
	MESQUITE POLICE DEPARTMENT
	244.00 CIVIL DISTURBANCES
	Effective Date: March, 2013
	Approved: _____  Chief of Police

I. Policy Statement

The primary goal when handling any civil disturbance incident is to contain, control, and resolve the conflict. Special attention should be given to citizens rights, and resolving the disturbance in a peaceful manner.

II. Procedure

A. Responding Officer(s)

1. Notify a supervisor immediately upon approaching large scale civil disturbances.
2. Officers should take a position to observe crowd behavior, but use caution in taking actions and report information to other responding units.
3. Officers should determine whether to take enforcement action or defer to a supervisor for a peaceful resolution. This decision should be made by considering the size of the suspect crowd, the resources available to the officer(s) at the time, and the need for action.
4. Officers should consider all options when dealing with legal protesters.
5. Looting and destruction of property should be dealt with according to law.
6. Officers should consider not entering large crowds alone to arrest offenders. Officers must evaluate the totality of the situation in order to make safe decisions for making arrests.
7. Officers should work as two man units, when communication capabilities are low or when the crowd is large.
8. Officers are encouraged to regroup and reevaluate the situation as needed.

B. Supervisors

1. Field supervisors should respond to the scene to evaluate the situation and make decisions of the necessity for additional units or equipment.
2. Field supervisor(s) should relay information to the Watch Commander.
3. When needed, the Watch Commander will become the incident commander and take control of the scene.
4. The Watch Commander will make appropriate notifications of the Chief of Police, the Tactical Team, and the Bureau Commander.
5. The Watch Commander may also evaluate the necessity for assistance from other departments within the city and other agencies outside the City of Mesquite.
6. The Watch Commander may also submit a request to the Chief of Police to activate the Emergency Operations Center in accordance to the Mesquite Emergency Activation Plan.

C. Public Safety Dispatchers

1. In the event of a significant civil disturbance, the Watch Commander may decide to move routine radio traffic to another channel, providing uninterrupted radio communications with field personnel involved in the disturbance.

D. Special Events

1. Planned events, such as large scale sales events at the mall and festivals, may require prior planning to prevent civil unrest.
2. The Chief of Police or his designee may design reaction plans for such events.
3. Large planned events require the use of separate radio channels for officer safety.

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