

	<p style="text-align: center;">BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POLICY AND PROCEDURE GENERAL ORDER</p>	Distribution	General Order Number
		ALL PERSONNEL	<b>5.03</b>
		Original Issue Date	Reissue/Effective Date
		5/21/19	3/6/20
Order Title:  <b>EQUIPMENT</b>		Accreditation Standard: POSTC: 1.7.3, 1.7.16, 1.7.19	Section
		5	
		Section Title	
		PATROL FUNCTIONS	
Rescinds: 1.3.36, 2.1.2.4-2.1.2.7, 2.4.1.1-2.4.1.22, 2.4.2.1-2.4.2.8, 2.4.10.2		<b>Armando J. Perez, Chief of Police</b>	

*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 procedures and guidelines related to equipment provided to Bridgeport Police Department officers.

## II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Bridgeport Police Department to provide guidelines for patrol vehicles, including emergency and incidental supplies and equipment, specific vehicle markings, and the use of seat belts. Procedures are also established in relation to uniforms, clothing, equipment, and other related matters.

## III. PROCEDURES

### A. Patrol Vehicle to be Equipped with Emergency Lights and Siren

#### 1. Marked Vehicles – General Patrol

Conspicuously marked vehicles used in routine or general patrol service are readily identified as law enforcement agency vehicles from every view and from a long distance, even at night. Conspicuous marking increases safety, serves as a warning to potential violators, and provides citizens with a feeling of security. Therefore, all marked patrol vehicles shall be equipped as follows:

- a. Emergency lights;

- b. An identifying City of Bridgeport/BPD Police Department symbol on left/right front doors. Included shall be the word 'POLICE' in contrasting lettering (11" minimum height);
- c. Sergeant vehicles to have "SUPERVISOR", in contrasting lettering (6" minimum height) on right/left front quarter panels;
- d. Contrasting vehicle ID numbering (3" minimum height) on /left rear side rear and left front of vehicle;

2. Unmarked Vehicles

Unmarked vehicles should be equipped with a police radio and emergency lights. Department vehicles normally used by Supervisors, Detectives,, and management personnel in the normal course of duties need not contain specialized markings. Department members shall use a portable radio when operating vehicles that do not have a fixed radio.

3. Crime Scene Van

The Department's crime scene van will be marked to include the following:

- a. An identifying City of Bridgeport/BPD Police Department symbol on left/right front doors. Included shall be the word "POLICE" in contrasting lettering (3" minimum height);
- b. " POLICE" in contrasting lettering (4" minimum height) on across back of vehicle; right and left sides of back cab portion;

4. Utility Vehicles

- a. These vehicles will include an identifying City of Bridgeport/BPD Police Department symbol on left/right side of vehicle.
- b. Included on the vehicles shall be the word "POLICE" in contrasting lettering (2" minimum height.)

**B. Patrol Vehicle Equipment**

- 1. Each marked cruiser used in general patrol will be outfitted with the following equipment:
  - a. Mobile radio;
  - b. Red/blue/white overhead emergency lights
  - c. Wig-wag headlights;
  - d. Audible warning devices;
  - e. Spot Light
  - f. Public address system

- g. Officer protective screen/barrier
- h. Laptop computer or mobile data terminal (where applicable)
- i. Crime Scene Tape
- j. Seat belts

2. Each marked cruiser will contain the following emergency supplies as a minimum:

- a. Infectious Disease Prevention Kit
- b. Supply of vinyl gloves
- c. Equipment for collection and containment of biohazard material
- d. Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Guidebook.
- e. Other equipment as authorized by the Chief of Police

Check-off lists or inspection forms will be used to aid officers and supervisors and ensure that vehicles are properly stocked and operationally ready (See G.O. 2.07, *Line and Staff Inspections*). Officers will be responsible for restocking depleted or missing equipment in their assigned vehicle prior to assuming routine patrol.

A compliment of supplies will be maintained in the Patrol Office. Officers needing supplies can draw upon this supply to restock their assigned vehicle. Damaged or malfunctioning equipment will be identified on a vehicle/equipment repair/requisition form which shall be forwarded to the Fleet Supervisor. The Fleet Supervisor will ensure that equipment is replaced as necessary and maintain an inventory of equipment to meet this need.

### **C. Use of Seat Belts in all Department Vehicles**

The use of seat belts can have a significant effect in reducing the number of deaths and the severity of injuries resulting from motor vehicle accidents and can assist officers in maintaining proper control of their vehicles during pursuit or emergency high-speed operations. As a result, all employees will use seatbelts and all passengers shall use seatbelts, including child restraint systems, when necessary. (See G.O. 5.02.IV.A.3, Vehicle Operations, for further detail.)

