

	BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE GENERAL ORDER	Distribution	General Order Number
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Order Title: PUBLIC INFORMATION – MEDIA RELATIONS		Accreditation Standard:	Section
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		Section Title ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT	
Rescinds: 3.5.3.1 - 3.5.3.5, 3.5.3.5.1, 3.5.3.5.2, 3.5.3.6.1, 3.5.3.6.2, 3.5.3.7 - 3.5.3.10		Armando J. Perez, Chief of Police	

This General Order is for departmental use only and does not apply in any criminal or civil proceeding. This General Order should not be construed as creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this General Order will only form the basis for departmental administrative sanctions. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish a written directive which describes the Bridgeport Police Department’s policies, guidelines, and procedures regarding the release of information to the news media and the public.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Bridgeport Police Department to establish a public information function, and to describe procedures to carry out these activities. The media will be permitted to pursue their activities within the confines of the law and without interference from police personnel. The Department will cooperate fully and impartially when dealing with the media and provide an unhindered flow of accurate and factual information in a timely and unbiased manner about Department activities and matters of public interest, as long as the tasks of the media or the release of this information does not interfere with the Department operation or infringe on the rights of persons involved. Shift Commanders are primarily responsible for releasing information to the media regarding patrol related activities; and Division Commanders are responsible for releasing information relative to the function and or operations of their specific division.

III. DEFINITIONS

Public Information: Information that may be of interest to the general public regarding policy, procedures, or events involving the Department or other newsworthy information that is not legally protected, does not unduly interfere with the mission of the Department, infringe upon the rights of a defendant or compromise the legitimate safety and privacy interests of officers, victims, witnesses, or others.

Public Record: In accordance with applicable Connecticut statutes, including the Freedom of Information Act, a Public Record is generally defined as all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, tapes, photographs, films, sound recordings, or other material regardless of physical form or characteristics made or received pursuant to law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business by a public agency, with defined exceptions set out in the statute.

News Media Representatives: Individuals who are directly employed by agencies of the electronic or print media such as radio, television and newspapers. Freelance workers in this field are to be regarded as other members of the general public unless otherwise designated by the Chief of Police, or designee.

Public Information Representative (PIR): Individual who is designated by the Chief of Police to serve as a central source of information for release by the Department and responds to requests for information by the news media and the public.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Public Information Function

1) Introduction

The Department values a good rapport with the media and recognizes the public's right to the accessibility of public records, pursuant to the public records laws. Information will be released to the news media without partiality, and in a timely manner as required by law. No member of this Department shall delay the release of information in order to favor any particular news media representative or agency, nor shall they seek publicity through the news media or furnish information for the express purpose of seeking personal notoriety.

2) Designated Departmental Public Information Representative (PIR) and Responsibilities

- a. While the responsibility for the Department's public information ultimately rests with the Chief of Police, the Chief of Police may delegate some or all of the functional assignment responsibility for the public information function to one or more Public Information Officers (PIRs). If so, this shall be delineated in a Personnel Order or depicted on the Table of Organization.
- b. Departmental Personnel assigned responsibility for Public Information activities will have basic and/or advanced training in Media Relations or an equivalent of experience and training.
- c. Generally, all requests for public information shall be forwarded to the Public Information Representative, except as provided otherwise in this General Order. The public information function of the Department includes but is not limited to the following activities and

responsibilities:

1) General Guidelines

Authorized news media representatives will have reasonable access to the Chief of Police, the PIR, or designees, and the operations of the Department as governed by this General Order. When information must be denied to a media representative, the basis for that denial should be fully and courteously explained to the media representative. Officers shall direct all media inquiries to the Public Information Officer or supervisor. In the absence or unavailability of the PIR, the supervisor serving as Incident Commander shall be responsible for media relations consistent with the provisions of this General Order. Non-supervisory Department personnel are prohibited from making any statements related to Department matters.

2) Training Guidelines

It is imperative that all personnel within the Bridgeport Police Department have an understanding of the media and how it can affect the day-to-day operations of this agency.

- All newly hired personnel will be required to receive basic media relations training.
- All supervisors will receive training on media relations for supervisors.
- All Public Information Officers shall attend a training course on media relations and the public information function.

3) Press Credentials

At the present time, this Department does not issue Press Credentials to members of the local media.

