P.O. 1504 Critical Incident Briefing Video Release			
Effective From:	02/24/2026	Effective To:	Current

P.O. 1504 – Critical Incident Briefing Video Release

1. PURPOSE
   - i) The Critical Incident Briefing Video Release policy is promulgated to provide best practice guidelines on the definitions of "critical incident" and "critical incident briefing video" ("CIBV"), what qualifies as a CIBV, what information is eligible to be included in the CIBV, the timeline for the release of CIBV, and the procedures for the release of a CIBV.
   - ii) This policy is intended to balance the needs of the Department with the privacy concerns and safety of the public.
2. POLICY
   - i) The Department policy is that the Superintendent or designee may release video evidence or CIBVs containing video-recorded imagery of critical incidents involving Department personnel.
     - a) Such a decision to release video evidence or CIBV will be made in coordination with involved law enforcement agencies and the appropriate prosecuting authority.
     - b) The release of video evidence or CIBVs shall consist of video-recorded imagery that depicts the actions of Department personnel and others preceding and including the critical incident.
     - c) At the direction of the Superintendent or designee, CIBVs may be produced for a critical incident involving an outside law enforcement agency being investigated by the Bureau of Investigations.
3. DEFINITIONS
   - i) "Critical incident" shall be defined as any of the following:
     - a) Any officer-involved shootings by Department personnel or officer-involved shootings by other agency personnel when such incidents are investigated by the Bureau of Investigations;
       1) A critical incident shall be considered as such regardless of whether a person was physically injured during the officer-involved shooting.
       2) The following shall not be considered critical incidents pursuant to this policy:
          (i) Unintentional or accidental firearm discharges that do not involve an injury; and
          (ii) Occurrences when an officer kills an animal as a humane measure.
     - b) A use of force incident by an employee resulting in death or serious bodily injury;
     - c) Any other police encounter where the Superintendent or designee determines the release of video-recorded imagery serves the public's interest; or,
     - d) All deaths that occur when an arrestee/detainee is in the custodial care of the Department or another agency, if investigated by the Bureau of Investigations. Such in-custody deaths shall not be considered critical incidents if all of the following conditions exist:
       1) The designated Coroner for the parish or city where the critical incident occurred makes a preliminary determination that the death was caused by natural, accidental, or undetermined means;
       2) The incident did not involve a use of force or reveal evidence of suspected foul play;
       3) There is no misconduct that would rise to the level of negligence, including the commission of a criminal offense or neglect of duty;
       4) The toxicology report supports the Coroner's preliminary determination; and,
       5) The investigation reveals no problematic evidence or substantially conflicting

witness statements regarding the incident.

ii) "Critical Incident Briefing Video" ("CIBV") is any video-recorded imagery and accompanying audio footage that is related to a critical incident.

a) All CIBVs shall be accompanied by any additional information determined as necessary to provide context based on the evidence available at the time of release.

4. CIBV DIGITAL CONTENT SOURCES

i) Any and all video recordings, audio recordings, digital imaging, still video images, and/or photographs released pursuant to this policy may originate from any of the following sources:

a) Body-worn camera (BWC) video/audio;
b) In-car camera video/audio;
c) Police facility surveillance video/audio;
d) Department small Unmanned Aircraft System video/audio;
e) Law Enforcement aircraft (helicopter and/or fixed-wing);
f) Third-party video/audio which is in the Department's possession;
g) Crime scene photographs or video/audio; and
h) Any other photograph, image, or video/audio taken by investigative personnel for official use.

5. PRIVACY AND PROTECTED MATERIAL & CONTENT

i) No CIBV shall be released when prohibited by law or court order;

ii) All CIBVs shall be redacted or edited to the extent necessary to be consistent with the protections afforded to all juveniles and the witnesses or victims of certain crimes.

a) No CIBV shall be released if it cannot be redacted sufficiently to protect the identity of juveniles or certain crime victims.
b) CIBVs may be redacted and/or edited as necessary to protect the privacy interests of other individuals who appear in the video.
c) Edits may include the removal of audio or the obscuring of faces and/or other video-recorded images that would identify individuals, sensitive locations, or reveal otherwise legally protected information.
d) In no event shall any redaction or editing compromise the depiction of the critical incident.

6. STANDARDIZATION OF CIBV FORMAT

i) The Department shall produce all CIBVs in the same general manner to promote consistency in all critical incident investigations and to foster a high level of public transparency.

a) CIBVs shall include the following:
1) A brief overview of the incident, including the date, time, location, and agency involved;
2) A warning to the viewer regarding the disturbing nature of the video footage;
3) An explanation of known facts, not to include speculation or opinions;
4) An evidence-based overview of what is known at the time the CIBV is released (this can be done as a voiceover while the CIBV footage is shown);
5) An explanation of the in-car camera or BWC placement and operation of the cameras in relation to vehicle emergency lights;
6) Evidence recovered at the scene;
7) Closing review of the process moving forward, including the investigation, analysis of remaining evidence, proper unbiased reporting, and submittal to the appropriate prosecuting authority.

ii) The Public Affairs Digital Content Team and CID/FIU personnel investigating the critical incident will be responsible for all content, filming, and editing of the CIBVs.

7. APPROVAL TO RELEASE CIBVs

i) Prior to the release of any CIBV, each of the following persons or agencies must approve

the release of any CIBV or video-recorded evidence:

a) The Public Affairs Commander,
b) The CID/FIU Command Inspector,
c) The appropriate prosecuting authority, and
d) The Superintendent or designee.

8. NOTIFICATIONS
   i) Absent exigent circumstances, reasonable attempts shall be made to notify the following individuals or entities prior to the release of the CIBV:
      a) Any employee depicted in the CIBV and/or significantly involved in the incident;
      b) The subject upon whom force was used;
         1) If the subject is deceased, the next of kin will be notified.
         2) If the subject is a juvenile, the subject's parents or legal guardian will be notified.
         3) If the subject is known by the Department to be represented by legal counsel, the legal counsel will be notified.
      c) Any other agency involved in the incident;
      d) Legal Affairs;
      e) The appropriate prosecuting authority; and
      f) Any other individual or agency connected to the incident as deemed appropriate.
   ii) All CIBV notifications shall be made by Public Affairs, CID/FIU, or the Superintendent or designee.
9. RELEASE – LIMITED WAIVER
   i) The release of any CIBVs or specific video-recorded imagery does not waive the Department's right to withhold other video-recorded imagery, evidence, or investigative materials in the same case or any other case, as permitted by law.
      a) This policy is not intended to displace or supersede any legal right or remedy available to any person or entity, and it is also not intended to prevent or hinder compliance by the Department with respect to any legal disclosure requirements, including but not limited to any court order or disclosure provisions of the Louisiana Public Records Law. See L.R.S. 44:1 et seq.