and any ground scars or marks made by the aircraft.
 - 1. Military aircraft may contain classified equipment and therefore shall not be photographed unless authorized by a military commanding officer (18 USC § 795).
- (d) Secure, if requested by the lead authority, any electronic data or video recorders from the aircraft that became dislodged or cell phones or other recording devices that are part of the wreckage.
- (e) Acquire copies of any recordings from security cameras that may have captured the incident.

416.8.2 WITNESSES

Members tasked with contacting witnesses should obtain:

- (a) The location of the witness at the time of his/her observation relative to the accident site.
- (b) A detailed description of what was observed or heard.
- (c) Any photographs or recordings of the accident witnesses may be willing to voluntarily surrender.
- (d) The names of all persons reporting the accident, even if not yet interviewed.
- (e) Any audio recordings of reports to 9-1-1 regarding the accident and dispatch records.

416.9 MEDIA RELATIONS

The Falls Church City Office of Communications (PIO) should coordinate a response to the media, including access issues, road closures, detours and any safety information that is pertinent to the surrounding community. Any release of information regarding details of the accident itself should be coordinated with the NTSB and VSP or other authority who may have assumed responsibility for the investigation.

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Aircraft Accidents

Depending on the type of aircraft, the airline or the military may be responsible for family notifications and the release of victims' names. The PIO should coordinate with other involved entities before the release of information.

Field Training

Effective Date:	4/4/22
Revised Date:	5/1/23
Issuing Authority: Chief Mary Gavin	

417.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for field training that ensure standardized training and evaluation; facilitate the transition from the academic setting to the actual performance of general law enforcement duties; and introduce the policies, procedures and operations of the Falls Church Police Department. The policy addresses the administration of field training and the selection, supervision, training and responsibilities of the Field Training Officer (FTO).

417.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Falls Church Police Department that all newly hired or appointed officer trainees will participate in field training that is staffed and supervised by trained and qualified FTOs.

417.3 FIELD TRAINING

The Department shall establish minimum standards for field training, which should be of sufficient duration to prepare officer trainees for law enforcement duties and be in compliance with Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services requirements. The field training is designed to prepare trainees for a patrol assignment and ensure they acquire the skills needed to operate in a safe, productive and professional manner, in accordance with the general law enforcement duties of this department.

To the extent practicable, field training should include procedures for:

- (a) Issuance of training materials to each trainee at the beginning of his/her field training.
- (b) Daily, weekly and monthly evaluation and documentation of the trainee's performance.
- (c) A multiphase structure that includes:
 1. A formal evaluation progress report completed by the FTOs involved with the trainee and submitted to the Training Coordinator and FTO coordinator.
 2. Assignment of the trainee to a variety of shifts and geographical areas.
 3. Assignment of the trainee to a rotation of FTOs in order to provide for an objective evaluation of the trainee's performance.
- (d) The trainee's confidential evaluation of his/her assigned FTOs and the field training process.
- (e) Retention of all field training documentation in the officer/FTO file including:
 1. All performance evaluations.

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Field Training

2. Documentation certifying that the trainee has successfully completed the required number of field training hours.

417.4 FTO COORDINATOR

The Chief of Police shall delegate certain responsibilities to an FTO coordinator. The coordinator shall be appointed by and directly responsible to the Operations Division Commander or the authorized designee.

The FTO coordinator may appoint a senior FTO or other designee to assist in the coordination of FTOs and their activities.

The responsibilities of the coordinator include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Assignment of trainees to FTOs.
- (b) Conducting FTO meetings.
- (c) Maintaining and ensuring FTO and trainee performance evaluations are completed.
- (d) Maintaining, updating and issuing department training materials to each FTO and trainee.
- (e) Developing ongoing training for FTOs.
- (f) Mentoring and supervising individual FTO performance.
- (g) Monitoring the overall performance of field training.
- (h) Performing other activities as may be directed by the Operations Division Commander.

417.5 FTO SELECTION, TRAINING AND RESPONSIBILITIES

417.5.1 SELECTION PROCESS

The selection of an FTO will be at the discretion of the Chief of Police or the authorized designee. Selection will be based on the officer's:

- (a) Experience, which shall include a minimum of two years of patrol experience.
- (b) Demonstrated ability as a positive role model.
- (c) Possession of, or ability to obtain, department-approved certification.

An FTO must remain in good standing and may be relieved from FTO duties due to discipline, inappropriate conduct or poor performance.

417.5.2 TRAINING

An officer selected as an FTO shall successfully complete the minimum training standards established by the Department of Criminal Justice Services prior to being assigned as an FTO (6 VAC 20-280-20).

All FTOs must complete an FTO update course approved by this department every three years while assigned to the position of FTO (6 VAC 20-280-70).

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Field Training

417.5.3 TRAINING MATERIALS

The FTO shall receive training materials outlining the requirements, expectations and objectives of the FTO position. FTOs should refer to their training materials or the FTO coordinator regarding specific questions related to FTO or field training.

417.5.4 PROVISIONAL FIELD TRAINING OFFICER

If a situation arises where the Department does not have an officer who has completed the minimum training requirements for an FTO, the Department may temporarily provide field training with an officer who has been certified as a provisional FTO by the Department of Criminal Justice Services until a fully trained FTO is available (6 VAC 20-280-30).

417.5.5 RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of the FTO include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Issuing his/her assigned trainee field training materials in accordance with the Training Policy.
 - 1. The FTO shall ensure that the trainee has the opportunity to become knowledgeable of the subject matter and proficient with the skills as set forth in the training materials.
 - 2. The FTO shall sign off on all completed topics contained in the training materials, noting the methods of learning and evaluating the performance of his/her assigned trainee.
- (b) Completing and reviewing daily performance evaluations with the trainee.
- (c) Completing and submitting a written evaluation on the performance of his/her assigned trainee to the FTO coordinator on a daily basis.
- (d) Completing a detailed weekly performance evaluation of his/her assigned trainee at the end of each week.
- (e) Completing a monthly evaluation report of his/her assigned trainee at the end of each month.
- (f) Providing the shift supervisor with a verbal synopsis of the trainee's activities at the end of each day or during any unusual occurrence needing guidance or clarification.

Air Support

418.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The use of air support can be invaluable in certain situations. This policy specifies situations where the use of air support may be requested and the responsibilities for making a request.

418.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Falls Church Police Department to prioritize requests for air support to enhance law enforcement objectives and provide additional safety to officers and the community.

418.3 REQUEST FOR AIR SUPPORT

If a supervisor or officer in charge of an incident determines that the use of air support would be beneficial, a request to obtain air support may be made.

418.3.1 CIRCUMSTANCES FOR REQUESTS

Law enforcement air support may be requested under conditions that include, but are not limited to:

- (a) When the safety of officers or the community is in jeopardy and the presence of air support may reduce such hazard.
- (b) When the use of air support will aid in the capture of a suspected fleeing felon whose continued freedom represents an ongoing threat to officers or the community.
- (c) When air support is needed to locate a person who is lost and whose continued absence constitutes a serious health or safety hazard.
- (d) Vehicle pursuits.
- (e) Pre-planned events or actions that require air support.
- (f) Due to a request under an existing mutual aid agreement.
- (g) When the Watch Commander or equivalent authority determines a reasonable need exists.

418.3.2 ALLIED AGENCY REQUEST

After consideration and approval of the request for air support, the Watch Commander or the authorized designee will call the closest agency having available air support and will apprise that agency of the specific details of the incident prompting the request.

Contacts and Temporary Detentions

419.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for temporarily detaining but not arresting persons in the field, conducting field interviews (FI) and pat-down searches, and the taking and disposition of photographs.

419.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Consensual encounter - When an officer contacts an individual but does not create a detention through words, actions, or other means. In other words, a reasonable individual would believe that his/her contact with the officer is voluntary.

Field interview (FI) - The brief detainment of an individual, whether on foot or in a vehicle, based on reasonable suspicion for the purpose of determining the individual's identity and resolving the officer's suspicions.

Field photographs - Posed photographs taken of a person during a contact, temporary detention, or arrest in the field. Undercover surveillance photographs of an individual and recordings captured by the normal operation of a Mobile Audio/Video (MAV) system, body-worn camera, or public safety camera when persons are not posed for the purpose of photographing are not considered field photographs.

Pat-down search - A type of search used by officers in the field to check an individual for dangerous weapons. It involves a thorough patting-down of clothing to locate any weapons or dangerous items that could pose a danger to the officer, the detainee, or others.

Reasonable suspicion - When, under the totality of the circumstances, an officer has articulable facts that criminal activity may be afoot and a particular person is connected with that possible criminal activity.

Temporary detention - When an officer intentionally, through words, actions, or physical force, causes an individual to reasonably believe he/she is required to restrict his/her movement without an actual arrest. Temporary detentions also occur when an officer actually restrains a person's freedom of movement.

419.2 POLICY

The Falls Church Police Department respects the right of the public to be free from unreasonable searches or seizures. Due to an unlimited variety of situations confronting the officer, the decision to temporarily detain a person and complete an FI, pat-down search or field photograph shall be left to the officer based on the totality of the circumstances, officer safety considerations and constitutional safeguards.

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Contacts and Temporary Detentions

419.3 FIELD INTERVIEWS

Based on observance of suspicious circumstances or upon information from investigation, an officer may initiate the stop of a person, and conduct an FI, when there is articulable, reasonable suspicion to do so. A person, however, shall not be detained longer than is reasonably necessary to resolve the officer's suspicion.

Nothing in this policy is intended to discourage consensual contacts. Frequent casual contact with consenting individuals is encouraged by the Falls Church Police Department to strengthen community involvement, community awareness and problem identification.

419.3.1 INITIATING A FIELD INTERVIEW

When initiating the stop, the officer should be able to point to specific facts which, when considered with the totality of the circumstances, reasonably warrant the stop. Such facts include but are not limited to an individual's:

- (a) Appearance or demeanor suggesting that he/she is part of a criminal enterprise or is engaged in a criminal act.
- (b) Actions suggesting that he/she is engaged in a criminal activity.
- (c) Presence in an area at an inappropriate hour of the day or night.
- (d) Presence in a particular area is suspicious.
- (e) Carrying of suspicious objects or items.
- (f) Excessive clothes for the climate or clothes bulging in a manner that suggest he/she is carrying a dangerous weapon.
- (g) Location in proximate time and place to an alleged crime.
- (h) Physical description or clothing worn that matches a suspect in a recent crime.
- (i) Prior criminal record or involvement in criminal activity as known by the officer.

419.4 PAT-DOWN SEARCHES

Once a valid stop has been made, and consistent with the officer's training and experience, an officer may pat a suspect's outer clothing for weapons if the officer has a reasonable, articulable suspicion the suspect may pose a safety risk. The purpose of this limited search is not to discover evidence of a crime, but to allow the officer to pursue the investigation without fear of violence. Circumstances that may establish justification for performing a pat-down search include but are not limited to:

- (a) The type of crime suspected, particularly in crimes of violence where the use or threat of weapons is involved.
- (b) Where more than one suspect must be handled by a single officer.
- (c) The hour of the day and the location or area where the stop takes place.
- (d) Prior knowledge of the suspect's use of force and/or propensity to carry weapons.
- (e) The actions and demeanor of the suspect.

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- (f) Visual indications which suggest that the suspect is carrying a firearm or other dangerous weapon.

Whenever practicable, a pat-down search should not be conducted by a lone officer. A cover officer should be positioned to ensure safety and should not be involved in the search.

419.5 FIELD PHOTOGRAPHS

419.5.1 FIELD PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN WITH CONSENT

Field photographs may be taken when the subject being photographed knowingly and voluntarily gives consent.

419.5.2 FIELD PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN WITHOUT CONSENT

Field photographs may be taken without consent only if they are taken during a detention that is based upon reasonable suspicion of criminal activity, and the photograph serves a legitimate law enforcement purpose related to the detention. The officer must be able to articulate facts that reasonably indicate that the subject was involved in or was about to become involved in criminal conduct. The subject should not be ordered to remove or lift any clothing for the purpose of taking a photograph.

If, prior to taking a photograph, the officer's reasonable suspicion of criminal activity has been dispelled, the detention must cease and the photograph should not be taken.

All field photographs and related reports shall be submitted to a supervisor and retained in compliance with this policy.

419.5.3 DISPOSITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

All detainee photographs must be adequately labeled and submitted to the Watch Commander with either an associated FI card or other documentation explaining the nature of the contact. If an individual is photographed as a suspect in a particular crime, the photograph should be submitted as an evidence item in the related case, following standard evidence procedures.