4) Routine Authorized Departmental Sources of Information for the Media

In order to facilitate the dissemination of crime or incident information, news media representatives should pursue the following channels for information:

- The PIR is responsible for all public information activities of the Department, and should be contacted in person, or by

telephone, during normal working hours for the desired information. The Chief of Police may designate others to serve as backups to the PIR. All PIRs shall be available to the media while off-duty via Departmental cell phones, or other designated means, when practical.

- Media representatives requesting feature story interviews with members of the Department, and vice versa, will first contact the PIR to explain the request and obtain approval.
- All members of this Department should understand that it is standard media policy that conversations with any member of the news media are considered “on the record” and are subject to being quoted.
- If a PIR is unavailable during or after normal working hours, media representatives should be referred to an on-duty supervisor, and information can be released consistent with their authority under this Directive.

Should media representatives need further help or feel that they are not receiving satisfactory answers, they may be referred to the PIR.

5) Connecticut Public Records Act & Public Information Requests

All public or media requests to obtain Department records, other than Internal Affairs Records, Grievance Files, and Employee Personnel Records, Etc. will be processed by the City Attorney’s Office and coordinated with the PIR, when required. All applicable statutes, including the *Connecticut Freedom of Information Act*, shall govern all such requests and disclosures.

Department records and documents will not be released to the public or the media until criminal investigative information or other materials, which are statutorily exempt by Connecticut Law, are properly excised (redacted) from those documents. At that time, the remaining information will be made available to the requesting party as required by law.

Requests to review or obtain Internal Affairs, Grievance, or Employee Personnel files will be made during normal business hours through the PIR, Chief of Police, or designee. In addition, no information of any kind will be released, written or

verbally, pertaining to an active Internal Affairs investigation or employee grievance, except by the Chief of Police.

B. Assisting Media Personnel at Incident Scenes

In the absence or unavailability of the PIR, all Supervisors serving as an Incident Commander shall be responsible for media relations consistent with the provisions of this General Order as follows:

1. Minor incidents: The Incident Commander shall function as the PIR at incident scenes consistent with the provisions of this General Order.
2. Major Incidents Involving Crimes and/or Special Operations: The Incident Commander shall function as the PIR at incident scenes consistent with the provisions of this General Order, until relieved of such responsibility upon the arrival of the PIR.

Non-supervisory Department personnel are prohibited from making any statements related to Department matters.

C. 24-Hour Availability of Public Information Representative

A Department PIR shall be available on a 24-hour basis. This can be accomplished by using a backup PIR and others, as needed. When a serious situation occurs, the PIR is to be notified to handle the media inquiries. If the PIR is called out to a scene of major importance, the Incident Commander will be responsible for the release of information to the media until the arrival of the PIR.

1. Normal Business Hours: During the course of normal business hours, the Shift Commander will notify the PIR of any serious incident as soon as possible to ensure accurate reporting of the incident to the news media.
2. After Normal Business Hours: After normal business hours, the Shift Commander will notify the PIR of any serious incident by telephone or by pager and relay a synopsis of the incident.

D. Preparation and Distribution of Media Releases

1. Under normal circumstances, the PIR is responsible for the coordination and preparation of media releases concerning newsworthy events and disseminates information to the media. This task includes:
 - a. Traffic accidents involving fatalities or causing extensive traffic congestion and/or road closures;
 - b. High profile arrests;
 - c. Follow-ups or conclusions to incidents the press recently reported on;

