

## CROWD CONTROL

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**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for managing crowds and preserving the peace during demonstrations, large gatherings, and the handling of civil disturbances.

**POLICY:** It is the policy of this Department to provide a law enforcement presence at assemblies and gatherings where disorderly conduct, riot, or unlawful conduct is probable. This will be conducted in a way that guarantees the constitutional rights of participants and promotes an orderly, lawful demonstration in the best interest of public safety and community harmony.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

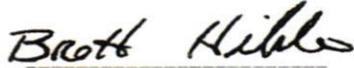
- I. **UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY:** A person commits the offense of unlawful assembly if he or she:
  - A. Assembles with two (2) or more other persons; and
  - B. Has the purpose of engaging in conduct constituting a riot.
  
- II. **RIOT:** A person commits the offense of riot if, with two (2) or more other persons, he or she knowingly engages in tumultuous or violent conduct that creates a substantial risk of:
  - A. Causing public alarm;
  - B. Disrupting the performance of a governmental function; or
  - C. Damaging or injuring property or a person.
  
- III. **DEMONSTRATION:** A legal assembly of persons organized primarily to express political or other views. These typically scheduled events allow for prior police planning. They include, but are not limited to marches, protests and other assemblies that are largely designed to attract the attention of onlookers, the media, and others. Demonstrations can evolve into civil disturbances that necessitate enforcement actions. Although crowd control may be necessary at sporting events, festivals, concerts, and related events, these are not defined as demonstrations.
  
- IV. **CROWD CONTROL:** Techniques used to address unlawful public assemblies, to include a show of force; crowd containment and dispersal equipment and strategies; and preparations for multiple arrests.
  
- V. **CROWD MANAGEMENT:** Techniques used to manage lawful assemblies before, during, and after the event for maintaining their lawful status as accomplished through event planning; pre-event contact with group leaders; and issuance of permits, intelligence gathering, personnel training, and other means.
  
- VI. **MOBILE FIELD FORCE (MFF):** An organized group of police officers led by a supervisor to provide a rapid, organized, and disciplined response to civil disorder, crowd control, or other tactical situations. Refer to policy JPD's Policy 13-12 Emergency Response Team (ERT).

### **PROCEDURES:**

- I. **CROWD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:** In order to accomplish crowd management, the department has established a Crowd Management Program (CMP). The goal of the CMP is to diffuse emotionally charged individuals and crowds and facilitate their right to demonstrate, while at the same time preventing the demonstration from escalating into a confrontation that threatens the safety of the demonstrators or the public. The Department will use techniques consistent with the Incident Command System or the National Incident Management System.  
Whenever possible, the Department will serve as facilitators in these types of demonstrations, ensuring that they are orderly in nature, while maintaining law enforcement impartiality and sensitivity to the dynamics of the demonstration. As a facilitator, the Department will seek the inclusion of responsible community leaders; media representatives; and concerned individuals and groups whose collective expertise may be channeled to achieve the lawful assembly of such demonstrations with minimum disruption to the public.
  
- II. **CIVIL DISTURBANCES:** Officers will preserve the peace, protect life and prevent the destruction of property, and remain impartial to all parties in a demonstration. Officers may take appropriate enforcement action when a demonstration violates the provisions of the State laws. Officers will notify supervisors when such demonstrations take place whenever they become aware of a demonstration and the on-duty supervisor will be dispatched to assess the situation and coordinate an effective response in concert with the Incident Commander.
  - A. **Responding Officer:** The first officer(s) on the scene of a civil disturbance will observe the situation from a safe distance; notify the Dispatch of the seriousness of the situation; notify a supervisor as soon as practical; request additional personnel; and attempt to identify, by observation, the leader of the group.
  - B. **Incident Commander:** The responding supervisor will assume command of the incident until relieved by a higher authority. Supervisors will assess the situation; establish a command post; inform Dispatch of pertinent information; and deploy necessary assets in the area.
  - C. **Riots:** When the Incident Commander has determined the crowd has become violent and destructive, requiring additional police action, additional law enforcement personnel shall be called for assistance to disperse the crowd. Such assistance may require that mutual aid from other agencies be brought in to assist with quelling the riot.
  - D. **Dispersal Order:** The goal of the dispersal order is to give those involved in an unlawful assembly an opportunity to peacefully leave. The dispersal order should be given prior to action being taken by the assembled Mobile Field Force Unit.
    1. **Before Giving the Order**
      - a. Declare the assembly unlawful
      - b. Ensure the officers are in place to support and direct the crowd's movement
      - c. The incident commander makes sure there are two or more officers at the rear of the crowd to ensure the dispersal order is audible. (Never send an officer into a crowd alone.)
      - d. It is recommended at least two officers go to the rear of the crowd, but if the crowd is hostile, more can be sent.
    2. **While Giving the Order**
      - a. When possible, give the dispersal order from multiple locations
      - b. When possible, give dispersal orders in English and in other languages that are appropriate for the audience
      - c. Specify egress or escape routes
      - d. Repeat the dispersal order before any action is taken
      - e. Record the dates, times, and locations of the dispersal order
    3. **Sample Dispersal Order**
      - a. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am \_\_\_\_\_(title) with the Jacksonville Police Department. You are occupying these premises unlawfully and without permission in violation of the Arkansas statute for Unlawful Assembly. I am ordering you to leave

the premises (give directions). If you do not leave, you will be arrested.

- III. Once sufficient assistance has mobilized, officers will form a Mobile Field Force: A mobile field force will be led by a supervisor and is normally deployed for the following assignments:
- A. To rescue police officers under hazardous conditions;
  - B. To apprehend multiple offenders (i.e. looters);
  - C. To isolate areas of civil disorder or disaster;
  - D. To control or disperse unruly crowds;
  - E. Other assignments as required; and
  - F. The department will conduct MFF training with all sworn personnel.



Brett C. Hibbs  
Chief of Police