
Public Order Events

464.1 POLICY

It is the policy of this Department not to unreasonably interfere with persons engaged in the lawful exercise of their rights, while also preserving the peace, protecting life and preventing the destruction of property.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Public Order Events Procedures Manual.

464.2 DEFINITIONS

Mobile Field Force: A rapid, organized response to events requiring specialized tactics to restore order and public safety. This response may or may not include POST officers initially.

Public Order Specialist Team (POST): A specialty team of officers trained and equipped to handle the planning and implementation phases of any Public Order operation.

464.3 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Individuals or groups present on the public way, such as public facilities, streets or walkways, generally have the right to assemble, rally, demonstrate, protest or otherwise express their views and opinions through varying forms of communication, including the distribution of printed matter.

These rights may be limited by laws or ordinances regulating such matters as the obstruction of individual or vehicle access or egress, trespass, noise, picketing, distribution of handbills and leafleting, and loitering. However, officers shall not take action or fail to take action based on the opinions being expressed.

Participant behavior during a demonstration or other public assembly can vary. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Lawful, constitutionally protected actions and speech.
- Civil disobedience (typically involving minor criminal acts).
- Criminal Mischief (rioting).

All of these behaviors may be present during the same event. Therefore, it is imperative that law enforcement actions are measured and appropriate for the behaviors officers may encounter. This

Public Order Events

is particularly critical if force is being used. Adaptable strategies and tactics are essential. The purpose of a law enforcement presence at the scene of public assemblies and demonstrations should be to preserve the peace, to protect life and prevent the destruction of property.

464.4 UNPLANNED EVENTS

For unplanned events, follow the procedures outlined in the Special Occurrences Manual under Appendix B-Civil Unrest/Disturbance Checklist.

464.5 PLANNED EVENT

For planned events, follow the procedures outlined in the Public Order Procedures Manual.

464.6 USE OF FORCE

Use of force is governed by current Department policy and applicable law.

464.7 TRAINING

Sworn personnel should receive periodic training regarding this policy, Mobile Field Force training, and the dynamics of crowd control and incident management as outlined in the Public Order Procedures Manual.

The Public Order Specialist Team will train in accordance with its Standard Operating Procedures in the Public Order Procedures Manual.