



Policy 701

Subject

DEPARTMENTAL RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Date Published

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By Order of the Police Commissioner

POLICY

1. **Officer Safety.** Members of the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) shall adhere to the strict radio usage protocols contained in this Policy for purposes of officer safety.
2. **Transparency and Accountability.** Adherence to this Policy promotes accountability and transparency by establishing a record of BPD activity.
3. **Courteous and Professional.** All transmissions via police radio shall be courteous, professional, clear and concise. Radio communications are archived as public records, subject to disclosure through the discovery process and Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) requests.

REQUIRED ACTION

Member

1. Comply with the verbal directives of the Communications Section dispatcher and your supervisor, unless re-directed by higher authority, and respond immediately to the scene of a dispatched call for police service.
2. All members equipped with a body-worn camera (BWC) must call "10-61" when activating and call "10-62" when de-activating the BWC (see Policy 824, *Body Worn Cameras*).
 - 2.1. The BWC shall be activated at the initiation of a call for service or other activity or encounter that is investigative or enforcement-related in nature, or
 - 2.2. During any encounter with the public that becomes confrontational.
 - 2.3. The BWC must be activated immediately upon receipt of or response to any in-progress call, or activity likely to require immediate enforcement action, prior to or upon arrival (e.g., in progress or just occurred armed robbery, armed person, aggravated assault, etc.).
 - 2.4. The BWC shall be activated upon arrival for routine, non-emergency calls for service (e.g., larceny from auto report, destruction of property report, Signal 30, etc.).

3. Upon arrival to any call for service, "On-View incident," or the scene of police activity, advise the Communications Section dispatcher of your call number and that you are "10-23."

NOTE: Notification of "10-23" must be made verbally via police radio. A verbal "10-23" acts as a notification to supervisors, the dispatcher and other responding units that an officer is on the scene.

4. In multiple officer units, all members shall individually call "10-23" and "10-61" (if equipped with a BWC) and investigate all calls for service, sharing equal responsibility.
5. When the required on-scene activity is complete, advise the dispatcher you are "10-8 and, if applicable, that the BWC is "10-62."
6. When placing yourself out of service, advise the dispatcher, provide your location, and call "10-7."
7. Upon leaving your post, even when remaining in-service, request/advise the dispatcher of the reason and your destination. However, when leaving your post to patrol another post or sector upon the direction of your supervisor, or dispatcher, you need not inform the dispatcher.

Supervisor

1. Monitor officers' communications via police radio.
2. Ensure officers call "10-23," "10-8," and "10-7."
3. Ensure officers notify the dispatcher when activating and de-activating their BWC by calling "10-61" and "10-62."

Communications Section Dispatcher

1. Control BPD radio traffic.
2. Dispatch calls for service based on the priority status of the call and exigency.
3. Remind members to call "10-23," "10-61," and "10-62."
4. Notify the member's supervisor when a member repeatedly or routinely fails to utilize proper "10 codes."

APPENDIX

- A. Official Baltimore Police Department Codes and Signals

ASSOCIATED POLICIES

Policy 824, *Body Worn Cameras*

COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

This Policy is effective on the date listed herein. Each employee is responsible for complying with the contents of this policy.

APPENDIX A

Official Baltimore Police Department Codes and Signals, Form 123

Form 37/123
Revised 9/16**OFFICIAL BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT CODES AND SIGNALS**

WMPY	Replaces Headquarters or Radio	10-26	Request change to City Wide Channel	10-46	Permission granted
10-1	Transmission Check	10-27	Driver's license information	10-47	Negative
10-2	Signal is good	10-28	Vehicle registration information	10-48	Positive
10-3	Signal is poor	10-29	Check records for wanted	10-49	Hourly call – give 10-20
10-4	Acknowledgement	10-30	Person or vehicle is wanted, use caution	10-50	Helicopter landing status and 10-20
10-5	Failed to acknowledge	10-31	Crime in progress	10-50 Green	Green – Normal landing (not heliport)
10-6	Stand-by-busy, unless urgent	10-32	Sufficient Units on scene, return to posts	10-50 Amber	Amber – Precautionary landing (minor malfunction)
10-7	Out of Service, give 10-20	10-33	Emergency	10-50 Red	Red – Emergency landing (damage or injury likely)
10-8	In-service	10-34	Major civil disturbance in progress	10-61	BWC activated
10-9	Repeat	10-35	Major crime alert	10-62	BWC de-activated
10-11	Meet at ...	10-36	Standby to copy description	10-80	Positive match Terrorism related... Followed by CODE1, 2, 3, or 4.
10-12	Not available	10-37	Request tow truck	10-80 CODE 1	Subject is confirmed associate with terrorism with a valid outstanding arrest warrant, make arrest
Signal 13	Assist an officer- preceded by alert tone	10-38	Request ambulance (responding advise)	10-80 CODE 2	Subject is of an investigative interest with association with terrorism
10-14	Wagon run	10-39	Disabled departmental vehicle, give 10-20 and vehicle shop number	10-80 CODE 3	Individual may have possible ties with terrorism
10-15	Urgent Wagon run	10-40	Request Crime Laboratory	10-80 CODE 4	Identity provided by this subject may have possible ties with terrorism
10-16	Back up unit__	10-41	Request Impound Truck	10-90	Looting (for a second or third day, etc., use even numbers in series 92, 94, etc.)
10-17	Call unit assigned	10-42	Request Animal Shelter	10-91	Sniping and/or shooting (for a second or third day, etc., use odd numbers in series 93, 95, etc.)
10-18	Go into unit assigned to	10-43	Malfunctioning Traffic Signal:	Signal 30	Accident, no injury
10-19	Return to _____		A – Signal completely out	Signal 31	Accident, personal injury
10-20	Location		B – Red signal out	Signal 32	Accident, fatal
10-21	Call ___ (other than 10-17)		C – Signal sticking	Signal 34	Accident, Departmental, no injury
10-22	Disregard		D – Stop sign or Yield sign down or missing	Signal 35	Accident, Departmental, personal injury
10-23	Arrived at scene.	10-44	Request Permission to__	Signal 40	Assist Fire Dept. – preceded by alert tone
10-25	Stopping suspicious vehicle give 10-20, tag#, etc.	10-45	Permission denied		