If a photograph is not associated with an investigation where a case number has been issued, the Watch Commander should review and forward the photograph to one of the following locations:

- (a) If the photograph and associated FI or documentation is relevant to criminal organization/enterprise enforcement, the Watch Commander will forward the photograph and documents to the designated criminal intelligence system supervisor. The supervisor will ensure the photograph and supporting documents are retained as prescribed in the Criminal Organizations Policy.
- (b) Photographs that do not qualify for retention in a criminal intelligence system or temporary information file shall be forwarded to the Records Section.

When a photograph is taken in association with a particular case, the investigator may use such photograph in a photo lineup. Thereafter, the individual photograph should be retained as a part

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of the case file. All other photographs shall be retained in accordance with the established records retention schedule.

419.5.4 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

While it is recognized that field photographs often become valuable investigative tools, supervisors should monitor such practices in view of the above listed considerations. This is not to imply that supervisor approval is required before each photograph is taken.

Access to, and use of, field photographs shall be strictly limited to law enforcement purposes.

419.6 WITNESS IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVIEWS

Because potential witnesses to an incident may become unavailable or the integrity of their statements compromised with the passage of time, officers should, when warranted by the seriousness of the case, take reasonable steps to promptly coordinate with an on-scene supervisor and/or criminal investigator to utilize available members for the following:

- (a) Identifying all persons present at the scene and in the immediate area.
 - 1. When feasible, a recorded statement should be obtained from those who claim not to have witnessed the incident but who were present at the time it occurred.
 - 2. Any potential witness who is unwilling or unable to remain available for a formal interview should not be detained absent reasonable suspicion to detain or probable cause to arrest. Without detaining the individual for the sole purpose of identification, officers should attempt to identify the witness prior to his/her departure.
- (b) Witnesses who are willing to provide a formal interview should be asked to meet at a suitable location where criminal investigators may obtain a recorded statement. Such witnesses, if willing, may be transported by department members.
 - 1. A written, verbal or recorded statement of consent should be obtained prior to transporting a witness. When the witness is a minor, consent should be obtained from the parent or guardian, if available, prior to transport.

419.7 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All non-consensual stops shall be documented in accordance with the Virginia Community Policing Act (Va. Code § 52 - 30.2). See also the Bias-Based Policing General Order.

Criminal Organizations

420.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Falls Church Police Department appropriately utilizes criminal intelligence systems and temporary information files to support investigations of criminal organizations and enterprises.

420.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Criminal intelligence system - Any record system that receives, stores, exchanges or disseminates information that has been evaluated and determined to be relevant to the identification of a criminal organization or enterprise, its members or affiliates. This does not include temporary information files.

420.2 POLICY

The Falls Church Police Department recognizes that certain criminal activities, including, but not limited to gang crimes and drug trafficking, often involve some degree of regular coordination and may involve a large number of participants over a broad geographical area.

It is the policy of this department to collect and share relevant information while respecting the privacy and legal rights of the public.

420.3 CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS

No department member may create, submit to, or obtain information from a criminal intelligence system unless the Chief of Police has approved the system for department use.

Any criminal intelligence system approved for department use should meet or exceed the standards of 28 CFR 23.20.

A designated supervisor will be responsible for maintaining each criminal intelligence system that has been approved for department use. The supervisor or the authorized designee should ensure the following:

- (a) Members using any such system are appropriately selected and trained.
- (b) Use of every criminal intelligence system is appropriately reviewed and audited.
- (c) Any system security issues are reasonably addressed.

420.3.1 SYSTEM ENTRIES

It is the designated supervisor's responsibility to approve the entry of any information from a report, field interview (FI), photo or other relevant document into an authorized criminal intelligence system. If entries are made based upon information that is not on file with this department, such as open or public source documents or documents that are on file at another agency, the designated supervisor should ensure copies of those documents are retained by the Records Section. Any supporting documentation for an entry shall be retained by the Records Section in accordance

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with the established records retention schedule and for at least as long as the entry is maintained in the system.

The designated supervisor should ensure that any documents retained by the Records Section are appropriately marked as intelligence information. The Administrative Division Commander may not purge such documents without the approval of the designated supervisor.

420.4 TEMPORARY INFORMATION FILE

No member may create or keep files on individuals that are separate from approved department records keeping system. However, members may maintain temporary information that is necessary to actively investigate whether a person or group qualifies for entry into the department-approved criminal intelligence system only as provided in this section.

420.4.1 FILE CONTENTS

A temporary information file may only contain information and documents that, within one year, will have a reasonable likelihood to meet the criteria for entry into an authorized criminal intelligence system.

Information and documents contained in a temporary information file:

- (a) Must only be included upon documented authorization of the responsible department supervisor.
- (b) Should not be originals that would ordinarily be retained by the Records Section or Property Room, but should be copies of, or references to, retained documents, such as copies of reports, FI forms, Emergency Communications Center records or booking forms.
- (c) Shall not include opinions. No person, organization or enterprise shall be labeled as being involved in crime beyond what is already in the document or information.
- (d) May include information collected from publicly available sources or references to documents on file with another government agency. Attribution identifying the source should be retained with the information.

420.4.2 FILE REVIEW AND PURGING

The contents of a temporary information file shall not be retained longer than one year. At the end of one year, the contents must be purged.

The designated supervisor shall periodically review the temporary information files to verify that the contents meet the criteria for retention. Validation and purging of files is the responsibility of the supervisor.

420.5 INFORMATION RECOGNITION

Department members should document facts that suggest an individual, organization or enterprise is involved in criminal activity and should forward that information appropriately. Examples include, but are not limited to:

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- (a) Gang indicia associated with a person or residence.
- (b) Information related to a drug-trafficking operation.
- (c) Vandalism indicating an animus for a particular group.
- (d) Information related to an illegal gambling operation.

Department supervisors who utilize an authorized criminal intelligence system should work with the CIS Supervisor to train members to identify information that may be particularly relevant for inclusion.

420.6 RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Department members shall comply with the rules of an authorized criminal intelligence system regarding inquiries and release of information.

Information from a temporary information file may only be furnished to department members and other law enforcement agencies on a need-to-know basis and consistent with the Records Maintenance and Release Policy.

When an inquiry is made by the parent or guardian of a juvenile as to whether that juvenile's name is in a temporary information file, such information should be provided by the supervisor responsible for the temporary information file, unless there is good cause to believe that the release of such information might jeopardize an ongoing criminal investigation.

420.7 CRIMINAL STREET GANGS

The Criminal Investigation Section supervisor should ensure that there are an appropriate regional resources, such as the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force, that can:

- (a) Testify as experts on matters related to criminal street gangs, and maintain an above-average familiarity with criminal street gang activities, membership and predicate criminal street gang crimes (Va. Code § 18.2-46.1).
- (b) Coordinate with other agencies in the region regarding criminal street gang-related crimes and information.
- (c) Train other members to identify gang indicia and investigate criminal street gang-related crimes.

420.8 REPORTS TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE

The Criminal Investigation Section Commander should complete and submit a monthly report to the Chief of Police regarding investigative reports and activities involving vice, drugs and organized crimes. The Services Division Commander should periodically brief the Chief of Police regarding sensitive investigations involving vice, drugs, organized crimes and other major criminal activities.

420.9 TRAINING

The Training Coordinator should provide training on best practices in the use of each authorized criminal intelligence system to those tasked with investigating criminal organizations and enterprises. Training should include:

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- (a) The protection of civil liberties.
- (b) Participation in a multi-agency criminal intelligence system.
- (c) Submission of information into a multi-agency criminal intelligence system or the receipt of information from such a system, including any governing federal and state rules and statutes.
- (d) The type of information appropriate for entry into a criminal intelligence system or temporary information file.
- (e) The review and purging of temporary information files.

Watch Commanders

421.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the designation of a Watch Commander.

421.2 POLICY

Each shift will be directed by a Watch Commander capable of making decisions and managing in a manner consistent with the mission of the Falls Church Police Department. To accomplish this, a Lieutenant shall be designated as the Watch Commander for each shift.

421.3 WATCH COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Watch Commander shall have overall responsibility and accountability for the operation of this department on an assigned shift. Duties may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Ensuring a minimum of three members are on-duty to accomplish the mission of the Falls Church Police Department.
- (b) Providing command-level oversight of major crime scenes, tactical situations or disasters.
- (c) Establishing service-level priorities.
- (d) Providing job-related training and guidance to subordinates.
- (e) Acquiring outside resources or providing assistance to other agencies, when applicable.
- (f) Handling service inquiries or complaints from the public.
- (g) Acting as the Falls Church City Office of Communications when appropriate.
- (h) Managing risk exposure.
- (i) Ensuring the security of all department facilities.
- (j) Ensuring the proper equipment and vehicles are available for member use.
- (k) Representing the Department at community functions.
- (l) Serving as a temporary Division Commander when so designated.

Mobile Audio/Video

422.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Falls Church Police Department has equipped marked law enforcement vehicles with Mobile Audio/Video (MAV) recording systems to provide records of events and to assist officers in the performance of their duties. This policy provides guidance on the use of these systems.

422.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Activate - Any process that causes the MAV system to transmit or store video or audio data in an active mode.

In-car camera system and MAV system - Synonymous terms that refer to any system that captures audio and video signals, that is capable of installation in a vehicle, and that includes at a minimum, a camera, microphone, recorder and monitor.

MAV Administrator - Personnel certified or trained in the operational use and repair of MAVs, duplicating methods and storage and retrieval methods and who have a working knowledge of video forensics and evidentiary procedures.

Recorded media - Audio/video signals recorded or digitally stored on a storage device or portable media.

422.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Falls Church Police Department to use mobile audio/video technology to more effectively fulfill the mission of the Department and to ensure these systems are used securely and efficiently.

Please reference the [Body Worn and In-Car Cameras Procedure](#) for guidelines on the management, storage, release, and retrieval of recordings from the use of Mobile Audio/Video devices.

422.3 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

At the start of each shift, officers should test the MAV system's operation in accordance with manufacturer specifications and department operating procedures and training.

Prior to going into service with a vehicle equipped with MAV, each officer will properly equip him/herself to record audio and video in the field. At the end of the shift, each officer will follow the established procedures for providing to the Department any recordings or used media and any other related equipment. Only Falls Church Police Department authorized equipment is to be used.

System documentation is accomplished by the officer recording his/her name, serial number, badge or personal identification number (PIN) and the current date and time at the start and again at the end of each shift. If the system is malfunctioning, the officer shall take the vehicle out of service unless a supervisor requests the vehicle remain in service.

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Officers shall disclose use of MAV if asked by an individual, provided immediate officer safety is not in jeopardy.

422.4 ACTIVATION OF THE MAV

The MAV system is designed to turn on whenever the vehicle's emergency lights are activated. The system remains on until it is turned off manually. The audio portion is independently controlled and should be activated manually by the officer whenever appropriate. When audio is being recorded, the video will also record.

422.4.1 REQUIRED ACTIVATION OF THE MAV

This policy is not intended to describe every possible situation in which the MAV system may be used, although there are many situations where its use is appropriate. An officer may activate the system any time the officer believes it would be appropriate or valuable to document an incident.

In some circumstances it is not possible to capture images of the incident due to conditions or the location of the camera. However, the audio portion can be valuable evidence and is subject to the same activation requirements as the MAV. The MAV system should be activated in any of the following situations:

- (a) All activity involving actual or potential criminal conduct within video or audio range:
 - 1. Traffic stops (including, but not limited to, traffic violations, stranded motorist assistance and all crime interdiction stops)
 - 2. Priority responses
 - 3. Vehicle pursuits
 - 4. Suspicious vehicles
 - 5. Arrests
 - 6. Vehicle searches
 - 7. Physical or verbal confrontations or use of force
 - 8. Pedestrian checks
 - 9. Driving while under the influence (DUI) investigations, including field sobriety tests
 - 10. Consensual encounters
 - 11. Crimes in progress
 - 12. Responding to an in-progress call
- (b) All self-initiated activity in which an officer would normally notify Emergency Communications Center
- (c) Any call for service involving a crime where the recorder may aid in the apprehension and/or prosecution of a suspect, including:
 - 1. Domestic or family violence

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2. Disturbance of the peace
 3. Offenses involving violence or weapons
- (d) Any other contact that becomes adversarial after the initial contact, in a situation that would not otherwise require recording
- (e) Any other circumstance where the officer believes that a recording of an incident would be appropriate

Activation of the MAV system is not required when exchanging information with other officers, during breaks or lunch periods, or when not in service or not actively on patrol.

