

April 12, 2011

**CITY OF FERGUSON
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

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CIVIL DISTURBANCE AND MASS ARRESTS

493.00 PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish policy and procedure for Ferguson Police employees when confronted with a situation involving civil disturbance and mass arrests.

The City of Ferguson is often host to large events and gatherings. Events such as large concerts, athletic events and festivals can draw large crowds. The gatherings in the City of Ferguson are usually harmless; however, the potentiality remains that a peaceful gathering could result into civil unrest. Guidance beyond the scope of this General Order is found in GO 490.00 Emergency Operations / Unusual Occurrences.

493.01 POLICY

If a situation involving a large crowd begins to deteriorate, and civil unrest is imminent, a quick reaction from the department with adequate force is crucial. The department's use of force policy, General Order 410.00, will always be followed in combating a civil disturbance. The primary objective of the department shall be to control and ultimately disperse disruptive gatherings, while utilizing only that force necessary to overcome resistance to the mission objective. Under no circumstances shall officers resort to excessive force in the performance of their duties.

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493.02 RESPONSE

- A. The shift supervisor will assume the role of on-scene commander, unless the Chief of Police or DFO Commander has appointed a Special Event Supervisor. The on-scene commander will take appropriate action until relieved by a higher authority. Patrol units will stop all traffic into the affected area, with the exception of emergency personnel. Supervisory personnel will establish feasible objectives to combat the disturbance.
- B. The on-scene commander will use every effort to induce the leaders of the crowd to disperse before using force. If force becomes necessary, only the force necessary to accomplish the established objectives will be used.
- C. The field command post should not be within view of the crowd.
- D. The on-scene commander will consult with legal staff, if necessary, to discuss prosecutorial, court, and/or other legal considerations. If the civil disturbance occurs, the Municipal judge and city prosecutor should be notified. Defense counsel will not be permitted to access the scene or the field command post. Defense counsel may visit the client after he/she has been released or transported to the detention facility. Nothing in this statement shall imply that a defendant will be denied his/her constitutional right to counsel.

493.03 MASS ARRESTS

It may become necessary in a civil disturbance to conduct mass arrests. Police officers will conduct arrests in accordance with department procedures and constitutional requirements. If the number of arrests is beyond department capabilities, the Mayor, Chief of Police or his designee may contact the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Missouri National Guard and/or other agencies.

- A. **Arrest / Processing / Confinement -** Those individuals that are the most violent will be arrested first and removed from the scene as quickly as possible. Arrested subjects will be taken to the Ferguson Police Department and/or other designated facility for processing. In the event more space is needed to handle the abundance of prisoners. The St. Louis County Police Department can also be utilized in the event space is needed to house more prisoners. In all cases the arrested subjects will be properly booked and processed before making bond or confined in a holding facility. Communications personnel will notify the appropriate detention center that multiple prisoners are in route to the facility. The St. Louis County Police Department should be notified to assist in transporting, if necessary. Arrestees will be transported via

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patrol units, prisoner transport vans, or other means, as deemed appropriate by the on-scene commander. At all times, except during fingerprinting, arrested subjects will remain handcuffed and secure. Prisoner security and prisoner transport will be accomplished in accordance with the department policy governing prisoner transportation.

- B. **Juvenile Offenders** - In most cases, juveniles will be taken into custody and later released to their parents. Juveniles will be handled and processed in accordance with the department general orders governing juveniles. During processing, juveniles should be kept out of sight and sound from adult prisoners.
- C. **Evidence Collection** - Evidence, if any, will be secured in accordance with department general orders. If extensive collection is required, the on-scene commander should instruct communications personnel to contact the appropriate investigator.
- D. **Identification of Arrestees** - Arrestees must be positively identified prior to release on citation or bond.
- E. All persons arrested by the department will be fingerprinted and photographed.
 - 1. If the number of subjects arrested prohibits immediate booking by the arresting officer or detention center, the commander may order that the arresting officer, prior to releasing the suspect on citation at the detention site, take a picture of the suspect with an digital camera, and place the photograph in an evidence envelope. The officer will record at least the following information on the evidence envelope:
 - a. Date and time of arrest
 - b. Date of birth of suspect
 - c. Social Security Number of suspect
 - d. Charge(s)
 - e. Name of arresting officer
 - f. A right thumb fingerprint will be taken and placed on the back of the Summons
 - g. A video camera may be utilized to assist in recording identification information.

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E. In civil disturbance and mass arrest situations, arrestees with injuries or complaints of injury and/or illness will receive medical treatment and if necessary an examination for a Fit for Confinement shall be obtained in accordance with the General Order 473.00. If processing time is extensive, reasonable accommodations will be made to provide arrested subjects with food, water and sanitation facilities.

By order of:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colonel Thomas Jackson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Colonel" written in a smaller, enclosed circle at the beginning.

Distribution

All Department Personnel

COLONEL THOMAS JACKSON

Chief of Police