

# WEST PALM BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## III-4 LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE / PATROL

**EFFECTIVE: 01/01/2005**

CALEA Standards: 41.1.1, 41.2.1

CFA Standards: 17.01, 17.08

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**I. POLICY:** The West Palm Beach Police Department will provide the community with continuous law enforcement services 24 hours a day. Citizens can contact this Department at any time and receive an immediate response to emergency situations. This Department will employ staggered starting times for shift changes so that officers remain in the field while others begin and end their shifts.

### **II. PATROL SCHEDULES AND COVERAGE:**

A. The Patrol Division, Field Operations Bureau, is responsible for providing police services, protection, and response to emergency calls to the citizens of West Palm Beach on a 24 hour a day basis.

B. The Patrol Division will accomplish this by utilizing a four days on, four days off schedule consisting of 11.5 hour days as agreed in the current Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the Police Benevolent Association.

1. The schedule consists of four (4) platoons: "Days I", "Days II", "Nights I", and "Nights II."

a. When the "I" platoons are working, the "II" platoons are off and vice versa.

b. All personnel assigned to a platoon will work the same days and have the same days off within the schedule rotation.

2. Based on current manpower allocations, each platoon should consist of a minimum of 24 officers, four sergeants, and a lieutenant.

C. Each platoon is divided into shifts within the platoon. Shift changes are staggered to provide adequate manpower coverage during a shift change (Appendix A).

D. Officers not on an assignment will be notified by Dispatch Operations personnel to report to the station 15 minutes prior to the scheduled end of the shift.

E. Additional coverage is provided by operational units assigned to the Community Response Division within the Field Operations Bureau.

### **IV. LEVELS OF RESPONSE TO CALLS FOR SERVICE:**

A. CODE 1: This is the most common level of response. When responding to a call of a non-emergency nature, officers will observe and obey all traffic regulations, laws, and departmental policies and procedures. Officers will obey all parking laws upon arrival.

B. CODE 2: A response to an urgent, apparently non-life threatening situation.

1. Code 2 incidents generally require two units to respond. Code 2 incidents include, but are not limited to:

a. Crimes in progress when there is no apparent threat of injury or death to anyone.

b. Requests for back-up.

c. Alarm calls.

d. Domestic and other disturbances with impending violence, injuries, or weapons involved.

- e. Prowler calls.
  - f. Calls of people experiencing mental disorders.
  - g. Traffic crashes involving possible or reportedly minor injuries.
2. Emergency lights and siren will be activated when necessary.
- a. Factors to consider include traffic, time of day, weather, type of incident, etc.
  - b. The officer responding should, upon arrival in the area, discontinue the use of the siren and emergency lights and proceed safely.
3. Operation of vehicles without lighted lamps:
- a. The department authorizes the operation of police vehicles without lighted lamps as necessary to perform law enforcement functions as authorized in FSS 316.217.
  - b. Circumstances for the operation of a vehicle without lighted lamps include, but are not limited to:
    - 1. Response to calls for service where the use of lighted lamps may be an officer safety issue or hinder enforcement of the law.
    - 2. Routine patrol where the use of lighted lamps may hinder the detection or prevention of crime.
  - c. Members operating a police vehicle without lighted lamps will operate in a safe manner with due regard and safety of all.

C. CODE 3: A response to an “in progress” emergency.

- 1. Code 3 responses include, but are not limited to the following:
  - a. Traffic crashes that involve reported serious or possibly fatal injury,
  - b. In progress crimes of violence, such as sexual battery, homicide, assault with a weapon, etc.
  - c. Officers requesting urgent assistance,
  - d. Shots fired (the decision will be based on the area of occurrence, the number of calls, and any reported injuries, etc.)
- 2. Officers will respond as quickly and as safely as possible with emergency lights and siren activated continually until arrival at the assigned location.
- 3. The Field Supervisor may at any time upgrade Code 2 to Code 3, downgrade Code 3 to Code 2, or modify Code 2 or Code 3 to a given location and proceed Code 1 from there.

D. Any officer proceeding through any controlled intersection Code 2 or Code 3 will slow to a safe rate of speed or stop, if necessary. The officer should proceed into the intersection only if it appears opposing traffic has recognized and yielded to the emergency vehicle.

- 1. Even when units have the right of way, units should slow as necessary to proceed safely.
- 2. When proceeding Code 2 or Code 3 through a controlled intersection in opposition to the control device, the siren and emergency lights will be in operation continually through the intersection.

**V. REFERENCE:**

- F.S.S. 316.126(3)- Any authorized emergency vehicle, when en route to meet an existing emergency, will warn all other vehicular traffic along the emergency route by an audible signal, siren exhaust whistle, or other adequate device, or by a visible signal by the use of blue or red lights. While en route to such an emergency, the emergency vehicle will otherwise proceed in a manner consistent with the law regulating vehicular traffic upon the highways of this state.
- F.S.S. 316.126(5)- This section will not operate to relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway.
- F.S.S 316.217 This section covers the operation without the display of lighted lamps is necessary to the performance of a law enforcement officer's duties.
- SOP # III-23 Use of Authorized Emergency Equipment.

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**Delsa R. Bush, Chief of Police**

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History: SOP # changed to III-4 on 01/01/2005, SOP # changed to 17.01 on 06/01/1999  
Old SOP # 6.620.011 Patrol Schedule and Coverage, 6.620.030 Emergency, Urgent, Routine Calls  
Revision Dates: 06/01/99, 08/01/1999, 12/15/1999, 01/01/2005

Job Title Task Files: Dispatch Operations

**Appendix A**

1. Early Shift - Days I and II: 0530-1700 Nights I and II: 1700-0430
2. Late Shift - Days I and II: 0730-1900 Nights I and II: 1900-0630