422.4.2 CESSATION OF RECORDING

Once activated, the MAV system should remain on until the incident has concluded. For the purpose of this section, conclusion of an incident has occurred when all arrests have been made, arrestees have been transported and all witnesses and victims have been interviewed. Recording may cease if officer(s) are still on scene and no further investigation is being conducted. Recording may be re-initiated if circumstances change.

422.4.3 SURREPTITIOUS RECORDING

No member of this department may surreptitiously record a conversation of any other member of this department except with a court order or when lawfully authorized by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee for the purpose of conducting a criminal or administrative investigation.

422.4.4 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors should determine if vehicles with non-functioning MAV systems should be placed into service. The supervisor should notify the MAV Administrator if a repair is required.

At reasonable intervals, supervisors should validate that:

- (a) Beginning and end-of-shift recording procedures are followed.
- (b) The operation of MAV systems by new members is assessed and reviewed no less than biweekly.

When an incident arises that requires the immediate retrieval of the recorded media (e.g., serious crime scenes, officer-involved shootings, department-involved traffic accidents), a supervisor shall respond to the scene and ensure that the appropriate person properly retrieves the recorded media. The media may need to be treated as evidence and should be handled in accordance with current evidence procedures for recorded media.

422.5 REVIEW OF MAV RECORDINGS

All recording media, recorded images and audio recordings are the property of the Department. Dissemination outside of the Department is strictly prohibited, except to the extent permitted or required by law.

To prevent damage to, or alteration of, the original recorded media, it shall not be copied, viewed or otherwise inserted into any device not approved by the Department, MAV Administrator or

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forensic media staff. When reasonably possible, a copy of the original media shall be used for viewing (unless otherwise directed by the courts) to preserve the original media.

Recordings may be reviewed in any of the following situations:

- (a) By officers for use when preparing reports or statements
- (b) By a supervisor investigating a specific act of officer conduct
- (c) By a supervisor to assess officer performance
- (d) To assess proper functioning of MAV systems
- (e) By department investigators who are participating in an official investigation, such as a personnel complaint, administrative inquiry or a criminal investigation
- (f) By department personnel who request to review recordings
- (g) By an officer who is captured on or referenced in the video or audio data, and reviews and uses such data for any purpose relating to his/her employment
- (h) By court personnel through proper process or with the permission of the Chief of Police or the authorized designee
- (i) By the media through proper process
- (j) To assess possible training value
- (k) For training purposes. If an involved officer objects to showing a recording, his/her objection will be submitted to the command staff to determine if the training value outweighs the officer's objection.
- (l) As may be directed by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee

In no event shall any recording be used or shown for the purpose of ridiculing or embarrassing any member.

422.6 DOCUMENTING MAV USE

If any incident is recorded with either the video or audio system, the existence of that recording shall be documented in the officer's report.

422.7 RECORDING MEDIA STORAGE AND INTEGRITY

Once submitted for storage, all recording media will be labeled and stored in a designated secure area. All recording media that is not booked as evidence will be retained for a minimum of 30 days and disposed of in accordance with the established records retention schedule (Va. Code § 42.1-76 et seq.).

422.7.1 COPIES OF ORIGINAL RECORDING MEDIA

Original recording media shall not be used for any purpose other than for initial review by a supervisor. Upon proper request, a copy of the original recording media will be made for use as authorized in this policy.

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Original recording media may only be released in response to a court order or upon approval by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee. In the event that an original recording is released to a court, a copy shall be made and placed in storage until the original is returned.

422.7.2 MAV RECORDINGS AS EVIDENCE

Officers who reasonably believe that a MAV recording is likely to contain evidence relevant to a criminal offense or to a potential claim against the officer or against the Falls Church Police Department should indicate this in an appropriate report. Officers should ensure relevant recordings are preserved.

422.8 SYSTEM OPERATIONAL STANDARDS

- (a) MAV system vehicle installations should be based on officer safety requirements and the vehicle and device manufacturer's recommendations.
- (b) The MAV system should be configured to minimally record for 30 seconds prior to an event.
- (c) The MAV system may not be configured to record audio data occurring prior to activation.
- (d) Unless the transmitters being used are designed for synchronized use, only one transmitter, usually the primary initiating officer's transmitter, should be activated at a scene to minimize interference or noise from other MAV transmitters.
- (e) Officers using digital transmitters that are synchronized to their individual MAVs shall activate both audio and video recordings when responding in a support capacity. This is to obtain additional perspectives of the incident scene.
- (f) With the exception of law enforcement radios or other emergency equipment, other electronic devices should not be used inside MAV-equipped law enforcement vehicles to minimize the possibility of causing electronic or noise interference with the MAV system.
- (g) Officers shall not erase, alter, reuse, modify or tamper with MAV recordings. Only a supervisor, MAV Administrator or other authorized designee may erase and reissue previous recordings and may only do so pursuant to the provisions of this policy.

422.9 MAV ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The MAV Administrator is responsible for:

- (a) Ordering, issuing, retrieving, storing, erasing and duplicating of all recorded media.
- (b) Collecting all completed media for oversight and verification of wireless downloaded media. Once collected, the MAV Administrator must ensure it is stored in a secure location with authorized controlled access.
- (c) Erasing of media:
 - 1. Pursuant to a court order.
 - 2. In accordance with the established records retention schedule, including reissuing all other media deemed to be of no evidentiary value.

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- (d) Assigning all media an identification number prior to issuance to the field:
 - 1. Maintaining a record of issued media.
- (e) Ensuring that an adequate supply of recording media is available.
- (f) Managing the long-term storage of media that has been deemed to be of evidentiary value in accordance with the department evidence storage protocols and the established records retention schedule.

422.10 TRAINING

All members who are authorized to use the MAV system shall successfully complete an approved course of instruction prior to its use.

Mobile Data Terminal Use

423.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the proper access, use and application of the Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) system in order to ensure proper access to confidential records from local, state and national law enforcement databases, and to ensure effective electronic communications between department members and Emergency Communications Center.

423.2 POLICY

Falls Church Police Department members using the MDT shall comply with all appropriate federal and state rules and regulations and shall use the MDT in a professional manner, in accordance with this policy.

423.3 PRIVACY EXPECTATION

Members forfeit any expectation of privacy with regard to messages accessed, transmitted, received or reviewed on any department technology system (see the Information Technology Use Policy for additional guidance).

423.4 RESTRICTED ACCESS AND USE

MDT use is subject to the Information Technology Use and Protected Information policies as well as the City IT Department policies.

Members shall not access the MDT system if they have not received prior authorization and the required training. Members shall immediately report unauthorized access or use of the MDT by another member to their supervisors or Watch Commanders.

Use of the MDT system to access law enforcement databases or transmit messages is restricted to official activities, business-related tasks or communications that are directly related to the business, administration or practices of the Department. In the event that a member has questions about sending a particular message or accessing a particular database, the member should seek prior approval from his/her supervisor.

Sending derogatory, defamatory, obscene, disrespectful, sexually suggestive, harassing or any other inappropriate messages on the MDT system is prohibited and may result in discipline.

It is a violation of this policy to transmit a message or access a law enforcement database under another member's name or to use the password of another member to log in to the MDT system unless directed to do so by a supervisor. Members are required to log off the MDT or secure the MDT when it is unattended. This added security measure will minimize the potential for unauthorized access or misuse.

423.4.1 USE WHILE DRIVING

Use of the MDT by the vehicle operator should generally be limited to times when the vehicle is stopped. When the vehicle is in motion, the operator should only attempt to read messages

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that are likely to contain information that is required for immediate enforcement, investigative or safety needs.

Short transmissions, such as a license plate check, are permitted if it reasonably appears that it can be done safely. In no case shall an operator attempt to send or review lengthy messages while the vehicle is in motion.

423.5 DOCUMENTATION OF ACTIVITY

Except as otherwise directed by the Watch Commander or other department-established protocol, all calls for service assigned by an emergency communications technician should be communicated by voice over the police radio and electronically via the MDT unless security or confidentiality prevents such broadcasting.

MDT and voice transmissions are used to document the member's daily activity. To ensure accuracy:

- (a) All contacts or activity shall be documented at the time of the contact.
- (b) Whenever the activity or contact is initiated by voice, it should be documented by an emergency communications technician.
- (c) Whenever the activity or contact is not initiated by voice, the member shall document it via the MDT.

423.5.1 STATUS CHANGES

All changes in status (e.g., arrival at scene, meal periods, in service) will be transmitted over the police radio or through the MDT system.

Members responding to in-progress calls should advise changes in status over the radio to assist other members responding to the same incident. Other changes in status can be made on the MDT.

423.5.2 EMERGENCY ACTIVATION

If there is an emergency activation and the member does not respond to a request for confirmation of the need for emergency assistance or confirms the need, available resources will be sent to assist in locating the member. If the location is known, the nearest available officer should respond in accordance with the Officer Response to Calls General Order.

Members should ensure a field supervisor and the Watch Commander are notified of the incident without delay.

Officers not responding to the emergency shall refrain from transmitting on the police radio until a no-further-assistance broadcast is made or if they are handling a different emergency.

423.6 EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

423.6.1 MALFUNCTIONING MDT

Whenever possible, members will not use vehicles with malfunctioning MDTs. Whenever members must drive a vehicle in which the MDT is not working, they shall notify Emergency

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Communications Center. It shall be the responsibility of the emergency communications technician to document all information that will then be transmitted verbally over the police radio.

423.6.2 BOMB CALLS

When investigating reports of possible bombs, members should not communicate on their MDTs when in the evacuation area of a suspected explosive device. Radio frequency emitted by the MDT could cause some devices to detonate.

Portable Audio/Video Recorders

424.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the use of portable audio/video recording devices by members of this department while in the performance of their duties. Portable audio/video recording devices include all recording systems whether body-worn, hand-held, or integrated into portable equipment.

This policy does not apply to mobile audio/video recordings (see GO 422), interviews, or interrogations conducted at any Falls Church Police Department facility, authorized undercover operations, wiretaps, or eavesdropping (concealed listening devices).

This policy provides guidelines consistent with Va. Code § 15.2-1723.1 which requires the adoption of a policy before a body-worn recording system may be purchased or deployed.

424.2 POLICY

The Falls Church Police Department may provide members with access to portable recorders, either audio or video or both, for use during the performance of their duties. The use of recorders is intended to enhance the mission of the Department by accurately capturing contacts between members of the Department and the public.

Please reference the [Body Worn and In-Car Cameras Procedure](#) for guidelines on the management, storage, release, and retrieval of recordings from the use of Portable Audio/Video recorders.

424.3 COORDINATOR

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee should designate a coordinator responsible for:

- (a) Establishing procedures for the security, storage and maintenance of data and recordings.
- (b) Establishing procedures for accessing data and recordings.
- (c) Establishing procedures for logging or auditing access.
- (d) Establishing procedures for transferring, downloading, tagging or marking events.

424.4 MEMBER PRIVACY EXPECTATION

All recordings made by members on any department-issued device at any time, and any recording made while acting in an official capacity of this department, regardless of ownership of the device it was made on, shall remain the property of the Department. Members shall have no expectation of privacy or ownership interest in the content of these recordings.

424.5 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Prior to going into service, each uniformed member of the Operations Division, School Resource Officers, and Public Safety Aides will be responsible for making sure that he/she is equipped with a portable recorder, issued by the Department, and that the recorder is in good working

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order. If the recorder is not in working order or the member becomes aware of a malfunction at any time, the member shall promptly report the failure to his/her supervisor and obtain a functioning device as soon as reasonably practicable. Uniformed members should wear the recorder in a conspicuous manner or otherwise notify persons that they are being recorded, whenever reasonably practicable.

Any member assigned to Command Staff or in a non-uniformed position may carry an approved portable recorder at any time the member believes that such a device may be useful. Unless conducting a lawful recording in an authorized undercover capacity, non-uniformed members should wear the recorder in a conspicuous manner when in use or otherwise notify persons that they are being recorded, whenever reasonably practicable.

When using a recorder, the assigned member shall record his/her name, FCPD identification number and the current date and time at the beginning of the shift or other period of use, regardless of whether any activity was recorded. This procedure is not required when the recording device and related software captures the user's unique identification and the date and time of each recording.

Members shall document the existence of a recording in any incident report, including any instance where the recorder malfunctioned or the member deactivated the recording. Members shall include the reason for deactivation.

424.6 ACTIVATION OF THE AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDER

This policy is not intended to describe every possible situation in which the recorder should be used, although there are many situations where its use is appropriate. Members should activate the recorder any time the member believes it would be appropriate or valuable to record an incident.

