

## UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS

### POLICY:

It is the policy of the Omaha Police Department (OPD) to conduct undercover operations to support criminal investigations when appropriate. Each operation will be carefully reviewed in order to weigh the risks and benefits of the operation.

### PROCEDURE:

#### I. Review and Notification Procedures

- A. Prior to conducting an undercover operation, officers shall complete an OPD Special Operations Checklist form ([OPD Form 27](#)) and present the form to the respective CIB Captain or their designee via chain of command for review.

**EXCEPTION:** Officers who are working on federal operations (i.e. as part of a task force or cooperative operations) for which federal forms are required/completed do NOT need to additionally complete an OPD Special Operations Checklist form.

- 1. Officers will follow the guidance received from the CIB Captain or their designee as it pertains to undercover operations.
- 2. The completed [OPD Form 27](#) will be maintained in the unit files until the case file is purged, per normal OPD policy and procedures.
- B. The command officer supervising the operation will coordinate with other units/squads as necessary.
- C. If an officer assigned to a bureau other than CIB is to be used in an undercover capacity, the command officer supervising the undercover operation will send a request to use the officer in the undercover capacity to the section/precinct commander and the supervisor of the officer.
  - 1. The section/precinct commander may choose not to allow an officer to participate in an undercover operation when appropriate.
- D. The section or precinct commander will make certain that the undercover officer's immediate supervisor and respective CIB Captain (or designee) is notified of the officer's participation in the undercover operation when approved.
- E. If an OPD officer or unit/squad will be participating in an undercover operation with another jurisdiction, the respective chain of command will be notified.

#### II. Command Officer Responsibilities

- A. A command officer is required to be present at the scene of all undercover operations involving OPD officers.
  - 1. The command officer in charge will focus on monitoring and coordinating the overall operation. This includes, but is not limited to, monitoring officers involved in the operation and making certain that officers follow all guidance and procedures established for the operation.
- B. Prior to beginning the operation, the command officer shall conduct a briefing for all officers involved. The briefing will include:

1. An introduction of all officers involved.
    - a. It is critical that all officers involved be introduced to the undercover officer(s).
  2. A detailed outline of command responsibilities, duty assignments, and authorities.
  3. The sequence of events required for the safe execution of the operation including, but not limited to, the correct frequencies or channels to be used.
  4. A detailed rescue plan as well as the conditions under which the operation would be terminated if necessary.
    - a. In critical situations involving an undercover contact, the supervisor will make certain that at least two officers are specifically assigned to protect the undercover officer.
- C. When feasible an audio transmitter will be worn during undercover contacts.

### **III. Acknowledgement of Undercover Officers**

- A. Officers and employees will not knowingly acknowledge any on-duty officer who is working in plainclothes or in an undercover capacity unless that undercover or plainclothes officer acknowledges them first.

**NOTE:** To openly acknowledge and identify an officer involved in an undercover operation poses a threat to the officer's safety and, possibly, the criminal investigation.

### **REFERENCES:**

#### **I. Previous OPD Orders**

- A. Previous General Orders: #110-89, 21-98, 21-17, and 37-24.

#### **II. Accreditation Standards**

- A. Relevant CALEA Accreditation Standards: 43.1.5.