



# Waukesha Police Department

## Guidance on Response to Protests



- I. **Purpose:** This guidance is used when the Waukesha Police Department responds to a Protest. Protests are non-criminal assemblies, protected by our First Amendment, which allows citizens the “freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances. Our mindset should be one that facilitates their right to lawful assembly while being professional
- II. The Waukesha Police Department shall use the **RESPOND** model when getting information of a protest in the City. During the Report and Evaluate stage, the Incident Commander (IC) will determine the propensity of the protest for injury or damage to property and determine if there is any nexus to criminal activity. Furthermore, the IC will determine if there are any further resources needed to ensure the safety of the public and the safety of the protesters.
  - a. If the protest is non-criminal, non-violent, and does not present an immediate threat of injury or damage to property, we will monitor the protest and provide traffic control when needed to ensure the safety of the public.
    - i. Pedestrians will be **allowed** to use sections of the roadway, or sidewalk, but WKPD will not allow vehicles that are participating in the protest to drive recklessly. Vehicles that travel into oncoming traffic or create a safety hazard to our citizens should be stopped (with stop sticks if needed).
  - b. If the initial assessment presents criminal violations that represent an immediate threat of injury or damage to property, additional resources shall be summoned in emergency fashion and the Civil Disturbance SOP shall be followed.
    - i. When making decisions to act balance the justification of your action versus the desirability to take that action within the context of a protest environment.
    - ii. No citizen can strike you, or your partners, or a member of the public. We do not expect you to tolerate such a threat without defending yourself and safely bringing it under control.
    - iii. No citizen can threaten your safety, or your partners, or a member of the public by throwing objects at you. You may take reasonable actions to defend yourselves, take them into custody, or mitigate that behavior.
    - iv. No citizen will intentionally damage our squads or other PD property.
    - v. No citizen will intentionally damage private property.
    - vi. Use a reasonable amount of force when facing situations that require it.



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### III. Tasks and Purposes:

#### a. Dispatch

- i. Whenever dispatch receives information about protest activity, a call will be create and two squads will be dispatched to the area to make initial observations.
- ii. Upon hearing of protest activity, the other on-duty squads should begin responding to the area to assist. The first two squads to the area should call on-scene and begin making observations on what level of resources are required to address the protest. All remaining squads should go 10-60 and remain out of visual line of sight.
- iii. If road closures are required, dispatch should consider using Facebook to inform the community of the closures. The posts should not include information on the protest, rather, focus on providing information to the uninvolved citizens on how to navigate around the closures.
- iv. Dispatch shall notify the on-duty supervisor.

#### b. Responding Officers

- a. When safe to do so, approach the participants and establish dialogue. We should maintain dialogue throughout the protest. The dialogue should include an attempt to determine the protestors intentions and a request for cooperation.
- b. Provide necessary information to dispatch to keep the media and citizens informed.
- c. Attempt to establish a dedicated route and keep funneling the protesters through intersections. This movement allows us to maintain traffic control and prepare for upcoming intersections.
  - i. If protesters do not agree to the established route we will-adjust traffic control to the protest movement.
- d. Intelligence Gathering- Officer should be cognizant of opportunities to gather intelligence. This intelligence can be useful in holding people accountable for violations of law and/or serve as a predictive tool to allow us to monitor upcoming situations that might require police involvement.



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- i. When available, deploy DTECH to make aerial observations of the group and record their actions.
- ii. Use CEFU an/or CID resources to take photographs of the people and activity.
- iii. Record plates of vehicles when visible without intervention.
- iv. Deploy available resources to the beginning and ending location of the protest to obtain plates, vehicle information, etc.