The recorder should be activated in any of the following situations:

- (a) All enforcement and investigative contacts including stops and field interview situations
- (b) Traffic stops including, but not limited to, traffic violations, stranded motorist assistance and all crime interdiction stops
- (c) Self-initiated activity in which an officer would normally notify Emergency Communications Center
- (d) Any other contact that becomes adversarial after the initial contact in a situation that would not otherwise require recording

Members should remain sensitive to the dignity of all individuals being recorded and exercise sound discretion to respect privacy by discontinuing recording whenever it reasonably appears to the member that such privacy may outweigh any legitimate law enforcement interest in recording. Requests by members of the public to stop recording should be considered using this same criterion. Recording should resume when privacy is no longer at issue unless the circumstances no longer fit the criteria for recording.

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At no time is a member expected to jeopardize his/her safety in order to activate a portable recorder or change the recording media. However, the recorder should be activated in situations described above as soon as reasonably practicable.

424.6.1 CESSATION OF RECORDING

Once activated, the portable recorder should remain on continuously until the member reasonably believes that his/her direct participation in the incident is complete or the situation no longer fits the criteria for activation. Recording may be stopped during significant periods of inactivity such as report writing or other breaks from direct participation in the incident.

424.6.2 SURREPTITIOUS USE OF THE AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDER

Virginia law permits an individual to surreptitiously record any conversation in which one party to the conversation has given his/her permission (Va. Code § 19.2-62).

Members may surreptitiously record any conversation during the course of a criminal investigation in which the member reasonably believes that such a recording will be lawful and beneficial to the investigation.

Members shall not surreptitiously record another department member without a court order unless lawfully authorized by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

424.6.3 EXPLOSIVE DEVICE

Many portable recorders, including body-worn cameras and audio/video transmitters, emit radio waves that could trigger an explosive device. Therefore, these devices should not be used where an explosive device may be present.

424.7 PROHIBITED USE OF PORTABLE RECORDERS

Members are prohibited from using department-issued portable recorders and recording media for personal use and are prohibited from making personal copies of recordings created while on-duty or while acting in an official capacity. Misuse of department-issued portable recorders and recording media may result in civil and criminal liability (Va. Code § 19.2-63.1).

Members are also prohibited from retaining recordings of activities or information obtained while on-duty, whether the recording was created with department-issued or personally owned recorders. Members shall not duplicate or distribute such recordings, except for authorized legitimate department business purposes. All such recordings shall be retained at the Department.

Members are prohibited from using personally owned recording devices while on-duty without the express consent of the Watch Commander. Any member who uses a personally owned recorder for department-related activities shall comply with the provisions of this policy, including retention and release requirements, and should notify the on-duty supervisor of such use as soon as reasonably practicable.

Recordings shall not be used by any member for the purpose of embarrassment, harassment or ridicule.

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424.8 IDENTIFICATION AND PRESERVATION OF RECORDINGS

To assist with identifying and preserving data and recordings, members shall download, tag or mark these in accordance with procedure and document the existence of the recording in any related case report.

A member should tag or mark recordings when the member reasonably believes:

- (a) The recording contains evidence relevant to potential criminal, civil or administrative matters.
- (b) A complainant, victim or witness has requested non-disclosure.
- (c) A complainant, victim or witness has not requested non-disclosure but the disclosure of the recording may endanger the person.
- (d) Disclosure may be an unreasonable violation of someone's privacy.
- (e) Medical or mental health information is contained.
- (f) Disclosure may compromise an undercover officer or confidential informant.

Any time a member reasonably believes a recorded contact may be beneficial in a non-criminal matter (e.g., a hostile contact), the member should promptly notify a supervisor of the existence of the recording.

424.9 RETENTION OF RECORDINGS

All recordings shall be retained for a period consistent with the requirements of the established records retention schedule but in no event for a period less than 180 days.

424.9.1 RELEASE OF AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDINGS

Requests for the release of audio/video recordings shall be processed in accordance with the Records Maintenance and Release Policy.

424.10 REVIEW OF RECORDED MEDIA FILES

When preparing written reports, members should review their recordings as a resource (See the Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths Policy for guidance in those cases).

However, members shall not retain personal copies of recordings. Members should not use the fact that a recording was made as a reason to write a less detailed report.

Supervisors are authorized to review relevant recordings any time they are investigating alleged misconduct or reports of meritorious conduct or whenever such recordings would be beneficial in reviewing a member's performance or in the furtherance of an investigation.

Recorded files may also be reviewed:

- (a) Upon approval by a supervisor, by any member of the Department who is participating in an official investigation, such as an administrative investigation or criminal investigation.
- (b) Pursuant to lawful process or by court personnel who are otherwise authorized to review evidence in a related case.

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- (c) By media personnel with permission of the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.
- (d) In compliance with a public records request, if permitted, and in accordance with the Records Maintenance and Release Policy.

All recordings should be reviewed by the Custodian of Records prior to public release (see the Records Maintenance and Release Policy).

Public Recording of Law Enforcement Activity

425.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for handling situations in which members of the public photograph or audio/video record law enforcement actions and other public activities that involve members of this department. In addition, this policy provides guidelines for situations where the recordings may be evidence.

425.2 POLICY

The Falls Church Police Department recognizes the right of persons to lawfully record members of this department who are performing their official duties. Members of this department will not prohibit or intentionally interfere with such lawful recordings. Any recordings that are deemed to be evidence of a crime or relevant to an investigation will only be collected or seized lawfully.

Officers should exercise restraint and should not resort to highly discretionary arrests for offenses such as interference, failure to comply or disorderly conduct as a means of preventing someone from exercising the right to record members performing their official duties.

Upon request, members shall identify themselves with their name, rank, and badge number, and may answer inquiries as situationally appropriate.

425.3 RECORDING LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Members of the public who wish to record law enforcement activities are limited only in certain aspects.

- (a) Recordings may be made from any public place or any private property where the individual has the legal right to be present.
- (b) Beyond the act of photographing or recording, individuals may not interfere with the law enforcement activity. Examples of interference include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Tampering with a witness or suspect.
 - 2. Inciting others to violate the law.
 - 3. Being so close to the activity as to present a clear safety hazard to the officers.
 - 4. Being so close to the activity as to interfere with an officer's effective communication with a suspect or witness.
- (c) The individual may not present an undue safety risk to the officer, him/herself or others.

425.4 OFFICER RESPONSE

Officers should promptly request that a supervisor respond to the scene whenever it appears that anyone recording activities may be interfering with an investigation or it is believed that the recording may be evidence. If practicable, officers should wait for the supervisor to arrive before taking enforcement action or seizing any cameras or recording media.

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Whenever practicable, officers or supervisors should give clear and concise warnings to individuals who are conducting themselves in a manner that would cause their recording or behavior to be unlawful. Accompanying the warnings should be clear directions on what an individual can do to be compliant; directions should be specific enough to allow compliance. For example, rather than directing an individual to clear the area, an officer could advise the person that he/she may continue observing and recording from the sidewalk across the street.

If an arrest or other significant enforcement activity is taken as the result of a recording that interferes with law enforcement activity, officers shall document in a report the nature and extent of the interference or other unlawful behavior and the warnings that were issued.

425.5 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

A supervisor should respond to the scene when requested or any time the circumstances indicate a likelihood of interference or other unlawful behavior.

The supervisor should review the situation with the officer and:

- (a) Request any additional assistance as needed to ensure a safe environment.
- (b) Take a lead role in communicating with individuals who are observing or recording regarding any appropriate limitations on their location or behavior. When practical, the encounter should be recorded.
- (c) When practicable, allow adequate time for individuals to respond to requests for a change of location or behavior.
- (d) Ensure that any enforcement, seizure or other actions are consistent with this policy and constitutional and state law.
- (e) Explain alternatives for individuals who wish to express concern about the conduct of department members, such as how and where to file a complaint.

425.6 SEIZING RECORDINGS AS EVIDENCE

Officers should not seize recording devices or media unless (42 USC § 2000aa):

- (a) There is probable cause to believe the person recording has committed or is committing a crime to which the recording relates, and the recording is reasonably necessary for prosecution of the person.
 1. Absent exigency or consent, a warrant should be sought before seizing or viewing such recordings. Reasonable steps may be taken to prevent erasure of the recording.
- (b) There is reason to believe that the immediate seizure of such recordings is necessary to prevent serious bodily injury or death of any person.
- (c) The person consents.
 1. To ensure that the consent is voluntary, the request should not be made in a threatening or coercive manner.
 2. If the original recording is provided, a copy of the recording should be provided to the recording party, if practicable. The recording party should be permitted to

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be present while the copy is being made, if feasible. Another way to obtain the evidence is to transmit a copy of the recording from a device to a department-owned device.

Recording devices and media that are seized will be submitted within the guidelines of the Property Room Policy.

Bicycle Patrol

Effective Date:	3/21/22
Revised Date:	5/1/23
Issuing Authority: Chief Mary Gavin	

426.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines for the Falls Church Police Department to safely and effectively use bicycle patrol for the purpose of enhancing field patrol efforts in the community.

426.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Falls Church Police Department that patrol bicycles may be used for regular patrol duty, traffic enforcement, parking control or special events. The use of the patrol bicycle will emphasize officer mobility and department visibility in the community.

426.3 OPERATIONS

Bicycle patrol has been shown to be an effective way to increase officer visibility in congested areas, and the quiet operation of the patrol bicycle can facilitate a tactical approach to crimes in progress. Patrol bicycles may be deployed to any area, at any hour of the day or night, according to department needs and as staffing levels allow.

Requests for specific deployment of bicycle patrol officers shall be coordinated through the bicycle patrol coordinator or the Watch Commander.

426.4 SELECTION

Minimum qualifications for bicycle assignment shall be determined and distributed by the Operations Commander when assignments become available. Interested officers who are off probation shall submit a memorandum to the Operations Commander. A copy will be forwarded to the bicycle patrol coordinator.

Interested officers shall be evaluated by the following criteria:

- (a) Recognized competence and ability as evidenced by performance.
- (b) Special skills or training as it pertains to the assignment.
- (c) Good physical condition.
- (d) Willingness to perform duties using the bicycle as a mode of transportation.

426.5 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Officers should operate the bicycle in compliance with the Virginia Motor Vehicle Code under normal operation, unless their duties require otherwise (Va. Code § 46.2-800).

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Officers may operate the bicycle without lighting equipment during hours of darkness only when it reasonably appears necessary for officer safety or tactical considerations. Officers must use caution and care when operating bicycles without lighting equipment or when they are operating in violation of the rules of the road.

Officers are exempt from the rules of the road under the following conditions (Va. Code § 46.2-920):

- (a) In response to an emergency call.
- (b) While engaged in rescue operations.
- (c) In the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law.

426.6 BICYCLE PATROL COORDINATOR

The Chief of Police shall delegate certain responsibilities to a bicycle patrol coordinator. The coordinator shall be appointed by and directly responsible to the Operations Division Commander or the authorized designee.

The coordinator may appoint a senior bicycle patrol officer or other designee to assist in the coordination of bicycle patrol officers and their activities.

The responsibilities of the coordinator include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Organizing bicycle patrol training.
- (b) Inspecting and maintaining an annual inventory of patrol bicycles and program equipment.
- (c) Inspecting, no less than every three months, bicycles that are not in active service and documenting that they are in serviceable condition.
- (d) Scheduling maintenance and repairs.
- (e) Coordinating activities with the Operations Division.
- (f) Other activities as required to maintain the efficient operation of bicycle patrol.

426.7 PATROL BICYCLE

Bicycle patrol officers will be assigned a specially marked and equipped patrol bicycle, attached gear bag, two batteries and a charger.

Patrol bicycles shall be primarily black or white in color with a "Police" decal affixed to each side of the crossbar or the bicycle's gear bag. Every patrol bicycle shall be equipped with:

- (a) A front headlight and front and rear reflectors (Va. Code § 46.2-1015).
- (b) A taillight on the rear emitting a red light when operating a bicycle on any highway with a speed limit of 35 mph or greater (Va. Code § 46.2-1015).
- (c) A siren and horn (Va. Code § 46.2-920).
- (d) A steady or flashing blue and red warning light that is visible from the front, sides or rear of the bicycle (Va. Code § 46.2-920).

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- (e) A rear rack and/or gear bag sufficient to carry all necessary equipment to handle routine patrol calls, including report writing, vehicle storage and citations.
- (f) A gear bag that shall include a first-aid kit, tire pump, repair tool, tire tube, security lock, and high-visibility vest. These items are to remain with/on the patrol bicycle at all times.

