

Patrol

400.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to define the patrol function and address intraorganizational cooperation and information sharing.

400.2 POLICY

The Town of Cheektowaga Police Department provides patrol services 24 hours a day, seven days a week and will prioritize responses to requests for emergency services using available resources to enhance the safety of the public and department members.

400.3 PATROL AREAS & MAP

The Town will be divided into five (5) Districts with support cars manned by one (1) or two (2) officers depending upon manpower and day's activities. These Districts are as follows:

- (a) William
- (b) French
- (c) Midtown
- (d) Harlem
- (e) Airport

When manpower allows, the Shift Supervisor can further assign one or more cars as support cars and give them either a North Side support or South Side support responsibility. The designated boundary for N/S and S/S support cars will be Broadway Avenue. The Chief of Police will periodically review patrol districts and coverage based on crime statistics and make changes as necessary to best serve the community.

DISTRICT CAR - Marked Patrol Unit whose primary area of cover-age is within designated District.

SUPPORT CAR - Marked/Unmarked Patrol Car given either north side support (Broadway and streets north) and South Side support (Broadway and streets south)

SUPERVISOR CAR - Four Marked Patrol Units assigned to Patrol Lieutenant and Sergeants.

TRAFFIC CAR - Two Marked Patrol Units assigned, one unmarked Patrol Unit Equipped with radar and will be primarily assigned to Traffic enforcement and accident investigation. Each unit will assist in police functions up to and including taking routine reports and complaints.

MC - Motorcycle - only officers possessing motorcycle licenses and those trained in operation of this unit will be assigned.

K-9 Car 9 Marked Patrol Unit, assigned to K-9 officer and K-9 dog.

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BICYCLE PATROL - Assigned to seasonal park, mall, business district, high crime areas, weather permitted. Duties include enforcing local ordinances and laws, assist citizens, check parking lots in malls and do other work as directed.

VARIOUS UNMARKED CARS - Used for selective enforcement based on manpower and needs. Patrol officers may be assigned in uniform or in plain clothes.

NOTE: Due to yearly changeover in vehicles, accidents and re-assignments, vehicle numbers will change but their patrol assignments will not.

400.4 FUNCTION

Patrol will generally be conducted by uniformed officers in clearly marked law enforcement vehicles in assigned jurisdictional areas of Cheektowaga. The function of patrol is to respond to calls for assistance and reports of criminal activity, act as a deterrent to crime, enforce state and local laws, identify community needs, provide support and assistance to the community and respond to emergencies. It is the responsibility of patrol officers to handle the preliminary phase of an investigation. In most instances, patrol officers respond to and make preliminary investigations as far as it is possible, up to and including arresting the offender. However, in some cases, the follow-through to the point of arrest is not possible. It is at this stage of the investigation that the Detective Bureau will begin a follow-up. The preliminary investigation will end when the patrol officer has exhausted police action at his/her immediate disposal. Consideration should be given to such factors as expertise (knowledge and skills), time (sufficient manpower available), and the degree of seriousness of the offense. The Cheektowaga Police Department believes in proactive police service and of giving our officers the means and tools available to seeing an investigation through to its end.

Patrol services include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Responding to emergency calls for service.
- (b) Apprehending criminal offenders.
- (c) Providing mutual aid and assistance to other agencies for emergency and law enforcement-related activities.
- (d) Preventing criminal acts, traffic violations and collisions, maintaining public order and discovering hazardous situations or conditions.
- (e) Responding to reports of both criminal and non-criminal acts..
- (f) Responding to routine calls for service, such as public assistance or public safety.
- (g) Directing and controlling traffic.
- (h) Carrying out crime prevention activities, such as residential inspections, business inspections and community presentations.
- (i) Carrying out community-oriented policing and problem-solving activities, including the application of resources to improve or resolve specific problems or situations and contacting or assisting members of the public in a positive way.

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- (j) Identifying and/or responding to calls for service regarding hazardous highway conditions, requesting notification to the appropriate municipal or private agency regarding the hazard, and, if necessary, mitigating the hazard through the use of traffic flares or cones.

400.5 FOLLOW-UP

When further investigation by Patrol Division is indicated, it shall be the responsibility of the Patrol Supervisor making the determination, to ensure that the follow - up investigation is documented in a complete and timely manner by the investigating officer completing a police report. When further investigation is delegated to the Detective Bureau, that case status will be clearly noted on the police report, as to follow-up and by what division, signed by the shift supervisor.

400.6 INFORMATION SHARING

To the extent feasible, all information relevant to the mission of the Department should be shared among all divisions and specialized units on a timely basis. Members should be provided with opportunities on a regular basis to share information during the daily briefings and to attend briefings of other divisions or specialized units.

Additionally, information should be shared with outside agencies and the public in conformance with department policies and applicable laws. Members are encouraged to share information with other units and divisions.

400.7 CROWDS, EVENTS AND GATHERINGS

Officers may encounter gatherings of people, including, but not limited to, civil demonstrations, public displays, parades, sporting events and civic, social and business events. Officers should monitor such events as time permits in an effort to keep the peace and protect the safety and rights of those present. A patrol supervisor should be notified when it becomes reasonably foreseeable that such an event may require increased monitoring, contact or intervention.

Officers responding to an event or gathering that warrants law enforcement involvement should carefully balance the speech and association rights of those present with applicable public safety concerns before taking enforcement action.

Generally, officers should consider seeking compliance through advisements and warnings for minor violations, and should reserve greater enforcement options for more serious violations or when voluntary compliance with the law is not achieved.

Officers are encouraged to contact organizers or responsible persons to seek voluntary compliance that may address relevant public safety concerns.