### **D. Equipment and Apparel to be Worn by Patrol Officers**

The specifications for all authorized personal equipment and apparel to be used and worn by patrol officers is outlined in G.O. 2.09, *Uniform Standards and Dress Code*. All employees shall adhere to these regulations to ensure uniformity and prevent use of unauthorized or substandard items. Supervisors shall conduct line inspections according to the provisions of General Order 2.07, *Line and Staff Inspections*. The Department shall maintain accurate records of the equipment/apparel provided to each employee (See G.O. 2.09.)

### **E. Issuance of Protective Vests**

1. The Bridgeport Police Department will provide all sworn personnel with body armor/protective vests that comply with the current minimum protective standards prescribed by the National Institute of Justice.
2. Body armor/protective vests that are worn or damaged shall be replaced by the Department. Body armor/protective vests that must be replaced due to misuse or abuse by the officer shall be paid for by the officer.

**NOTE:** Sworn personnel wishing to wear personally owned body armor/protective vests may do so after being granted permission by the Chief of Policy or his designee. Personal owned body armor/protective vests shall meet or exceed the Department's standard and shall be maintained in accordance with the industry standards and recommendations set forth by the manufacturer. The record of personal owned body armor/protective vests shall be maintained in the Department's inventory log.

#### **F. Use of Body Armor/Protective Vests**

1. On-duty sworn personnel, who are engaged in field activities, including all private duty/overtime details, shall wear their Department issued or Department approved body armor/protective vests, unless exempted as follows:
  - a. When a licensed physician determines that an officer has a medical condition that would preclude the use of body armor/protective vest.
  - b. When the officer is involved in an undercover or plainclothes work that his/her supervisor has determined would be compromised by the use of the body armor/protective vest.
  - c. When the officer is assigned to perform an administrative function.
  - d. When the Department determines that circumstances make it inappropriate to mandate the wearing of body armor/protective vests (e.g. the Dive Team.)
2. On duty sworn personnel who are assigned to plain-clothes or administrative assignments have discretion in wearing their body armor/protection vests, except that they shall wear the body armor/protective vests whenever they engage in high risk duties. **Sworn personnel assigned to a plain-clothes or administrative assignment shall have their Department issued or Department approved body armor/protective vests with them while outside of the Bridgeport Police Department buildings on official business and shall wear their issued body armor/protective vests while engaged in duties that present a risk of injury.**

#### **G. Use of Protective Vests in High-Risk Situations**

1. All sworn personnel will be required to wear their Department issued soft body armor while engaged in pre-planned high-risk situations, regardless of exceptions that exist above.
2. “High Risk Situations” shall be defined as those situations, which present a higher potential for the use of less-lethal or lethal force against sworn personnel, as determined by a Supervisor, even if the officer does not perceive the high level of threat. High-risk situations requiring the use of protective vests by sworn personnel include, but are not limited to:
  - a. High-risk arrest or search warrant service, including those involving a dangerous offender or a location where there is an indication of weapons
  - b. Drug raids
  - c. Barricaded persons and/or hostage incidents
  - d. Civil disturbance incidents
  - e. Escaped prisoner incidents, where the escapee is known to be armed and/or dangerous
  - f. Transportation of dangerous prisoners
  - g. High-Level VIP visits
  - h. Other High-Risk situations as determined by the Incident Commander

#### **H. Care and Maintenance of Body Armor/Protective Vests**

1. Sworn personnel are responsible for the proper maintenance and storage of their body armor/protective vests in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions, and for the routine inspection of their armor/protective vests for signs of damage and general cleanliness.
2. Sworn personnel shall bring their body armor/protective vests (whether Department issued or personally owned) to all scheduled uniform measurement sessions for inspection.
3. Any officer who fails to bring their body armor/protective vest to a scheduled uniform measurement will be subject to discipline.
4. Any officer who suspects his/her body armor/protective vest is in need of repair or replacement during the interim period between uniform measurements shall notify their immediate supervisor and document the same on a Case Incident Report.

#### **I. Service Holsters and Handcuffs**

1. Sworn personnel shall provide their Department-issued service holster and handcuffs to the Firearms Training Unit’s Supervisor for inspection during scheduled biannual uniform measurement sessions.
2. Any officer who fails to bring their Department-issued service holster and handcuffs to uniform measurement sessions will be subject to disciplinary

actions.

3. If an officer suspects that his/her service holster or handcuffs are in need of repair or replacement during the interim period between inspections, he/she shall report this information to the Firearms Training Unit Supervisor and record this notification on a Case Incident Report.

**J. Inspections**

1. Supervisors shall conduct unannounced inspections to ensure that sworn personnel are complying with this order.
2. Appropriate corrective measures shall be taken to remedy lapses in compliance or to repair/replace defective items.
3. Any and all corrective action shall be documented in an interdepartmental memorandum and forwarded up through the chain of command to the Chief of Police.