

400 PATROL FUNCTION

400.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to define the functions of the patrol unit of the Department to ensure intraorganizational cooperation and information sharing.

400.1.1 FUNCTION

Officers will generally patrol in clearly marked vehicles. They will patrol assigned jurisdictional areas of Columbia, identify community needs, provide support and assistance to the community, respond to calls for assistance, act as a deterrent to crime, enforce state and local laws and respond to emergencies 24 hours a day seven days a week.

Patrol will generally provide services within the limits of available resources. These include:

1. Patrol that is directed at the prevention of criminal acts, traffic violations and collisions, the maintenance of public order and the discovery of hazardous situations or conditions.
2. Crime prevention activities, such as residential inspections, business inspections and community presentations.
3. Calls for service, both routine and emergency.
4. Investigation of both criminal and non-criminal acts.
5. The apprehension of criminal offenders.
6. Community Oriented Policing and problem-solving activities, such as citizen assists and individual citizen contacts of a positive nature.
7. The sharing of information between the patrol and other bureaus within the Department, as well as other government agencies.
8. The application of resources to specific problems or situations within the community that may be improved or resolved by Community Oriented Policing and problem-solving strategies.
9. Traffic direction and control.

400.1.2 TERRORISM

It is the goal of the Columbia Police Department to make every reasonable effort to accurately and appropriately gather and report any information that may relate to either foreign or domestic terrorism. Officers should advise a supervisor as soon as practicable of any activity believed to be terrorism-related and should document such incidents with a written report or Field Interview (FI).

The supervisor should ensure that all terrorism-related reports and FIs are forwarded to the Investigation Unit supervisor in a timely fashion. The Investigation Unit supervisor shall review all terrorism-related reports as soon as practicable and contact the Missouri Office of Homeland Security when there is a reasonable suspicion that a terrorism threat exists.

400.2 PATROL INFORMATION SHARING PROCEDURES

The following guidelines are intended to develop and maintain intra-organizational cooperation and information flow between the various bureaus of the Columbia Police Department.

400.2.1 CRIME ANALYSIS UNIT

The Crime Analysis Unit will be the central unit for information exchange. Criminal information and reports can be submitted to the Records Unit for distribution to all bureaus within the Department through daily and special bulletins.

400.2.2 OFFENSE REPORTS

An offense report may be completed by any patrol officer who receives criminal information. The report will be processed and forwarded to the appropriate bureau for retention or follow-up investigation.

400.2.3 PATROL BRIEFINGS

Patrol supervisors, investigative sergeants and special unit sergeants are encouraged to share information as much as reasonably possible. All supervisors and/or officers will be provided an opportunity to share information through daily patrol briefings, as time permits.

400.2.5 POWER POINTS

A power point presentation will be kept in the briefing room and the Investigation Unit for display of suspect information, investigative reports and photographs. New Special Orders will be made available for patrol supervisors and will be discussed at briefings and shift meetings. A copy of the Special Order will be placed in the briefing room power point.

400.3 CROWDS, EVENTS AND GATHERINGS

Officers may encounter gatherings of people, including but not limited to, civil demonstrations, civic, social and business events, public displays, parades and sporting events. 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. Officers are encouraged to contact organizers or responsible persons to seek voluntary compliance that may address relevant public safety/order concerns.

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Officers should consider enforcement of applicable state and local laws when the activity blocks the entrance or egress of a facility or location and when voluntary compliance with the law is not achieved.