

12.160 RUMORS/POTENTIAL CIVIL DISTURBANCES

Reference:

Procedure 12.417 – Hate Crimes: Response to Racial, Religious, Ethnic/National Origin, or Sexual Orientation Bias Incidents
Civil Disturbance Response Team SOP

Definitions:

Civil Disturbance Response Team (CDRT) – The CDRT is a team of first line supervisors and grenadiers that respond to civil unrest. The team is trained in the “Mobile Field Force” concept and enhanced crowd control techniques, which includes the deployment of mobile field forces and less lethal munitions. The CDRT is generally deployed during a Planned Alert but can be deployed for an emerging civil unrest with the approval of the Patrol Bureau Commander or the CDRT Commander, if necessary.

Grenadier – A police officer who is trained and certified in the deployment of less lethal munitions.

Purpose:

Provide for the documentation, processing, and analyzing of rumors concerning racial problems, civil disturbances, other police problems or services.

Establish policies for handling incidents arising from or indicative of a racial nature and for protecting the civil rights of all citizens.

Establish responsibility and authority of Police Department and Cincinnati Human Relations Commission (CHRC) personnel during field situations.

Policy:

The Cincinnati Police Department will immediately investigate and document incidents of racial tension or civil disturbance.

Procedure:

- A. Processing Rumors Involving Racial Problems, Civil Disturbances, or Other Police Problems:
 1. All members of the Police Department are charged with the following responsibilities concerning rumors:
 - a. Obtain as many pertinent facts as possible.
 - b. Identify the person passing the information and the source of the information, if possible.
 - c. Assess the reliability and credibility of the informant.
 - d. Instruct the informant not to discuss the subject with anyone other than the police.

- e. Refrain from any words or actions which might lend credibility or incentive to the rumor.
2. Immediately telephone information involving racial problems, civil disturbances, or public safety issues (motorcycle gangs, terrorism, etc.) to the Intelligence Unit if received between 0800 and 1700 hours on weekdays.
 - a. During other hours, if the information is determined to need immediate investigation, a supervisor will notify the district commander, the Night Inspector, or the Duty Officer who will recall the Intelligence Unit, if necessary.
 - b. Document this information on a Form 17 with copies to the:
 - 1) Police Chief.
 - 2) Investigations Bureau Commander
 - 3) Patrol Bureau Commander
 - 4) Originating unit.
 - c. The Intelligence Unit will coordinate the investigation and evaluate the information in terms of providing intelligence to affected units or agencies.
- B. Racial Incidents:
1. The shift officer in charge (OIC) will respond to the scene. The OIC will evaluate the situation and request the Emergency Communications Section (ECS) dispatch the necessary personnel.
 - a. The Civil Disturbance Response Team (CDRT) may be utilized to assist with crowd management or control, or events with a potential for civil unrest, if necessary.
 - b. The OIC will use both white officers and black officers, male and female, in teams, when possible.
 - c. Officers will conduct themselves in a neutral, impartial manner. Exercise discreet judgment in policing incidents of this nature.
 - d. Remove the focal point of the crowd or incident from the scene as soon as possible.
 - e. Cooperate with members of the news media.
 - 1) Do not permit the media to take actions that would endanger their safety, the safety of police officers or the public.
 - 2) Access granted the media must be consistent with the needs and goals of public safety and order.
 2. The shift OIC will execute a Form 17 describing the nature of the incident and the action taken and forward copies to the:

- a. Police Chief
 - b. Investigations Bureau Commander, who will route the form to the Intelligence Unit.
 - c. Patrol Bureau Commander
 - d. Originating unit.
- C. Utilization of CHRC Field Representatives:
1. Upon learning a racial incident exists, the shift OIC may contact the following resources for assistance if necessary:
 - a. CHRC field representatives
 - b. Street advocates
 2. When CHRC personnel receive information which has the potential for creating a racial incident, they will notify the Patrol Bureau Commander as soon as practical.
 - a. The Patrol Bureau Commander will notify the appropriate command officers.
 3. If CHRC field representatives respond to the scene of an incident, the incident OIC will request CHRC submit a report of their observations and assessment of the incident to the Intelligence Unit Commander.
 4. District commanders may request CHRC field representatives assist in the resolution of various other community problems.
 - a. District commanders should submit a Form 17 to the Police Chief with the following information:
 - 1) Nature of the problem.
 - 2) Reason for requesting CHRC's assistance.
 - 3) An estimate of the number of work-hours expended by CHRC personnel.