- d. Serious/violent crimes against persons (i.e. robbery, homicide, etc.);
 - e. Any matters in the judgment of the supervisor, which may cause media interest or in fact has already generated media interest; or
 - f. Any other incidents or events as approved by the Chief of Police or PIR
2. This General Order, however, does not preclude a Supervisor from preparing a press release and forwarding it to the PIR, or from speaking to the media, concerning criminal investigations or other events that fall within the scope of their assignments when the PIR is not immediately available and there is an urgent need to respond generally to media inquiries, pending the arrival or assignment of the PIR.
3. Because Public Information Representatives may not always be on-duty or immediately available, and newsworthy events may occur in their absence, the Chief of Police, or designee may be contacted by the Shift Commander. The following guidelines shall be used in these situations:
- a. Prior to receiving direction from the PIR or Command Staff, the Shift Commander shall not provide details of the incident, other than providing information that confirms the nature of the incident in a general nature. However, under no circumstances will information be withheld, delayed, or selectively released in a manner that favors any particular news media agency.
 - b. Media questions regarding on-going investigations or incidents will be handled by the PIR in consultation and collaboration with the Department personnel supervising the case and the appropriate prosecutor's office. Information concerning confidential investigations and operations shall not be released either prior to or during the course of the investigation or operation unless otherwise approved by the Chief of Police. Booking photos for felony violations may be released by the Chief of Police.
 - c. Information relating to internal personnel files and investigations will not be released to the media, except by the Chief of Police, or designee.
 - d. When media requests for information are denied by Department personnel, the denial shall be on the basis of exceptions to the Connecticut *Freedom of Information Act*, privacy rights, and the safety of a defendant, witness or victim, or other legal or relevant factors. Anytime a representative of the media is denied access to certain information, as outlined in this order, that representative will be given a courteous explanation of the reasons for such denial.

E. Arranging For, and Assisting at, News Conferences

The PIR shall arrange for, and assist at, all news conferences. This responsibility will include:

1. Selecting a suitable location;
2. Making contact with all area news media representatives;
3. Arranging for security;
4. Obtaining all relevant background information;
5. Preparing information to be distributed;
6. Briefing the Chief of Police, on the issue; and
7. Being available for any follow-up questions.

F. Coordinating and Authorizing the Release of Information About Victims, Witnesses, and Suspects

During the course of any criminal investigation, from its inception through final court disposition, the Chief of Police, or designee should approve all media requests for case information prior to release. The following shall serve as guidelines for these cases.

1. Release of Information by other than the Designated Public Information Representative (PIR)

When information is disseminated by any officer/employee other than the PIR, that person shall notify the PIR as soon as practical of the content of the material released, who released the material, and when it was released to the public.

2. Investigative Information that may be Released

The following are examples of investigative case information that may be released:

- a. Information that is of a factual nature, including the type or nature of an event or crime.
- b. The location, date and time, injuries sustained, damages and a general description of how the incident occurred.
- c. Edited information concerning criminal acts or traffic crashes that is contained on the face of the offense report or traffic crash report forms.

- d. Type and quantity of property taken or damaged, with the exception of the amount of cash stolen in armed robberies, burglaries, etc., if the release of such information would compromise the investigation.
- e. Whether there are suspects or not, and information concerning unidentified suspects to include a general description, vehicle description, and other pertinent information.
- f. Requests for aid in locating evidence, a complainant, witnesses or a suspect.
- g. Identification and photograph(s) of a fugitive for whom an arrest warrant has been issued and the criminal background of a fugitive if, as a matter of public safety, the public should be alerted.
- h. Number, names, and ranks of personnel involved in an event or investigation (except any undercover operations, informants, etc.), and the length of the investigation.

3. Investigative Information That May NOT Be Released

The following Information may not be released in connection with criminal investigations unless authorized by the Chief of Police, or designee, or required by any applicable public information disclosure laws:

- a. Information that is of a subjective nature.
- b. The identity of a suspect prior to arrest unless such information would aid in apprehending the suspect or serve to warn the public of potential danger. The identity of suspects that are interviewed but not charged will not be released.
- c. The identity of any victim of a sex crime or any related information, which if divulged, could lead to the victim's identity.
- d. The identity of victims or witnesses if such disclosure would prejudice an investigation to any significant degree, or place the victim in personal danger.
- e. The identity of any juvenile that is a victim, or suspect/defendant in a case subject to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, except where release is authorized by law. All inquiries regarding juveniles should be referred to the Superior Court, Juvenile Matters (C.G.S. § 46b-124).
- f. The identity of any critically injured or deceased person prior to notification of next of kin.

- g. The results of any investigative procedure such as lineups, polygraph tests, fingerprint comparison, firearms examinations or other investigative procedures. The fact that these tests were performed can be released without further comment about the results.
- h. Information that, if prematurely released, may interfere with the investigation or apprehension of the suspect, such as investigative leads, specifics of an “MO”, details of the crime known only to the suspect, or information that may cause the suspect to flee.
- i. Information that may be of evidentiary value in criminal proceedings.
- j. Specific cause of death unless officially determined by the Medical Examiner. Information concerning the death of a person will not be released without approval of the Medical Examiner, and in criminal cases, the Public Information Representative.
- k. Information on matters that are currently in litigation in the Courts involving the Police Department and/or the City of Bridgeport.
- l. Information that may incur liability on the City.
- m. Location of any victim of abuse or domestic violence seeking shelter from further acts.
- n. The home address, telephone number, or other personal information of any Department employee.

