

ASHEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY MANUAL

Chapter: 8 - Patrol Operations

Policy: 803 - Escorts

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

POLICY STATEMENT

RULES AND PROCEDURES

803.1 GENERAL

803.2 NON-EMERGENCY ESCORTS

803.3 EMERGENCY ESCORTS

803.4 PASSENGER ESCORTS

ASSOCIATED DIRECTIVES

[Policy 502 - Involuntary Commitments](#)

[Policy 701 - Emergency Response](#)

[Policy 703 - Department Vehicles](#)

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this policy is to provide procedures for vehicle escorts provided by the department and ensure they are conducted in a manner that ensures the safety of participants and others.

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Asheville Police Department (APD) that, under certain circumstances, department members may escort vehicles or provide passenger escorts with due regard for the safety of all individuals. [61.3.3]

RULES AND PROCEDURES

803.1 GENERAL

- A. The department will provide escorts [when requested and feasible](#).
- B. All escorts must be done [with a department vehicle equipped with emergency lights and a siren](#).

- C. Officers must refuse any escort which presents an unreasonable hazard to their safety or that of the public after consulting with their supervisor. The primary concern in all escorts is to ensure the safety of the officers involved, the persons being escorted, and the public.

803.2 NON-EMERGENCY VEHICULAR ESCORTS

- A. Pre-planned non-emergency escort requests, including but not limited to parades, races, public officials, and other special events/circumstances, will be processed through the department's contracted extra-duty provider or the Patrol Executive Officer or designee, as appropriate.
- B. Escort assistance will be provided to Federal authorities (e.g., Secret Service or FBI) when requested to ensure the safety of a dignitary. Dignitary escorts will be coordinated in conjunction with the security detail for the officials.
- C. Requests for the escort of hazardous, chemical, nuclear material, or other unusual cargo will be coordinated via the Patrol Executive Officer and/or designee. If an escort request is immediate and time-sensitive, it will be forwarded to the on-duty Watch Commander.
- D. Upon approval by the Chief of Police or designee, escort services may be provided in other special or unusual circumstances to ensure the safety of the public, public officials, or other special parties.
- E. The department does not routinely conduct funeral escorts. Exceptions may be made for special requests with prior approval from the Chief of Police or designee.
- F. **Police vehicles actively involved in traffic control during an escort assignment will have their emergency lighting equipment in operation at all times.** Intermittent use of the siren may be required as a warning to other motorists. No escorted vehicle will be permitted to exceed the posted speed limits.

803.3 EMERGENCY VEHICULAR ESCORTS

- A. Emergency escorts must comply with [Policy 701 - Emergency Response](#).
- B. Any emergency escort must be conducted safely and reasonably. Officers will terminate emergency escorts and resume normal vehicle operations when, in their opinion or upon the command of a supervisor, it is deemed that continuation of the escort would constitute an unacceptable risk to the public or the officer.
- C. Officers may provide escorts to emergency vehicles with a supervisor's approval. These include emergency blood or organ transfers, ambulance, or fire escorts. The vehicle the officer is escorting must be operating emergency lights and sirens (**unless the vehicle being escorted is experiencing emergency equipment malfunction**).

D. Escorts for civilian vehicles during a medical emergency are generally prohibited. Officers will escort civilian vehicles in full compliance with all traffic laws.

Employees discovering a citizen requiring or requesting transportation to a medical facility will immediately request an ambulance or other appropriate emergency service. First aid should be administered as practical.

1. In extreme circumstances, such as natural or man-made disasters where no other medical resources are available, officers may provide an escort for a civilian vehicle but only upon receiving permission from a supervisor.

803.4 PASSENGER ESCORTS

- A. When providing passenger escorts, officers will follow all guidelines in [Policy 703 - Department Vehicles](#), including the use of passenger safety restraints.
- B. Officers may provide non-emergency transportation to individuals within the city limits at their discretion. Examples include, but are not limited to, providing individuals transportation to a safer location or to access immediately needed services (e.g., victim services/mental health services). Transportation for an involuntary commitment will be handled per [Policy 502 - Involuntary Commitments](#).
- C. Before transporting any individual, officers will provide the Communications Center with information to document the escort as a call for service, including the transport origin, transport destination, and vehicle mileage readings before and after transport.
- D. In most situations, an ambulance or other appropriate emergency service should be called to transport sick or injured individuals to a medical facility. Officers may transport individuals for medical treatment in the following circumstances:
 1. A City of Asheville employee injured in the performance of duty may be transported in a public vehicle for **medical** treatment if, in the judgment of the officer, such transportation would not result in additional injury; and
 2. A **detainee** whose jail confinement is contingent upon receipt of medical treatment may be transported in a public vehicle for **non-emergency** treatment if, in the officer's judgment, such transportation would not result in additional injury.
 3. Officers will not transport severely sick or injured individuals except in exceptional circumstances and with the approval of a supervisor.

BY ORDER OF:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Zack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Zack
Chief of Police