



CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE

GENERAL POLICE ORDER



EFFECTIVE DATE: MARCH 20, 2023	CHAPTER: 4 - Field Operations	PAGE: 1 of 5	NUMBER: 4.07.03
SUBJECT: CROWD MANAGEMENT - MASS ARRESTS			
CHIEF: <i>Dornat A. Drummond, Chief</i>			

PURPOSE: To provide guidance for legally supported mass arrests by ensuring timely, accurate initial processing and identification of arrested persons and to employ procedures where advanced planning and information provides notice of circumstances where the potential for mass arrests reasonably exists.

POLICY: **It is the policy of the Cleveland Division of Police** to seek all reasonable alternatives to mass arrest situations when practicable, however on occasion the Division affirms that legally supported mass arrests may be necessary for the maintenance of order and the protection of the public.

DEFINITIONS:

Mass Arrest(s) - the act of arresting a number of people which is beyond the scope of the standard arrest procedure. Mass arrest cannot be accomplished practically with the standard arrest procedures and requires a specialized response, is most often associated with an unlawful congregation that constitutes a breach of the peace or any congregation where there is imminent danger of collective violence, destruction of property or other unlawful acts, and may also be the result of targeted police investigations where a large number of arrests are expected (Refer to General Police Order 4.07.01 Crowd Management - Definitions).

605.09 Unlawful Congregation -

(a) No person shall congregate with others on the sidewalk, street corner or within the parks or public grounds, with intent to provoke a breach of the peace, or whereby a breach of the peace may be occasioned by the serious annoyance to pedestrians or by threatening, insulting or abusive conduct, and refuse to move on when ordered by a police officer.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of unlawful congregation, a misdemeanor of the first degree.

PROCEDURES:

I. General Guidelines

A. The potential for mass arrests is associated with large scale events.

1. Mass arrests can be the result of any event where a group or groups of people are engaged in unlawful behavior. However, isolated unlawful behavior by individuals does not automatically form the basis for declaring an unlawful congregation (Refer to GPO 4.07.01 Crowd Management - General for dispersal orders when dealing with public congregations).

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2. Mass arrest procedures are designed to ensure efficient, effective arrests and processing of arrested persons without infringing upon the constitutional rights of arrestees.

B. The Division shall enforce the law while protecting the rights of all persons involved.

II. Incident Commander Responsibilities

A. The decision to initiate mass arrests shall be made only by the Incident Commander (IC) or their designee; as soon as conditions permit, normal arrest procedures will be reinstated.

B. The IC may only authorize mass arrests when there is probable cause to believe that the targets of mass arrests have committed an arrestable offense, and a dispersal order has been given, as provided in GPO.4.07.01 Crowd Management - General.

C. The IC shall:

1. Notify the Communications Control Section (CCS) when mass arrest procedures have been implemented.
2. Ensure arrangements are made for the following:
 - a. Contacting the Public Information Officer (PIO) for necessary media response.
 - b. Contacting appropriate outside agencies for required assistance.
 - c. Refer to GPO 4.07.02 Crowd Management - Incident Command System for direction and management protocols.

III. Arresting Officer/Arrest Team Responsibilities

A. Once the mass arrest order has been given, officers assigned by the IC or their designee shall:

1. Arrest individuals identified as suspects and verbally notify each identified person that they are under arrest.
2. Handcuff or zip tie all arrestees per GPO 3.01.01 Arrestee Restraint, Transport and Supervision.
3. Secure a pre-made adhesive sticker to the arrestee's person. The sticker shall indicate the date, time, and location of arrest as well as the names and badge numbers of the arresting officers and charges.
4. Advise all arrestees of their charges. Arrest teams shall be given the basic offenses to be charged for all arrests.

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5. Complete incident reports and related tasks (i.e., entering evidence, tagging videos, etc.) prior to reporting off duty.

B. Each officer on an arrest team shall be responsible for the number of arrests as set by their supervisor, barring exigent circumstances, to allow the officer to complete all necessary tasks in a timely manner.

C. Supervisors shall:

1. Ensure the recording of arrests in their entirety via the wearable camera system (WCS) including:

a. The transfer of the arrestee to transport officers.

b. A verbal confirmation of the arrest information from the arresting officers.