4. Authorization for the Release of Information Regarding Arrest Warrants

- a. Generally, personnel are not to report if any warrants have been issued, regardless of the nature. However, the name, age, and address, along with a description of persons for whom arrest warrants have been issued, may be released, if necessary, upon request or when media assistance is required due to special circumstances. This must be approved by the Chief of Police and may include situations or circumstances where:
 - 1) Information on dangerous or violent crimes that could possibly repeat;
 - 2) When an arrest may ease public unrest;
 - 3) When there is an unusual situation;
 - 4) To alert the public for assistance and for the public's general protection; or
 - 5) When an arrest clears a series of crimes.

5. Authorization of Information to Release Following Arrest

- a. The following information is required to be disclosed from the time of arrest and until a prosecution or prospective criminal law enforcement action is no longer pending against the person arrested.
- b. Disclosure or redaction is authorized where the Court has ordered an affidavit or report sealed in whole or in part.
- c. The following information will be released after the arrest of a suspect, but prior to adjudication of the matter, excluding any information protected under C.G.S. 54-86e, which safeguards the identity of victims of sexual assault:
 - 1) Blotter information identified as the accused's name, age, and address, race of the person arrested, the date, time, and place of arrest, and the offense for which the person was arrested.
 - (2) In a case in which:
 - a) The arrest has been by warrant, the arrest warrant application, including any affidavit in support of such warrant, or
 - b) The arrest has been made without a warrant, the official arrest, incident or similar report, provided if a judicial authority has ordered any such affidavit or report sealed from public inspection or disclosure, in whole or in part, the portion of the affidavit or report that has not been sealed, if applicable, as well as a report setting forth a summary of the circumstances that led to the arrest of the person in a manner that does not violate such order. (P.A. 15-164)
- d. The following types of information should not be released, following the arrest and formal charging of a suspect, and prior to the adjudication of the matter, without express permission of the Chief of Police or PIR.
 - 1) Prior criminal conviction record, character, or reputation of a defendant.
 - 2) The existence or contents of any confession, admission, or statement of a defendant, or his failure or unwillingness to make a statement.

- 3) Performance or results of any tests or examinations taken by or given to the arrestee or a defendant's refusal or failure to submit to tests (such as a polygraph).
- 4) Results of any laboratory tests or examinations regarding evidence at crime scenes.
- 5) The identity of informants that may identify the victim.
- 6) Any personal information concerning the victim of the crime that may identify the victim.
- 7) Specific information about the commission of the crime, the disclosure of which law enforcement reasonably believes may prejudice the pending prosecution or a prospective law enforcement action.
- 8) The identity, statement, expected testimony, or credibility of prospective testimony of any witness or victim.
- 9) Information from Department personnel regarding the merits of the case or the quality of the evidence gathered, any opinion about the guilt or innocence of a defendant, or any information of a subjective nature.
- 10) Any opinion or knowledge of the potential for a plea bargain or other pretrial action.
- 11) Information received from other law enforcement agencies without prior approval from the participating agency.
- 12) Re-enactment of the crime or information concerning the accused directing officers to the location of evidence or contraband.

6. Release of Information on Suicide or Suspected Suicide Cases

The fact that a suicide or suspected suicide has occurred may be reported to the media, along with factual information describing how it occurred. The name, address, sex, and occupation of the victim may be released following the notification of next of kin. The fact that a suicide note exists may also be acknowledged without further comments. The content of such notes is personal, confidential, and may be evidence, and shall not be released except as provided by law. Generally, all media releases and requests for information on suicide cases are to be referred to the PIR or the Chief of Police for comment.

7. Releasing Photographs of Victims and Witnesses

Photographs of victims or witnesses will not be released by police personnel without specific approval from the Chief of Police. Furthermore, personnel should not instruct victims or witnesses to refrain from talking to the media, as that is an individual decision of all victims and witnesses.

