



## Demonstrations

### .01 Policy

Negotiation and collective bargaining are legally recognized methods of peacefully settling labor disputes. In such disputes, it is not the function of the Bladensburg Police Department to deal with the issues involved, but to protect the rights of the public and the disputants by enforcing the law and maintaining order.

Strikes and picketing are not violations of the law. It is the illegal acts that sometimes arise from these activities about which the Police Department is concerned. The Department's effectiveness is maintained by remaining impartial.

### .02 Terms

**Strike:** A job action during which workers refuse to work as a means to improve their working conditions or benefits.

**Picketing:** An action that involves one or more persons gathering to demonstrate their disagreement with an issue.

### .03 Governing Legislation and Reference

Governing Legislation:

U.S. Const. amend I.

Maryland Criminal Law Article, Section 3-904.

Forms: N/A

Reference:

General Order 113, Mutual Aid.

General Order 318, Video Recording of Police Activity.

### .04 Procedure

#### A. Strikes & Picketing

Officers will not usually be deployed at strike scenes. When such deployment becomes necessary, the Operations Commander will be responsible for deterring crime and keeping the peace.

#### Enforcement of Law

The Department seeks to minimize criminal violations connected with labor disputes by providing guidelines for the conduct of the parties. These guidelines shall be discussed with management and labor officials. These

officials shall be advised that the use of public sidewalks and roadways, the free access to public places, and the rights of persons to enter and leave private premises shall be preserved.

In cases where there is a violation of these rights, the Department will take prompt action. Violations of court orders and injunctions do not ordinarily constitute criminal offenses for which the Department will take enforcement action.

#### B. Demonstrations

Upon arrival at the scene of a demonstration, the patrol supervisor shall attempt to identify the leader or leaders of the group. If the leader is located, the supervisor shall communicate with the demonstrators through them. The demonstrators shall be advised regarding the laws governing the free movement of pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

The patrol supervisor shall direct that all violations cease immediately. If they do, no further police action shall be taken.

If the demonstrators do not comply and the supervisor determines that arrests are appropriate, he or she shall estimate the number of persons likely to be arrested and notify the operations commander. When the operations commander determines arrests are imminent, the operations commander shall request the appropriate assistance through Communications. Communications shall notify the Department of Corrections of the situation so additional detention facilities can be made available.

Once these notifications have been made, the patrol supervisor shall use a voice amplification system to announce to the crowd the following order:

"I (state your name) of the Bladensburg Police Department hereby inform all persons assembled that you are violating (state ordinance or law violated). I order all of you here assembled to disperse. Failure to do so shall subject each of you to arrest and prosecution."

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Allow a reasonable length of time to elapse for compliance then repeat the order. If the crowd does not disperse after the second announcement, the supervisor shall order the arrest of all remaining persons. All officers reporting to the scene of a demonstration shall be deployed in squads, under the direction of a supervisor. Personnel shall be divided into arrest teams. Teams may be rotated or relieved, as necessary, to avoid fatigue.

### C. Processing Mass Arrests

Alternatives to mass arrests should be actively sought whenever possible.

The State's Attorney's office will be contacted whenever mass arrests are contemplated. The incident commander will request that an Assistant State's Attorney be assigned to the incident command post to serve as an advisor for legal issues and considerations. If possible, mass arrests will not be made until the appropriate State's Attorney's office has been notified, appraised of the situation and consulted.

In the event that mass arrests must be made, the following guidelines apply:

- The primary processing site will be at police headquarters;
- Processing is the responsibility of the arresting officer. If the situation dictates, that responsibility may be reassigned by the incident commander;
- Processing of prisoners will be done in accordance with established policy;
- Prisoners will be handcuffed and searched for weapons and contraband prior to being transported. If there is an insufficient supply of handcuffs at the scene, flex-cuffs will be provided and used;
- If possible, prior to transporting the prisoner, a photograph should be taken of the prisoner and arresting officer together. This photo is in addition to any other photos necessary for processing;
- Should the number of persons exceed the transport capability of this Department, arrangements will be made with other agencies for assistance;
- Detention of prisoners can be accomplished by placing them in the secured rooms in the processing area. If additional space is needed, prisoners may be transported to the Prince George's County Police Department, District I Station;
- Arrested juveniles shall not be held in any area occupied by adult detainees;
- If the scope of the incident is beyond the capability of Bladensburg Police resources, the mass processing of prisoners, transportation and operation of temporary detention facilities will be carried out jointly by this Department and assisting agencies in accord with mutual aid agreements;
- Evidence collection and preservation is the responsibility of the incident commander;
- Whenever the number of prisoners exceeds the normal limits of the holding facility, arrangements must be made for adequate food, water and sanitation. Arrangements may include bringing in food and drinking water from commercial/ public sources, and arranging for portable toilet facilities at the detention area;
- Efforts must be made to provide each person detained an opportunity to have conversation with legal counsel; and,
- Prisoners injured or who become ill while detained will be given immediate medical attention.

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HISTORY: Adopted August 1, 2013

This General Order supersedes all other orders and memoranda in conflict therewith.

Authority:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles L. Owens". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being more prominent.

Charles L. Owens  
Chief of Police