

**CITY OF FERGUSON  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE****Index as:**

Bureau of Operational Support, Organized Crime

Organized Crime

Vice

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**ORGANIZED CRIME AND VICE****496.00 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this General Order is to standardize investigative procedures for reports of organized crime and vice. Organized crime is criminal activity that is conducted on a large scale and is normally networked or organized throughout multiple jurisdictions and may frequently operate across state lines. "Vice" related crimes are offenses that primarily deal with illegal services sought by some elements of the community that are also considered to be in violation of public morals or decency. Examples of vice type crimes include prostitution, pornography, illegal drugs, and gambling.

These guidelines establish the Ferguson Police Department's organized crime and vice investigative functions and provide specific procedures directly governing that activity. Although the Bureau of Operational Support is primarily responsible for organized crime and vice investigations, it is the responsibility of every member of the Ferguson Police Department to combat this illegal activity.

**496.01 OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANIZED CRIME AND VICE CONTROL FUNCTION**

- A. The Department is committed to using the resources necessary to insure that an effective effort is made to suppress or deter organized crime and vice activity in the community. The general goals and objectives are:
1. Establish an effective network to gather information through the use of informants, department employees, other agencies and public contacts, to detect organized crime and vice activity within the community.
  2. Coordinate vice activity investigations with members of the St. Louis County Police Department's Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Agency (ATF), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and with other agencies when appropriate.
  3. Successfully prosecute any instances of organized crime or vice activities in Ferguson.

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4. Purchase or maintain access to advanced or sophisticated investigative electronic equipment that will support organized crime and vice investigations in the field.
5. Provide training to investigative personnel in the investigation and prosecution of organized crime.
6. Establish an attitude within the community that the police department will aggressively pursue organized crime and vice activity.

496.02 INVESTIGATIONS

A. **Responsibilities:** Responsibility for organized crime and vice control is vested in the Bureau of Operational Support. The Bureau of Operational Support Commander is responsible for delegating and managing organized crime and vice control activities. The BOS Commander will:

1. Coordinate investigations with the narcotics investigators concerning the sale and use of controllable drugs.
2. Coordinate investigations of illegal gambling.
3. Coordinate investigations of prostitution and pornography offenses.
4. Coordinate investigations of felony firearms violations.
5. Coordinate investigations of corruption, extortion, or bribery.
6. Develop and maintain intelligence information relating to organized crime and vice activities.
7. Act as a liaison to, and assist as is practical, with other law enforcement agencies
8. Maintain and care for investigative equipment used in the investigation of organized crime and vice offenses.
9. Provide necessary information to department members.

B. **Procedures for Organized Crime and Vice Investigations.**

1. The first phase in initiating a case is the receipt of information. Information regarding organized crime and vice shall be forwarded to the Bureau of Operational Support Commander.

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2. After information has been obtained, the officer receiving the information will complete an initial report or memorandum. The officer should verify as much of the information as possible.
  3. Once the report has been received by the Bureau of Operational Support Commander, a determination will be made if it should be assigned for investigation. If it involves drug activity it may be forwarded to the detectives or the detective assigned to the St. Louis County Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force. Copies of all reports will be maintained in the intelligence file.
  4. Criteria for initiating an investigation:
    - a. Is the information obtained believed to be valid?
    - b. What type of criminal activity is involved in the complaint?
    - c. What is the extent of danger posed to the investigator and the community?
    - d. What information currently exists about the activity or persons involved?
    - e. What investigative techniques, resources, and personnel will be required?
    - f. What operational problems might exist or arise during the operation?
    - g. Is the activity confined to Ferguson or does the activity extend to other jurisdictions?
  5. If information is forwarded to this Department from an outside agency, the Bureau Supervisor and/or Commander will assign an investigator to conduct an investigation. The investigator will submit findings to the Bureau Supervisor in the form of a memorandum or police report depending on the results of the investigation.
  6. Organized crime and vice investigations will not be initiated without the prior approval of the B.O.S. Commander.
- C. **Organized Crime/Vice Records.** Separate "active" and "unconfirmed" case files for organized crime and vice complaints will be maintained. All records are confidential.
1. Active case files consist of those complaints that have been determined valid or require investigation.
  2. Unconfirmed case files consist of reports which cannot be validated. The unconfirmed files shall be maintained for future corroboration of information.

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The files will remain in a secured file located in a B.O.S. office. If the information is later validated, the files will become active and assigned accordingly. Unconfirmed cases will be purged at the discretion of the B.O.S. Commander.

3. Active investigation reports will remain in the Bureau of Operational Support confidential file located in the B.O.S. office, until the investigation is concluded. Once complete, it will be entered into I.T.I. and transferred to the records unit only upon approval of the B.O.S. Commander.
4. Unless otherwise approved by the Chief of Police active confidential case information shall only be made available to members of Bureau of Operational Support, Commander of the Bureau of Operational Support and the Chief of Police.

**D. Coordinating Information.**

1. Members of the department not assigned to Bureau of Operational Support may generate information pertaining to organized crime or vice activities. If it pertains to narcotics activities, a report or memo will be completed by the department member and a copy will be forwarded to the B.O.S. Commander. If the information involves other organized crime or vice activities, the Bureau of Operational Support Commander shall brief the Chief of Police on available information.
2. If an organized crime or vice investigation is initiated, a progress report shall be submitted to the Chief of Police as deemed necessary by the B.O.S. Commander.
3. A report or memorandum may be completed as deemed appropriate by patrol officers on subjects suspected of involvement in organized crime or vice activity.
4. The Bureau of Operational Support Commander shall exchange intelligence information related to organized crime or vice activities with the Squad Commanders regarding active or pending investigations as deemed necessary by the B.O.S. Commander.
5. The Bureau of Operational Support supervisor/commander will inform patrol supervisors of any active or pending organized crime or vice operation that may require involvement by uniformed officers, or of circumstances that pose an immediate danger to the community.
6. The on-duty shift commander shall be notified of the type of location, number of officers working in an undercover capacity, and arrests to be made, and the completion of the operation.

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7. The Bureau of Operational Support Commander shall insure that patrol officers are periodically informed of the identity of persons known or believed to be involved in organized crime or vice and the current trends of this type of activity being conducted in the area.

By order of:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colonel Thomas Jackson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

COLONEL THOMAS JACKSON  
Chief of Police

Distribution

All Department Personnel