Patrol bicycles shall be properly secured when not in the officer's immediate presence.

426.7.1 TRANSPORTING THE PATROL BICYCLE

The patrol bicycle should be transported using a vehicle bicycle rack. Due to possible component damage, transportation of the patrol bicycle in a trunk or on a law enforcement vehicle push-bumper is discouraged.

426.7.2 MAINTENANCE

- (a) Bicycle patrol officers shall conduct an inspection of the patrol bicycle and equipment prior to use to ensure proper working order of the equipment.
- (b) Officers are responsible for the routine care and maintenance of their assigned equipment (e.g., tire pressure, chain lubrication, overall cleaning).
 - 1. Each patrol bicycle will have scheduled maintenance as needed to be performed by a repair shop or technician approved by the Department.
- (c) Officers shall not modify the patrol bicycle or remove, modify or add components to the patrol bicycle except with the express approval of the bicycle patrol coordinator, or in the event of an emergency.
- (d) If a needed repair is beyond the ability of the bicycle patrol officer, the bicycle patrol coordinator should be notified and make arrangements to have the bicycle repaired by an approved technician.
- (e) During prolonged periods of non use, each bicycle patrol officer assigned a patrol bicycle shall periodically rotate the batteries on the respective chargers to increase battery life.
- (f) At the end of a patrol bicycle assignment, the bicycle shall be returned clean and ready for the next tour of duty.

426.8 UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Officers shall wear uniforms and safety equipment in accordance with the Uniforms and Civilian Attire Policy.

The uniform consists of the standard short-sleeve uniform shirt or other department-approved shirt, with Falls Church Police Department badge and patches, and department-approved bicycle patrol pants or shorts. Optional attire may include, but is not limited to, a jacket in colder weather and turtleneck shirts or sweaters when worn under the uniform shirt.

Bicycle patrol officers shall carry the same equipment on their duty belts as they would on regular patrol assignments. Assignment-specific safety equipment should include, but is not limited to, department-approved helmet, a radio headset and microphone, riding gloves, protective eyewear and approved footwear.

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Officers will be responsible for obtaining the necessary forms, citation books and other department equipment needed while on bicycle patrol.

426.9 TRAINING

Officers must complete an initial department-approved bicycle-training course prior to assignment to bicycle patrol. The initial training shall minimally include:

- (a) Bicycle patrol strategies.
- (b) Bicycle safety and accident prevention.
- (c) Operational tactics and techniques using bicycles.

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs)

427.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for the capture, storage and use of digital data obtained through the use of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology.

427.2 POLICY

The policy of the Falls Church Police Department is to utilize ALPR technology to capture and store digital license plate data and images while recognizing the established privacy rights of the public.

All data and images gathered by the ALPR are for the official use of this department. Because such data may contain confidential information, it is not open to public review.

427.3 ADMINISTRATION

The ALPR technology, also known as License Plate Recognition (LPR), allows for the automated detection of license plates. It is used by the Falls Church Police Department to convert data associated with vehicle license plates for official law enforcement purposes, including identifying stolen or wanted vehicles, stolen license plates and missing persons. It may also be used to gather information related to active warrants, homeland security, electronic surveillance, suspect interdiction and stolen property recovery.

All installation and maintenance of ALPR equipment, as well as ALPR data retention and access, shall be managed by the Services Division Commander. The Services Division Commander will assign members under his/her command to administer the day-to-day operation of the ALPR equipment and data.

427.4 OPERATIONS

Use of an ALPR is restricted to the purposes outlined below. Department members shall not use, or allow others to use, the equipment or database records for any unauthorized purpose.

- (a) An ALPR shall only be used for official law enforcement business.
- (b) An ALPR may be used in conjunction with any routine patrol operation or criminal investigation. Reasonable suspicion or probable cause is not required before using an ALPR.
- (c) While an ALPR may be used to canvass license plates around any crime scene, particular consideration should be given to using ALPR-equipped vehicles to canvass areas around homicides, shootings and other major incidents. Partial license plates reported during major crimes should be entered into the ALPR system in an attempt to identify suspect vehicles.
- (d) No member of this department shall operate ALPR equipment or access ALPR data without first completing department-approved training.
- (e) No ALPR operator may access confidential department, state or federal data unless authorized to do so.

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- (f) The officer should always verify an ALPR response through the appropriate official law enforcement database before taking enforcement action that is based solely on an ALPR alert.

427.5 DATA COLLECTION AND RETENTION

The Services Division Commander is responsible for ensuring systems and processes are in place for the proper collection and retention of ALPR data. Data will be transferred from vehicles to the designated storage in accordance with department procedures.

All stored ALPR data should be retained in accordance with the established records retention schedule. Thereafter, ALPR data should be purged unless it has become, or it is reasonable to believe it will become, evidence in a criminal or civil action or is subject to a discovery request or other lawful action to produce records. In those circumstances, the applicable data should be downloaded onto portable media and booked into evidence.

427.6 ACCOUNTABILITY

All data will be closely safeguarded and protected by both procedural and technological means. The Falls Church Police Department will observe the following safeguards regarding access to and use of stored data:

- (a) All ALPR data downloaded to the mobile workstation and in storage shall be accessible only through a login/password-protected system capable of documenting all access of information by name, date and time.
- (b) Members approved to access ALPR data under these guidelines are permitted to access the data for legitimate law enforcement purposes only, such as when the data relate to a specific criminal investigation or department-related civil or administrative action.
- (c) ALPR system audits should be conducted on a regular basis.

427.7 RELEASING ALPR DATA

The ALPR data may be shared only with other law enforcement or prosecutorial agencies for official law enforcement purposes or as otherwise permitted by law, using the following procedures:

- (a) The agency makes a written request for the ALPR data that includes:
 - 1. The name of the agency.
 - 2. The name of the person requesting.
 - 3. The intended purpose of obtaining the information.
- (b) The request is reviewed by the Services Division Commander or the authorized designee and approved before the request is fulfilled.
- (c) The approved request is retained on file.

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Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs)

Requests for ALPR data by non-law enforcement or non-prosecutorial agencies will be processed as provided in the Records Maintenance and Release Policy.

Homeless Persons

428.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that department members understand the needs and rights of the homeless, and to establish procedures to guide them during all contacts with the homeless, whether consensual or for enforcement purposes.

This policy establishes a liaison to the homeless community, addresses the responsibilities of the department member appointed to act as a liaison to the homeless, and details the need for special protection and services for homeless persons.

428.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Falls Church Police Department to protect the rights, dignity and private property of all members of the community, including people who are homeless. Abuse of authority to harass any member of the community will not be permitted. The Falls Church Police Department will address the needs of homeless persons in balance with the overall mission of this department.

Homelessness is not a crime and members will not use homelessness as the sole basis for detention or law enforcement action.

428.3 LIAISON TO THE HOMELESS COMMUNITY

The Chief of Police shall delegate certain responsibilities to a liaison to the homeless community. The liaison shall be appointed by and directly responsible to the Operations Division Commander or the authorized designee.

The responsibilities of the liaison include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Maintaining and making available to all department members a list of assistance programs and other resources, including contact information for shelters, that are available to homeless persons.
- (b) Meeting with Human and Housing Services staff, social services, and representatives of other organizations that render assistance to the homeless community.
- (c) Maintaining a list of the areas within and near the jurisdiction of this department that are used as frequent homeless encampments.
- (d) Remaining abreast of laws dealing with homelessness, including personal property rights.
- (e) Developing training to assist members in understanding current legal and social issues relating to the homeless.

428.4 FIELD CONTACTS

Officers are encouraged to contact a homeless person to render aid, offer assistance or to check on the person's welfare. Officers also will take enforcement action when information supports a reasonable and articulable suspicion of criminal activity. However, such contacts shall not be used for harassment.

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When encountering a homeless person who has committed a nonviolent misdemeanor and continued freedom is not likely to result in a continuation of the offense or a breach of the peace, officers are encouraged to consider long-term solutions, such as shelter referrals and counseling, in lieu of an arrest and criminal charges.

Officers should provide homeless persons with resources and assistance information whenever it is reasonably apparent that such services may be appropriate.

When a homeless person is encountered and identified, officers should complete a field contact card in order to document the interaction and the needs, demeanor, etc. of the subject. Documentation of these interactions can assist other Department members in future interactions.

428.4.1 CONSIDERATIONS

A homeless person will receive the same level and quality of service provided to other members of the community. The fact that a victim, witness or suspect is homeless can, however, require special consideration for a successful investigation and prosecution. When handling investigations involving victims, witnesses or suspects who are homeless, officers should consider:

- (a) Documenting alternate contact information. This may include obtaining addresses and telephone numbers of relatives and friends.
- (b) Documenting locations the person may frequent.
- (c) Providing victim/witness resources, when appropriate.
- (d) Obtaining sufficient statements from all available witnesses in the event that a victim cannot be located and is unavailable for a court appearance.
- (e) Arranging for transportation for investigation-related matters, such as medical exams and court appearances.
- (f) Whether a crime should be reported and submitted for prosecution, even when a victim who is homeless indicates that he/she does not desire prosecution.
- (g) Whether the person may be an adult abuse victim and, if so, proceed in accordance with the Adult Abuse Policy.

428.5 MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

When mental health issues are evident, officers should consider referring the person to the appropriate mental health agency or providing the person with contact information for mental health assistance, as appropriate. In these circumstances, officers may provide transportation to a mental health facility for voluntary evaluation if it is requested or offered and accepted by the person, and approved by a supervisor. Officers should consider detaining the person under civil commitment when facts and circumstances reasonably indicate such a detention is warranted (see the Civil Commitments Policy).

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428.6 PERSONAL PROPERTY

The personal property of homeless persons must not be treated differently than the property of other members of the community. Officers should use reasonable care when handling, collecting and retaining the personal property of homeless persons and should not destroy or discard the personal property of a homeless person.

When a homeless person is arrested or otherwise removed from a public place, officers should make reasonable accommodations to permit the person to lawfully secure his/her personal property. Otherwise, it should be collected for safekeeping. If the arrestee has more personal property than can reasonably be collected and transported by the officer, a supervisor should be consulted. The property should be photographed and measures should be taken to remove or secure it. It will be the officer's responsibility to coordinate its removal and safekeeping.

Officers should not conduct or assist in clean-up operations of belongings that reasonably appear to be the property of homeless persons without the prior authorization of a supervisor or the homeless liaison. When practicable, requests by the public for clean-up of a homeless encampment should be referred to the on-duty supervisor.

Officers who encounter unattended encampments, bedding or other personal property in public areas that reasonably appears to belong to a homeless person should not remove or destroy such property and should inform the on-duty supervisor if such property appears to involve a trespass, is a blight to the community or is the subject of a complaint. It will be the responsibility of the on-duty supervisor to address the matter in a timely fashion.

428.7 ECOLOGICAL ISSUES

Sometimes homeless encampments can have an impact on the ecology and natural resources of the community and may involve criminal offenses beyond mere littering. Officers are encouraged to notify other appropriate agencies or City departments when a significant impact to the environment has or is likely to occur. A significant impact to the environment may warrant a crime report, investigation, supporting photographs and supervisor notification.

Medical Marijuana

Effective Date:	2/7/22
Revised Date:	5/1/23
Issuing Authority: Chief Mary Gavin	

429.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide members of this department with guidelines for investigating the acquisition, possession, transportation, delivery, production, or use of marijuana under Virginia's medical marijuana laws (Va. Code § 54.1-3400 et seq.).

429.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include (Va. Code § 54.1-3408.3; 18 VAC 110-60-10):

Cannabis product - A product that is produced by a pharmaceutical processor, registered with the Board of Pharmacy, and that is composed of cannabis oil, botanical cannabis, or other substances as allowed by Virginia law.

Registered agent - A designated individual registered with the Board of Pharmacy with authority to receive a cannabis product for a patient.

Written certification - A certification issued by a qualifying medical practitioner to a qualifying patient for the use of a cannabis product.

429.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Falls Church Police Department to prioritize resources to avoid making arrests related to marijuana that the arresting officer reasonably believes would not be prosecuted by state or federal authorities.

Virginia medical marijuana laws are intended to provide protection from prosecution to those who use, possess, deliver, or produce marijuana for treatment or to alleviate the symptoms of a patient's diagnosed medical condition or disease. However, Virginia medical marijuana laws do not affect federal laws, and there is no medical exception under federal law for the possession or distribution of marijuana. The Falls Church Police Department will exercise discretion to ensure laws are appropriately enforced without unreasonably burdening both those individuals protected under Virginia law and the resources of the Department.