8. Photographing Suspects/Subjects by Media

Photographing an individual in custody by the news media will not be permitted within the police building; however, photographs may be taken outside of the department. It shall be prohibited to pose suspects for photos or television cameras. Department photographs of an arrested person may be released, in accordance with State Statutes, as long as they do not jeopardize the investigation.

Photographing injuries sustained by people involved in crimes, police related activities or other emergencies, including motor vehicle accidents, accident injuries, and uncovered bodies will be at the discretion of the news media, provided the process does not interfere with rescue personnel or the investigation.

9. Releasing Photographs of Arrested Persons

Media requests for any department photographs, mug shots, videotape, film, or composites of subjects, whether in custody or not, shall be referred to the PIR for authorization for release. If the arrested person has not been formally charged, requests for such materials will be denied in most cases.

G. Assisting in Crisis Situations

In exigent circumstances and with specific authorization from the Chief or designee, a supervisor may enlist the assistance of the media when a crisis situation develops and the broadcast of information may benefit the mitigation and/or successful outcome of the situation. Any such media assistance should be documented as part of the event's incident report, or contained in a "Media Release" as authorized under provisions of this General Order.

H. Release of Information Concerning Confidential Agency Investigations and Operations

1. General Guidelines

Statements of policy, which express the official position of the Bridgeport Police Department, official responses to criticism of the Department, or statements regarding any pending civil litigation involving the Department shall be made only by the Chief of Police, or designee.

2. Critical Incidents Involving Police Officers

All statements and names of those police personnel involved in an incident regarding internal investigations, disciplinary or personnel matters, officer-

involved critical incidents, such as shootings or accidents, shall only be made by the Chief of Police, or designee. Also, prior to release:

- a. Caution should be exercised to be certain of the accuracy of the information.
- b. Officers should be afforded the opportunity to notify their families if the report of their participation in an incident could cause them unnecessary concern.
- c. No information concerning an incident should be released if the information would adversely affect or hamper the investigation in any way. However, the timely release of the name of police participants in a major incident can only add to the credibility of the Department and forestall the possibility of the news media adversely commenting on the incident because this information was withheld.

3. Releasing Photographs of Police Personnel

Under normal circumstances, photographs of police personnel may be released to the media for a specific community-relations purpose, promotion of a police function or program, recognition for a meritorious act, promotion in rank, etc. Photographs of police personnel will not be released without permission of the Chief of Police, when:

- a. The possibility of disciplinary action exists;
- b. An arrest of an officer is made;
- c. Civil action is initiated;
- d. An officer commits suicide;
- e. The officer is working in a covert assignment; or
- f. Any other circumstances exist, which may reflect unfavorably on the individual officer or the Department.

I. Public Information Procedures During Mutual Aid Situation

When the Department is involved in multi-jurisdictional incidents, or mutual aid efforts, the following guidelines will apply when planning a coordinated dissemination of information to the news media:

1. Bridgeport Police Department Incidents:

When other public service agencies are involved in a mutual effort, the Department's PIR will assume full responsibility for the public information function. In these instances, our PIR will work with other PIRs and/or Media Relations Personnel from other Town/City agencies and/or other jurisdictions, when developing procedures for releasing information.

2. Non-Bridgeport Police Department Incidents:

When our Department is called to assist another Town/City or Out-of-Town-agency, our PIR will defer to the PIR of the agency having primary jurisdiction. Our PIR shall offer assistance to the PIRs and/or Media Relations Personnel from the agency in charge of the incident to develop procedures for releasing information.

If requested, our PIR is authorized to assume duties as the lead PIR for the event. If selected as the lead PIR, the Bridgeport PIR will only release information authorized by the particular agency's representatives.

K. News Media Access

1. Introduction

The Public Information Representative (PIR), Chief of Police, or the Incident Commander will coordinate the activities of the media at the scene of a major incident under the control of the Department. The incident commander of an unusual occurrence shall designate a media staging area, when required. Access of news media representatives, including photographers, needs to be controlled at major events, for their own safety, and to prevent interference with the operation and preserve the integrity of a crime scene. In addition to major events, the news media may be denied access under the following circumstances:

- a. If the owner of private property requests it.
- b. If there is a possibility that evidence will be damaged, tampered with or removed from the scene of a crime, or the investigation will be hampered.
- c. During a tactical police operation, if the media's presence would disrupt operations, or place a citizen or police officer in substantial risk of injury or loss of life.