2. Advise the Cuyahoga County Corrections Center (CCCC) of the estimated number of arrestees that will be transported to their facilities.

IV. Arrestee Processing Center

A. Operation of the Arrestee Processing Center (APC) is vital to protect officers from possible allegations concerning officer actions and to ensure successful prosecution.

B. The IC or their designee shall assign a supervisor as the Superior Processing Officer.

C. The APC supervisor shall:

1. Be responsible for overall operation of the APC.

2. Select a site for the APC, approved by the IC or their designee. The availability of food, water, and sanitation facilities will be a factor in site selection.

3. Determine staffing needs to manage the APC; in some situations the IC may elect to assign this function to an outside agency.

4. Maintain clear and constant communication with the IC.

5. Ensure an accurate log of all persons brought to the APC is maintained and all dispositions recorded.

6. Ensure all officers are recording their actions via the WCS in event mode.

7. Coordinate with the Cleveland Division of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) for qualified personnel to remain at the APC.

a. Injured persons, including arrestees, shall be directed to EMS in an established field triage area for medical attention.

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- b. EMS shall determine if arrestees require transport to a hospital.
- D. Other APC Personnel responsibilities.
 - 1. Processing officers whose duties include the proper processing of arrestees.
 - 2. Security officers who are assigned to guard the APC area from the general public, prevent arrestee escape, and/or attempts to free arrestees.
 - 3. Transport officers.
 - a. A minimum of two officers shall be assigned to every transport vehicle.
 - b. Transport officers shall not accept arrestees without the proper field arrest documentation and shall ensure that all arrestee property is inventoried.
- E. The IC or their designee may make a mutual agreement with one or more outside agencies for personnel and equipment to transport arrestees from the APC to an alternate place of confinement.
- V. Arrestee Processing
 - A. Arrested persons shall be moved without delay to the APC by transport officers; transport officers shall verify proper documentation has been completed before transport.
 - B. Prior to being placed in a transport vehicle, transport officers shall search arrestees for weapons, evidence, and contraband.
 - 1. Any weapons, evidence, and contraband found shall be properly entered into evidence by the Property Unit and described in the incident report.
 - 2. Arrestees who are sitting or lying down but agree to walk shall be escorted to the transport vehicle.
 - 3. Two or more officers shall carry those who refuse to walk.
 - C. Upon arrival at the APC the arrestee shall be turned over to the processing officers; processing officers shall:
 - 1. Thoroughly search the arrestee again and any weapons, evidence, or contraband found shall be properly entered into evidence and described in the incident report.
 - 2. Obtain a LERMS arrest number.
 - 3. Complete a slap print card and obtain a DNA sample for felony arrestees (CCCC personnel shall collect DNA samples).

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4. Photograph or record via WCS the arrestee holding a dry erase board at chest level which clearly displays their name, LERMS arrest number, and the arresting officer(s) badge number(s).
5. Any weapons or other evidence will be photographed in the same manner with the dry erase board visible.
6. Place the arrestee in a secure area of the APC.
 - a. The arrestee shall remain in the secure area until transported to a place of confinement. All property shall accompany the arrestee to the place of confinement.
- D. Arrestees shall be moved to the confinement facility as soon as possible to alleviate any security concerns.
- E. All evidence shall be held at the APC until it can be transported to a Division facility for proper entry and storage by officers assigned to the Property Unit.
- F. Incident reports and related paperwork shall be presented to the prosecutor as soon as reasonable under the circumstances. Charging paperwork shall be forwarded to the Clerk of Courts Office to prevent any unreasonable delays.
 1. The IC is responsible for assigning this duty, and the Inspection Unit will follow-up and verify charging has occurred in LERMS.
 2. The Inspection Unit, within 24 hour, shall ensure all incident reports and related tasks have been completed in a timely manner. The IC shall be notified of any deficiencies.
- G. Refer to GPO 3.03.03 Juvenile Booking and Housing for additional guidance regarding juvenile arrestees.

THIS ORDER SUPERSEDES ANY PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DIRECTIVE OR POLICY FOR THIS SUBJECT AND WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE UNTIL RESCINDED OR SUPERSEDED.