429.3 INVESTIGATION

Investigations involving the possession, delivery, production, or use of marijuana generally fall into two categories:

- (a) Investigations when a medicinal claim is made by a lawfully registered patient.
- (b) Investigations when no person makes a medicinal claim.

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Medical Marijuana

429.3.1 INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING A LAWFULLY REGISTERED PATIENT OR REGISTERED AGENT

Officers should not take enforcement action against a lawfully registered patient or registered agent who is able to provide sufficient proof of lawful registration for obtaining, possessing, transporting, or using medical marijuana (Va. Code § 54.1-3408.3; 18 VAC 110-60-50).

Officers should investigate a claim made by a person that he/she is a lawfully registered patient or registered agent when that person does not provide sufficient proof of lawful registration and should not take enforcement action against the person if the claim appears to be valid.

Employees of nursing homes, hospice, hospice facilities, and assisted living facilities who are authorized to possess, distribute, or administer medications to patients or residents are permitted to store, dispense, and administer medical marijuana to patients or residents issued written certifications and registered with the Board of Pharmacy (Va. Code § 18.2-251.1:2; Va. Code § 32.1-127; Va. Code § 32.1-162.6:1; Va. Code § 63.2-1803.01).

429.3.2 INVESTIGATIONS WITH NO MEDICAL CLAIM

In any investigation involving the possession, delivery, production, or use of marijuana or drug paraphernalia where no person claims that the marijuana is used for medicinal purposes, the officer should proceed with a criminal investigation. Officers should consider that certain amounts may be permitted for personal use (Va. Code § 4.1-1100 et seq.). A medicinal defense may be raised at any time, so officers should document any statements and observations that may be relevant to whether the marijuana was possessed or produced for medicinal purposes.

429.4 FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Officers should provide information regarding a marijuana investigation to federal law enforcement authorities when it is requested by federal law enforcement authorities or whenever the officer believes those authorities would have a particular interest in the information.

429.5 EVIDENCE

429.5.1 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

The investigating member should notify the receiving Property Room member in writing when marijuana may be the subject of a medical claim.

429.5.2 PROPERTY BUREAU SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Property Room supervisor should ensure that marijuana, drug paraphernalia, or other related property seized from a person engaged or assisting in the use of medical marijuana is not destroyed. The Property Room supervisor is not responsible for caring for live marijuana plants.

Upon the prosecutor's decision to forgo prosecution, or the dismissal of charges or an acquittal, the Property Room supervisor should, as soon as practicable, return to the person from whom it was seized any useable marijuana, drug paraphernalia, or other related property.

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Medical Marijuana

The Property Room supervisor may release marijuana to federal law enforcement authorities upon presentation of a valid court order or by a written order of the Criminal Investigation Section supervisor.

Medical Aid and Response

Effective Date:	5/9/22
Revised Date:	5/1/23
Issuing Authority: Chief Mary Gavin	

430.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy recognizes that members often encounter persons in need of medical aid and establishes a law enforcement response to such situations.

430.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Falls Church Police Department that all officers and other designated members be trained to provide emergency medical aid and to facilitate an emergency medical response.

430.3 FIRST RESPONDING MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Whenever practicable, members should take appropriate steps to provide initial medical aid (e.g., first aid, CPR, use of an automated external defibrillator (AED)) in accordance with their training and current certification levels. This should be done for those in need of immediate care and only when the member can safely do so.

Prior to initiating medical aid, the member should contact Emergency Communications Center and request response by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as the member deems appropriate.

Members should follow universal precautions when providing medical aid, such as wearing gloves and avoiding contact with bodily fluids, consistent with the Communicable Diseases Policy. Members should use a barrier or bag device to perform rescue breathing.

When requesting EMS, the member should provide Emergency Communications Center with information for relay to EMS personnel in order to enable an appropriate response, including:

- (a) The location where EMS is needed.
- (b) The nature of the incident.
- (c) Any known scene hazards.
- (d) Information on the person in need of EMS, such as:
 1. Signs and symptoms as observed by the member.
 2. Changes in apparent condition.
 3. Number of patients, sex, and age, if known.
 4. Whether the person is conscious, breathing, and alert, or is believed to have consumed drugs or alcohol.

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5. Whether the person is showing signs of extreme agitation or is engaging in violent irrational behavior accompanied by profuse sweating, extraordinary strength beyond their physical characteristics, and imperviousness to pain.

Members should stabilize the scene whenever practicable while awaiting the arrival of EMS.

Members should not direct EMS personnel regarding whether to transport the person for treatment.

430.4 TRANSPORTING ILL AND INJURED PERSONS

Except in exceptional cases where alternatives are not reasonably available, members should not transport persons who are unconscious, who have serious injuries, or who may be seriously ill. EMS personnel should be called to handle patient transportation.

Officers should search any person who is in custody before releasing that person to EMS for transport.

An officer should accompany any person in custody during transport in an ambulance when requested by EMS personnel, when it reasonably appears necessary to provide security, when it is necessary for investigative purposes, or when so directed by a supervisor.

Members should not provide emergency escort for medical transport or civilian vehicles.

430.5 PERSONS REFUSING EMS CARE

If a person who is not in custody refuses EMS care or refuses to be transported to a medical facility, an officer shall not force that person to receive medical care or be transported.

However, members may assist EMS personnel when EMS personnel determine the person lacks the mental capacity to understand the consequences of refusing medical care or to make an informed decision and the lack of immediate medical attention may result in serious bodily injury or the death of the person.

In cases where mental illness may be a factor, the officer should consider proceeding with a civil commitment or an involuntary commitment in accordance with the Civil Commitments Policy.

If an officer believes that a person who is in custody requires EMS care and the person refuses, he/she should encourage the person to receive medical treatment. The officer may also consider contacting a family member to help persuade the person to agree to treatment or who may be able to authorize treatment for the person.

If the person who is in custody still refuses, the officer will require the person to be transported to the nearest medical facility. In such cases, the officer should consult with a supervisor prior to the transport.

Members shall not sign refusal-for-treatment forms or forms accepting financial responsibility for treatment.

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430.6 SICK OR INJURED ARRESTEE

If an arrestee appears ill or injured, or claims illness or injury, he/she should be medically cleared prior to booking. If the officer has reason to believe the arrestee is feigning injury or illness, the officer should request EMS and contact a supervisor, who will determine whether medical clearance will be obtained prior to booking.

If the jail or detention facility refuses to accept custody of an arrestee based on medical screening, the officer should note the name of the facility person refusing to accept custody and the reason for refusal, and should notify a supervisor to determine the appropriate action.

Arrestees who appear to have a serious medical issue should be transported by ambulance. Officers shall not transport an arrestee to a hospital without a supervisor's approval.

Nothing in this section should delay an officer from requesting EMS when an arrestee reasonably appears to be exhibiting symptoms that appear to be life threatening, including breathing problems or an altered level of consciousness, or is claiming an illness or injury that reasonably warrants an EMS response in accordance with the officer's training.

430.7 MEDICAL ATTENTION RELATED TO USE OF FORCE

Specific guidelines for medical attention for injuries sustained from a use of force may be found in the Use of Force, Handcuffing and Restraints, Control Devices and Conducted Energy Device policies.

430.8 AIR AMBULANCE

Generally, when on-scene, EMS personnel will be responsible for determining whether an air ambulance response should be requested. An air ambulance may be appropriate when there are victims with life-threatening injuries or who require specialized treatment (e.g., gunshot wounds, burns, obstetrical cases), and distance or other known delays will affect the EMS response.

The Emergency Management Coordinator should develop guidelines for air ambulance landings or enter into local operating agreements for the use of air ambulances, as applicable. In creating those guidelines, the Department should identify:

- Responsibility and authority for designating a landing zone and determining the size of the landing zone.
- Responsibility for securing the area and maintaining that security once the landing zone is identified.
- Consideration of the air ambulance provider's minimum standards for proximity to vertical obstructions and surface composition (e.g., dirt, gravel, pavement, concrete, grass).
- Consideration of the air ambulance provider's minimum standards for horizontal clearance from structures, fences, power poles, antennas or roadways.
- Responsibility for notifying the appropriate highway or transportation agencies if a roadway is selected as a landing zone.

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- Procedures for ground personnel to communicate with flight personnel during the operation.

One department member at the scene should be designated as the air ambulance communications contact. Headlights, spotlights and flashlights should not be aimed upward at the air ambulance. Members should direct vehicle and pedestrian traffic away from the landing zone.

Members shall follow these cautions when near an air ambulance:

- Never approach the aircraft until signaled by the flight crew.
- Always approach the aircraft from the front.
- Avoid the aircraft's tail rotor area.
- Wear eye protection during the landing and take-off.
- Do not carry or hold items, such as IV bags, above the head.
- Ensure that no one smokes near the aircraft.

430.9 AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) USE

An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is used to treat victims who experience sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). It is only to be applied to victims who are unconscious, not breathing normally, and showing no signs of circulation, such as normal breathing, coughing and movement. The AED will analyze the heart rhythm and advise the operator if a shockable rhythm is detected. If a shockable rhythm is detected, the AED will charge to the appropriate level and advise the operator to deliver a shock.

The AED use policy applies to all AED units within the City government, regardless of their geographic location within City buildings or vehicles.

430.9.1 AED USER RESPONSIBILITY

Members who are issued AEDs for use in department vehicles should check the AED at the beginning of the shift to ensure it is properly charged and functioning. Any AED that is not functioning properly will be taken out of service and given to the Fire Marshal who is responsible for ensuring appropriate maintenance.

Should an AED be deployed on an actual patient and turned on, the Fire Marshal will inspect the AED, install a new battery, and ensure that the AED is in good working order before it is placed back into service.

Following use of an AED, the device shall be cleaned and/or decontaminated as required. The electrodes and/or pads will be replaced as recommended by the AED manufacturer.

Any member who uses an AED should contact Emergency Communications Center as soon as possible and request response by EMS.

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430.9.2 RESPONDING TO AN EMERGENCY

In the event of a possible cardiac arrest, call 911 immediately to activate the emergency medical system. An AED trained employee will bring or have another worker bring the AED to the victim. The first AED trained employee to arrive should relieve any untrained person and assess the need to use an AED. The use of an AED is authorized for employees trained in CPR and the use of an AED.

430.9.3 AED TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE

The Training Coordinator should ensure appropriate training is provided to members authorized to use an AED.

The Fire Marshal is responsible for ensuring AED devices are appropriately maintained and will retain records of all maintenance in accordance with the established records retention schedule.

430.10 ADMINISTRATION OF OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION

Trained members may administer opioid overdose medication to a person experiencing an opiate-related overdose in accordance with protocols developed by the Board of Pharmacy (Va. Code § 54.1-3408).

430.10.1 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION USER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members who are qualified to administer opioid overdose medication, such as naloxone, should handle, store, and administer the medication consistent with their training. Members should check the medication and associated administration equipment at the beginning of their shift to ensure they are serviceable and not expired. Any expired medication or unserviceable administration equipment should be removed from service and given to the Training Coordinator.

Any member who administers an opioid overdose medication should contact Emergency Communications Center as soon as possible and request response by EMS.

430.10.2 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION REPORTING

Any member administering opioid overdose medication should detail its use in an appropriate report.

430.10.3 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION TRAINING

The Training Coordinator should ensure training is provided to members authorized to administer opioid overdose medication (Va. Code § 54.1-3408).

430.11 ADMINISTRATION OF EPINEPHRINE IN THE FALLS CHURCH POLICE DEPARTMENT FACILITY

Trained members may only administer epinephrine that is prescribed to a person believed in good faith to be having an anaphylactic reaction in those areas of the Falls Church Police Department facility used by the general public (Va. Code § 15.2-2820; Va. Code § 54.1-3408; Va. Code § 54.1-3408.5).

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Medical Aid and Response

430.11.1 EPINEPHRINE REPORTING

Any member administering epinephrine should detail its use in an appropriate report.

430.11.2 EPINEPHRINE TRAINING

The Training Coordinator should ensure training is provided to members authorized to administer epinephrine (Va. Code § 54.1-3408; Va. Code § 54.1-3408.5).

430.12 FIRST AID TRAINING

Subject to available resources, the Training Coordinator should ensure officers receive periodic first aid training appropriate for their position.

First Amendment Assemblies

431.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance for responding to public assemblies or demonstrations.

431.2 POLICY

The Falls Church Police Department respects the rights of people to peaceably assemble. It is the policy of this department not to unreasonably interfere with, harass, intimidate or discriminate against persons engaged in the lawful exercise of their rights, while also preserving the peace, protecting life and preventing the destruction of property.

