

Asheville Police Department Policy Manual

Chapter: 8 - Patrol Operations

Policy: 803 - Escorts

Previously: 1132 - Escorts

Original Issue: 2/1/1995

Last Revision: 11/28/2022



Contents

Introduction

Policy Statement

Rules and Procedures

803.1 General Escorts

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 department-provided escorts and [ensure](#) they are conducted in a manner that protects 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 Escorts

- 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 that poses an unreasonable hazard to their safety or the public's safety 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 (for example, the Secret Service or the FBI) upon request to ensure the safety of a dignitary. Dignitary escorts will be coordinated in conjunction with the security detail for the officials.
- C. Requests for escorting hazardous, chemical, nuclear, or other unusual cargo will be coordinated with 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 siren use may be required to warn 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 a supervisor's command, they deem that continuing 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 its emergency lights and sirens (unless the vehicle is experiencing an 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 who requires or requests transportation to a medical facility will immediately request an ambulance or other appropriate emergency service. First aid should be administered as practically as possible.

1. In extreme circumstances, such as natural or man-made disasters in which no other medical resources are available, officers may provide an escort for a civilian vehicle 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 in accordance with [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 confinement in jail 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 that reads "David J. Zack". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "Z".

David Zack
Chief of Police