2. General Guidelines

The following guidelines govern news media access to incident and/or crime scenes:

- a. The scene perimeter should be established by rope, tape, or some other visible means. In all cases, the media will be allowed to remain with the general public. If conditions permit, and only when authorized by the PIR, media representatives will be allowed to go as close as

possible to the scene itself to fulfill their assigned tasks. Members of the media are not, however, exempt from laws enforced by this Department.

- b. If the crime scene or incident scene is in a private building, no person including the media will be allowed inside until the resolution of the situation.
- c. If the crime or incident scene under investigation is on private property, the media has the right to remain on the property to complete their news-gathering tasks unless the owner or person in charge of that property denies permission to the media to enter or remain on that property, and has stated such in the presence of police personnel.
- d. At fire-related incidents, the decision to allow media representatives into the crime scene area or beyond fire lines will be that of the on-duty Fire Department Commander.
- e. A member of the news media should not be prevented from having access to an area solely due to the possibility of injury or death to that person. If that is the only consideration, the member of the news media should be advised of the danger, then allowed to make the decision as to whether or not to enter the area on their own.
- f. Officers may request official credentials from a media representative. The Incident Commander has the authority to restrict access of the news media to the crime scene or incidents if the media representative is unknown to the Supervisor, or if the subject lacks proper credentials.
- g. Anytime a representative of the news is denied access to crime or incident scenes, that representative should be given a courteous explanation of the reasons for such denial.

L. Scenes of Major Events

When the PIR is absent or otherwise unavailable, the Incident Commander shall control the access of news media representatives, including photographers, to the scene of major fires, natural disasters, or other catastrophic events. The media may be allowed past the perimeter of a scene established for the general public and may be allowed to bring their equipment, vehicles, etc., inside the general perimeter as long as their movements will not interfere with control and containment of the scene. Media personnel shall be advised of any danger to their personal safety.

M. Perimeter of Crime Scenes

When the PIR is absent or otherwise unavailable, the access of news media representatives, including photographers, to crime scenes shall be controlled by the Incident Commander. In order to ensure the integrity of the scene, no media representatives shall be admitted to a crime scene until police personnel have processed all evidence. After the evidence has been processed and the scene secured, the media may be allowed to bring their equipment, vehicles, etc., inside the general perimeter as long as their movements will not interfere with on-site investigations and as long as their personal safety is not in jeopardy.

N. Media Relations During Hostage Situations

The Public Information Representative (PIR) should be notified as soon as possible during hostage situations. An initial briefing should be made as soon as possible. All media shall be kept in a safe location, as determined by the Incident Commander. Television crews should be directed to not use bright lights when a situation occurs at night as it may interfere with police personnel. Caution should be used when stating information on camera, as it could be broadcast and observed by the hostage taker.

Any interference from a media aircraft during a police operation will immediately be reported to the aircraft and will request that it depart. Failure to comply within a reasonable period of time will constitute a basis to file a written formal complaint with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

N. Media Accompaniment on Search Warrants or Similar Activities

With the prevalence of reality television programs and news reporting, there may be more requests from the news media to allow news crews to document police operations. However, the federal courts have been resolving cases in a way that should discourage this practice.

The entry of news media is considered unreasonable by the courts while exercising search warrants on private premises because search warrants expressly allow only “authorized law enforcement officers.” There is no implied authorization for the news crew to enter because there is no claim that the presence of the news crew serves a legitimate law enforcement purpose. Most courts are ruling that the presence of the broadcast media to document such searches for non-law enforcement purposes is outside the scope of the warrant (*Berger v. Hanlon*.) As such, the Department shall not permit members of the news media to accompany officers on the execution of a search warrant in private premises without consent from the occupant or express authorization in the search warrant.

It is permissible, with proper supervisory approval, for the media to accompany officers in public areas where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy. The

Department invites the media to ride along with police officers on patrol with the approval of the Chief of Police, as long as the reporter does not accompany the officer into private premises.

O. Directive Issued to the Media

Copies of this section of the manual shall be issued to representatives of the local media. Members of the media may submit changes to this section to the Chief of Police. Any suggestions should be in writing and consistent with the general policy statement.