431.3 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Individuals or groups present on the public way, such as public facilities, streets or walkways, generally have the right to assemble, rally, demonstrate, protest or otherwise express their views and opinions through varying forms of communication, including the distribution of printed matter (Va. Const. art. I, § 12).

These rights may be limited by laws or ordinances regulating such matters as:

- Committing acts of terrorism (Va. Code § 18.2-46.5)
- Participating in paramilitary activity (Va. Code § 18.2-433.2)
- Rioting (Va. Code § 18.2-405)
- Committing acts of violence by a mob (Va. Code § 18.2-42.1)
- Partaking in unlawful assembly (Va. Code § 18.2-406)
- Displaying disorderly conduct (Va. Code § 18.2-415)
- Burning objects (Va. Code § 18.2-423.01)
- Wearing masks (Va. Code § 18.2-422)
- Unlawful picketing (Va. Code § 40.1-53)
- Crossing law enforcement lines (Va. Code § 18.2-414.2)
- Trespassing (Va. Code § 18.2-119)
- Obstructing free passage of others (Va. Code § 18.2-404)
- Resisting or obstructing execution of legal process (Va. Code § 18.2-409)

However, officers shall not take action or fail to take action based on the opinions being expressed.

Participant behavior during a demonstration or other public assembly can vary. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Lawful, constitutionally protected actions and speech.
- Civil disobedience (typically involving minor criminal acts).

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- Rioting.

All of these behaviors may be present during the same event. Therefore, it is imperative that law enforcement actions are measured and appropriate for the behaviors officers may encounter. This is particularly critical if force is being used. Adaptable strategies and tactics are essential.

The purpose of a law enforcement presence at the scene of public assemblies and demonstrations should be to preserve the peace, to protect life and to prevent the destruction of property.

Officers should not:

- (a) Engage in assembly or demonstration-related discussion with participants.
- (b) Harass, confront or intimidate participants.
- (c) Seize the cameras, cell phones or materials of participants or observers unless an officer is placing a person under lawful arrest.

Supervisors should continually observe department members under their commands to ensure that members' interaction with participants and their response to crowd dynamics is appropriate.

431.3.1 PHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEO RECORDINGS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Photographs, video recordings and other information may be collected at assemblies and demonstrations as they can serve a number of purposes, such as support of criminal prosecutions, assistance in evaluating department performance, serving as training material, recording the use of dispersal orders and facilitating a response to allegations of improper law enforcement conduct.

Photographs, video recordings and other information shall not be maintained on the political, religious or social activities, views or associations of any individual, group or organization unless those activities, views or associations directly relate to an investigation of criminal activity and there is reasonable suspicion that the subject of the information is involved in criminal conduct.

431.4 UNPLANNED EVENTS

When responding to an unplanned or spontaneous public gathering, the first responding officer should conduct an assessment of conditions, including, but not limited to:

- Location.
- Number of participants.
- Apparent purpose of the event.
- Leadership (whether it is apparent and/or whether it is effective).
- Any initial indicators of unlawful or disruptive activity.
- Indicators that lawful use of public facilities, streets or walkways will be impacted.
- Ability and/or need to continue monitoring the incident.

Initial assessment information should be promptly communicated to Emergency Communications Center, and the assignment of a supervisor should be requested, if needed or appropriate.

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Additional resources should be requested as appropriate. The responding supervisor shall assume command of the incident until command is expressly assumed by another, and the assumption of command is communicated to the involved members. A clearly defined command structure that is consistent with the Incident Command System (ICS) should be established as resources are deployed.

431.5 PLANNED EVENT PREPARATION

For planned events, comprehensive, incident-specific operational plans should be developed. The ICS should be considered for such events.

431.5.1 INFORMATION GATHERING AND ASSESSMENT

In order to properly assess the potential impact of a public assembly or demonstration on public safety and order, relevant information should be collected and vetted. This may include:

- Information obtained from outreach to group organizers or leaders.
- Information about past and potential unlawful conduct associated with the event or similar events.
- The potential time, duration, scope, and type of planned activities.
- Any other information related to the goal of providing a balanced response to criminal activity and the protection of public safety interests.

Information should be obtained in a transparent manner, and the sources documented. Relevant information should be communicated to the appropriate parties in a timely manner.

Information will be obtained in a lawful manner and will not be based solely on the purpose or content of the assembly or demonstration, or actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, age, cultural group, or disability of the participants (or any other characteristic that is unrelated to criminal conduct or the identification of a criminal subject).

431.5.2 OPERATIONAL PLANS

An operational planning team with responsibility for event planning and management should be established. The planning team should develop an operational plan for the event.

The operational plan will minimally provide for:

- (a) Command assignments, chain of command structure, roles and responsibilities.
- (b) Staffing and resource allocation.
- (c) Management of criminal investigations.
- (d) Designation of uniform of the day and related safety equipment (helmets, shields, etc.).
- (e) Deployment of specialized resources.
- (f) Event communications and interoperability in a multijurisdictional event.

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- (g) An established liaison with demonstration leaders and external agencies.
- (h) An established liaison with City government and legal staff.
- (i) Media relations.
- (j) Logistics: food, fuel, replacement equipment, duty hours, relief and transportation.
- (k) Traffic management plans.
- (l) First aid and emergency medical service provider availability.
- (m) Prisoner transport and detention.
- (n) Review of policies regarding public assemblies and use of force in crowd control.
- (o) Parameters for declaring an unlawful assembly.
- (p) Arrest protocol, including management of mass arrests.
- (q) Protocol for recording information flow and decisions.
- (r) Rules of engagement, including rules of conduct, protocols for field force extraction and arrests, and any authorization required for the use of force.
- (s) Protocol for handling complaints during the event.
- (t) Parameters for the use of body-worn cameras and other portable recording devices.

431.5.3 MUTUAL AID AND EXTERNAL RESOURCES

The magnitude and anticipated duration of an event may necessitate interagency cooperation and coordination. The assigned Incident Commander should ensure that any required memorandums of understanding or other agreements are properly executed, and that any anticipated mutual aid is requested and facilitated (see the Outside Agency Assistance Policy).

431.6 UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY DISPERSAL ORDERS

If a public gathering or demonstration remains peaceful and nonviolent, and there is no reasonably imminent threat to persons or property, the Incident Commander should generally authorize continued monitoring of the event.

Should the Incident Commander make a determination that public safety is presently or is about to be jeopardized, he/she or the authorized designee should attempt to verbally persuade event organizers or participants to disperse of their own accord. Warnings and advisements may be communicated through established communications links with leaders and/or participants or to the group (Va. Code § 18.2-411).

When initial attempts at verbal persuasion are unsuccessful, the Incident Commander or the authorized designee should make a clear, standardized announcement to the gathering that the event is an unlawful assembly, and should order the dispersal of the participants. The announcement should be communicated by whatever methods are reasonably available to ensure that the content of the message is clear and that it has been heard by the participants. The

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announcement should be amplified, made in different languages as appropriate, made from multiple locations in the affected area and documented by audio and video. The announcement should provide information about what law enforcement actions will take place if illegal behavior continues and should identify routes for egress. A reasonable time to disperse should be allowed [following a dispersal order](#).

431.7 USE OF FORCE

Use of force is governed by current department policy and applicable law (see the Use of Force, Handcuffing and Restraints, Control Devices and Conducted Energy Device policies).

Individuals refusing to comply with lawful orders (e.g., nonviolent refusal to disperse) should be given a clear verbal warning and a reasonable opportunity to comply. If an individual refuses to comply with lawful orders, the Incident Commander shall evaluate the type of resistance and adopt a reasonable response in order to accomplish the law enforcement mission (such as dispersal or arrest of those acting in violation of the law). Control devices and Conducted Energy Weapons should be considered only when the participants' conduct reasonably appears to present the potential to harm officers, themselves or others, or will result in substantial property loss or damage (see the Control Devices and the Conducted Energy Device policies).

Force or control devices, including oleoresin capsaicin (OC), should be directed toward individuals and not toward groups or crowds, unless specific individuals cannot reasonably be targeted due to extreme circumstances, such as a riotous crowd.

Any use of force by a member of this department shall be documented promptly, completely and accurately in an appropriate report. The type of report required may depend on the nature of the incident.

431.8 ARRESTS

The Falls Church Police Department should respond to unlawful behavior in a manner that is consistent with the operational plan. If practicable, warnings or advisements should be communicated prior to arrest.

Mass arrests should be employed only when alternate tactics and strategies have been or reasonably appear likely to be unsuccessful. Mass arrests shall only be undertaken upon the order of the Incident Commander or the authorized designee. There must be probable cause for each arrest.

If employed, mass arrest protocols should fully integrate:

- (a) Reasonable measures to address the safety of officers and arrestees.
- (b) Dedicated arrest, booking and report writing teams.
- (c) Timely access to medical care.
- (d) Timely access to legal resources.
- (e) Timely processing of arrestees.

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- (f) Full accountability for arrestees and evidence.
- (g) Coordination and cooperation with the prosecuting authority, jail and courts (see the Citation Releases Policy).

431.9 MEDIA RELATIONS

The Falls Church City Office of Communications should use all available avenues of communication, including press releases, briefings, press conferences and social media, to maintain open channels of communication with media representatives and the public about the status and progress of the event, taking all opportunities to reassure the public about the professional management of the event (see the Media Relations Policy).

431.10 DEMOBILIZATION

When appropriate, the Incident Commander or the authorized designee should implement a phased and orderly withdrawal of law enforcement resources. All relieved personnel should promptly complete any required reports, including use of force reports, and account for all issued equipment and vehicles to their supervisors prior to returning to normal operational duties.

431.11 POST EVENT

The Incident Commander should designate a member to assemble full documentation of the event, to include:

- (a) Operational plan.
- (b) Any incident logs.
- (c) Any assignment logs.
- (d) Vehicle, fuel, equipment and supply records.
- (e) Incident, arrest, use of force, injury and property damage reports.
- (f) Photographs, audio/video recordings, Emergency Communications Center records/tapes.
- (g) Media accounts (print and broadcast media).

431.11.1 AFTER-ACTION REPORTING

The Incident Commander should work with City legal counsel, as appropriate, to prepare a comprehensive after-action report of the event, explaining all incidents where force was used, to include:

- (a) Date, time and description of the event.
- (b) Actions taken and outcomes (e.g., injuries, property damage, arrests, costs).
- (c) Problems identified.
- (d) Significant events.

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- (e) Recommendations for improvement; opportunities for training should be documented in a generic manner, without identifying individuals or specific incidents, facts or circumstances.

431.12 TRAINING

Department members should receive periodic training regarding this policy, as well as the dynamics of crowd control and incident management. The Department should, when practicable, train with its external and mutual aid partners.

431.13 VIDEOTAPING GOVERNMENT FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Department employees have no reasonable expectation of privacy during the performance of their duties in public places and should not expect their actions to be shielded from public observation.

Members of the general public have a First Amendment right to make video, photographic, or sound recordings of department employees during official business in any public space unless such recordings interfere with public safety activity.

Members of the public recording police activities from a location where they have a legal right to be, shall not be told to discontinue the activity. Members shall not:

- Inform the person that recording is not allowed, or requires a permit;
- Order the person to stop recording;
- Demand the person identify himself or herself;
- Demand the person provide a reason for his or her activity;
- Detain the person;
- Intentionally block or obstruct cameras or recording devices; or
- Act in an intentional manner to threaten, intimidate, or otherwise discourage the person from recording activities.

Officers may engage in a consensual conversation with person's using video or photographic equipment to record employee activity.

Civil Disputes

432.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides members of the Falls Church Police Department with guidance for addressing conflicts between persons when no criminal investigation or enforcement action is warranted (e.g., civil matters), with the goal of minimizing any potential for violence or criminal acts.

The Domestic or Family Violence Policy will address specific legal mandates related to domestic violence court orders. References in this policy to "court orders" apply to any order of a court that does not require arrest or enforcement by the terms of the order or by Virginia law.

432.2 POLICY

The Falls Church Police Department recognizes that a law enforcement presence at a civil dispute can play an important role in the peace and safety of the community. Subject to available resources, members of this department will assist at the scene of civil disputes with the primary goal of safeguarding persons and property, preventing criminal activity and maintaining the peace. When handling civil disputes, members will remain impartial, maintain a calm presence, give consideration to all sides and refrain from giving legal or inappropriate advice.

432.3 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

When appropriate, members handling a civil dispute should encourage the involved parties to seek the assistance of resolution services or take the matter to the civil courts. Members must not become personally involved in disputes and shall at all times remain impartial.

While the following is not intended to be an exhaustive list, members should give consideration to the following when handling civil disputes:

- (a) Civil disputes tend to be confrontational and members should be alert that they can escalate to violence very quickly. De-escalation techniques should be used when appropriate.
- (b) Members should not dismiss alleged or observed criminal violations as a civil matter and should initiate the appropriate investigation and report when criminal activity is apparent.
- (c) Members shall not provide legal advice; however, when appropriate, members should inform the parties when they are at risk of violating criminal laws.
- (d) Members are reminded that they shall not enter a residence or other non-public location without legal authority.
- (e) Members should not take an unreasonable amount of time assisting in these matters and generally should contact a supervisor if it appears that peacekeeping efforts longer than 30 minutes are warranted.

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Civil Disputes

432.4 COURT ORDERS

Disputes involving court orders can be complex. Where no mandate exists for an officer to make an arrest for a violation of a court order, the matter should be addressed by documenting any apparent court order violation in a report. If there appears to be a more immediate need for enforcement action, the investigating officer should consult a supervisor prior to making any arrest.

If a person appears to be violating the terms of a court order but is disputing the validity of the order or its applicability, the investigating officer should document:

- (a) The person's knowledge of the court order or whether proof of service exists.
- (b) Any specific reason or rationale the involved person offers for not complying with the terms of the order.

A copy of the court order should be attached to the report when available. The report should be forwarded to the appropriate prosecutor. The report should also be forwarded to the court issuing the order with a notice that the report was also forwarded to the prosecutor for review.

432.4.1 STANDBY REQUESTS

Officers responding to a call for standby assistance to retrieve property should meet the person requesting assistance at a neutral location to discuss the process. The person should be advised that items that are disputed will not be allowed to be removed. The officer may advise the person to seek private legal advice as to the distribution of disputed property.

Officers should accompany the person to the location of the property. Officers should ask if the other party will allow removal of the property or whether the other party would remove the property.

If the other party is uncooperative, the person requesting standby assistance should be instructed to seek private legal advice and obtain a court order to obtain the items. Officers should not order the other party to allow entry or the removal of any items. If there is a restraining or similar order against the person requesting standby assistance, that person should be asked to leave the scene or they may be subject to arrest for violation of the order.

If the other party is not present at the location, the officer will not allow entry into the location or the removal of property from the location.

432.5 VEHICLES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY

Officers may be faced with disputes regarding possession or ownership of vehicles or other personal property. Officers may review documents provided by parties or available databases (e.g., vehicle registration), but should be aware that legal possession of vehicles or personal property can be complex. Generally, officers should not take any enforcement action unless a crime is apparent. The people and the vehicle or personal property involved should be identified and the incident documented.

432.6 REAL PROPERTY

Disputes over possession or occupancy of real property (e.g., land, homes, apartments) should generally be handled through a person seeking a court order.

Suspicious Activity Reporting

433.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for reporting and investigating suspicious and criminal activity.

433.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Involved party - An individual who has been observed engaging in suspicious activity, as defined in this policy, when no definitive criminal activity can be identified, thus precluding the person's identification as a suspect.

Suspicious activity - Any reported or observed activity that a member reasonably believes may have a nexus to any criminal act or attempted criminal act, or to foreign or domestic terrorism. Actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, age, cultural group, or disability should not be considered as factors that create suspicion (although these factors may be used as specific suspect descriptions). Examples of suspicious activity may include but are not limited to:

- Suspected pre-operational surveillance or intelligence gathering (e.g., photographing security features, asking questions about sensitive security-related subjects).
- Tests of security measures and response to incidents (e.g., "dry run," creating false alarms, attempts to enter secure areas without authorization).
- Suspicious purchases (e.g., purchasing large quantities of otherwise legal items, such as fertilizer, that could be used to create an explosive or other dangerous device).
- An individual in possession of such things as a hoax explosive or dispersal device, sensitive materials (e.g., passwords, access codes, classified government information), or coded or ciphered literature or correspondence.

Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) - An incident report used to document suspicious activity.

433.2 POLICY

The Falls Church Police Department recognizes the need to protect the public from criminal conduct and acts of terrorism and shall lawfully collect, maintain and disseminate information regarding suspicious activities, while safeguarding civil liberties and privacy protections.

433.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

The Criminal Investigation Section Commander and the authorized designees will manage SAR activities. Authorized designees should include supervisors who are responsible for department participation in criminal intelligence systems as outlined in the Criminal Organizations Policy.

The responsibilities of the Criminal Investigation Section include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Remaining familiar with those databases available to the department that would facilitate the purpose of this policy.

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- (b) Maintaining adequate training in the area of intelligence gathering to ensure no information is being maintained that would violate the law or civil rights of any individual.
- (c) Ensuring a process is available that would allow members to report relevant information. The process should be designed to promote efficient and quick reporting, and should not be cumbersome, duplicative or complicated.
- (d) Ensuring that members are made aware of the purpose and value of documenting information regarding suspicious activity, as well as the databases and other information resources that are available to the Department.
- (e) Ensuring that SAR information is appropriately disseminated to members in accordance with their job responsibilities.
- (f) Coordinating investigative follow-up, if appropriate.
- (g) Coordinating with any appropriate agency or fusion center.
- (h) Ensuring that, as resources are available, the Department conducts outreach that is designed to encourage community members to report suspicious activity and that outlines what they should look for and how they should report it (e.g., website, public service announcements).

433.4 REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION

Any department member receiving information regarding suspicious activity should take any necessary immediate and appropriate action, including a request for tactical response or immediate notification of specialized entities, when applicable. Any non-sworn member who receives such information should ensure that it is passed on to an officer in a timely manner.

If the suspicious activity is not directly related to a reportable crime, the member should prepare a SAR and include information about the involved parties and the circumstances of the incident. If, during any investigation an officer becomes aware of suspicious activity that is unrelated to the current investigation, the information should be documented separately in a SAR and not included in the original incident report. The report number of the original incident should be included in the SAR as a cross reference. A SAR should be processed as any other incident report.

433.5 HANDLING INFORMATION

The reporting officers shall ensure that their immediate supervisor and the appropriate section is notified in a timely manner.

Motorcycle Patrol

Effective Date:	5/1/23
Revised Date:	
Issuing Authority: Chief Mary Gavin	

434.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines for the Falls Church Police Department to safely and effectively use motorcycle patrol for the purpose of enhancing field patrol efforts in the community.

434.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Falls Church Police Department that patrol motorcycles may be used for regular patrol duty, traffic enforcement, escorts, and participation in special events. The use of the patrol motorcycle will emphasize officer mobility, response times, and department visibility in the community.

434.3 OPERATIONS

Motorcycle patrol has been shown to be an effective way to increase officer visibility in congested areas, and the use of a motorcycle can be a very effective tool in response to violations of the Virginia Motor Vehicle Code.

434.3.1 OBJECTIVES

Officers may operate Department motorcycles to accomplish the following objectives:

- (a) Conduct regular patrols and traffic enforcement.
- (b) Conduct special enforcement details as assigned.
- (c) Conduct escorts as assigned.
- (d) Participate in special events as assigned.
- (e) Participate in selected civic events, motorcycle demonstrations and safety competitions, and static displays to enhance and promote public relations, safety, and job awareness.

434.3.2 MOTORCYCLE OPERATIONS

- (a) Motorcycles shall only be operated by authorized officers, with the approval of their supervisor, and in accordance with all Department policies governing vehicle operation.
- (b) Motorcycles shall not be operated in inclement weather conditions which preclude safe operation. Inclement weather may include, but is not limited to: snow, ice, sleet, heavy rain, fog, high wind, and extreme cold or heat.
- (c) Motorcycles shall not be used to transport any rider other than the operator.

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- (d) Motorcycles shall be operated with the highest regard for safety.
- (e) Motorcycle officers shall conduct a safety inspection of the motorcycle prior to each use of the vehicle.

434.3.3 ADMINISTRATION

- (a) When participating in a special operation or event, the officer shall report to the Incident Commander or supervisor in charge of the event.
- (b) When assigned to traffic enforcement, escorts, or other patrol operations, the officer shall report to the on-duty shift supervisor.
- (c) At all other times, the officer shall report to their established supervisor through their chain of command.

434.4 SELECTION

Minimum qualifications for motorcycle assignment shall be determined and distributed by the Operations Commander when assignments become available. Interested officers who are off of probation should submit a memorandum to the Operations Division Commander. A copy will be forwarded to the motorcycle patrol coordinator.

Interested officers shall be evaluated by the following criteria:

- (a) Recognized competence and ability as evidenced by performance.
- (b) Special skills or training as it pertains to the assignment.
- (c) Good physical condition.
- (d) Willingness to perform duties using the motorcycle as a mode of transportation.

434.5 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Officers should operate the motorcycle in compliance with all applicable Virginia Motor Vehicle Codes under normal operation, unless their duties require otherwise.

Officers are exempt from the rules of the road under the following conditions (VA. Code §46.2-920):

- (a) In response to an emergency call.
- (b) While engaged in rescue operations.
- (c) In the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law.

434.6 MOTORCYCLE PATROL COORDINATOR

The Chief of Police shall delegate certain responsibilities to a motorcycle patrol coordinator. The coordinator shall be appointed by and directly responsible to the Operations Division Commander or the authorized designee.

The coordinator may appoint a senior motorcycle patrol officer or other designee to assist in the coordination of motorcycle patrol officers and their activities.

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The responsibilities of the coordinator include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Organizing motorcycle patrol training.
- (b) Inspecting and maintaining an inventory of patrol motorcycles and program equipment.
- (c) Inspecting, no less than every three months, motorcycles that are not in active service and documenting that they are in serviceable condition.
- (d) Scheduling maintenance and repairs.
- (e) Coordinating activities with the Operations Division.
- (f) Other activities as required to maintain the efficient operation of motorcycle patrol.

434.7 PATROL MOTORCYCLE

Only motorcycles approved by the Chief of Police for patrol use will be deployed as Department motorcycles. They shall be equipped with emergency lights, emergency sirens, and police markings, designed for use by patrol officers to increase visibility in the community. All Department motorcycles shall bear Department markings as determined by the Chief of Police. Officers operating a department motorcycle shall utilize portable radio to maintain constant communication.

434.7.1 MAINTENANCE

- (a) An officer assigned to a motorcycle shall be responsible for its appearance, condition, and maintenance. Minor maintenance, i.e. oil checks, cable and clutch checks, tire pressure checks, lightbulb replacement, and cleaning of the motorcycle, shall be the responsibility of the assigned officer.
- (b) No alterations shall be made to a Department motorcycle or any issued equipment without authorization from the Chief of Police.
- (c) Any damage to a Department motorcycle shall be reported immediately in accordance with all Department policies regarding Department vehicle damage or accidents.
- (d) All Department motorcycles shall be maintained in accordance with the preventative maintenance schedule recommended for the vehicle. It shall be the responsibility of the assigned officer to provide all inspection, inventory, and repair documentation for the assigned motorcycle to the fleet manager.

434.8 UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Officers shall wear uniforms and safety equipment in accordance with the Uniforms and Civilian Attire Policy.

434.8.1 UNIFORMS

The uniforms consist of the standard uniform shirt, or other department approved shirt, with Falls Church Police Department badge and patches.

Mandatory attire (during motorcycle operation) includes:

- (a) Department issued and Department of Transportation approved helmet.

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- (b) Reinforced trousers.
- (c) Department issued motorcycle uniform boots.

Optional attire may include, but is not limited to, a jacket in cold weather and turtleneck shirts or sweaters when worn under the uniform shirt.

434.8.2 EQUIPMENT

Each motorcycle shall be equipped with the following:

- (a) Emergency lights and siren
- (b) Police radio
- (c) Rifle rack
- (d) First aid kit
- (e) Other safety equipment as deemed necessary

No equipment other than that issued by the Department shall be installed on a Department motorcycle

Motorcycle patrol officers shall carry the same equipment on their duty belts as they would on regular patrol assignments. Assignment-safety equipment should include, but it not limited to a radio headset and microphone, riding gloves, and protective eyewear.

Officers will be responsible for obtaining the necessary forms, citation books, and other department equipment needed while on motorcycle patrol.

434.9 TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

Officers must obtain an operator's license with a motorcycle endorsement prior to being assigned to motorcycle operations. This license must be kept current while the officer is assigned to motorcycle operations.

Officers must attend and successfully complete a Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) approved Basic Motorcycle Operator Course prior to assignment.

Officers must attend and successfully complete annual in-service retraining in Police Motorcycle Operations.