

1. **GENERAL DIRECTION**

- A. The Phoenix Police Department is statutorily responsible for maintaining public peace, preventing crime, arresting offenders, and protecting the rights of individuals and their property. As part of this duty, the Department provides trained personnel to respond to various situations, including managing crowds during peaceful public events, such as parades, festivals, and First Amendment assemblies.
- B. For events involving First Amendment assemblies, the Department protects the constitutional and statutory rights to assemble peacefully and exercise free speech while ensuring the physical safety of people and preserving the peace.
- C. All employees shall respect and protect the First Amendment rights of all persons, which include:
 - (1) The Right to Free Speech and Expression, including the right to criticize law enforcement or otherwise engage in protected expression in law enforcement officers' presence without retaliation.
 - (2) The Right to Freely Organize and Participate in Lawful Assemblies and Protest in parks, on sidewalks, on streets, and other public forums near the object of the assembly or protest so that those assembled may be seen and heard.
 - (3) The Right to Observe and Record the Actions of Law Enforcement Officers in the discharge of their public duties in all public spaces (including sidewalks, parks, streets, and other locations for lawful public protest), as well as all other areas in which person have legal right to be present (including a person's home or business and common areas of public and private facilities and buildings), without being subject to retaliation.
- D. The Department shall maintain a specially trained and equipped Mobile Field Force known as the Public Safety Response Team (PSRT) to maintain public order and effectively manage large crowds and/or riotous behavior to:
 - Preserve life
 - Protect property
 - Allow safe ingress and egress throughout the city
 - Restore and maintain civil order

2. **DEFINITIONS**

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| A. Public Safety Response Team (PSRT) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A unit of specially trained officers assembled to provide a rapid, organized, and disciplined response to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Civil disturbances and crowd control * Large crowds with a potential for civil disturbance * Other tactical situations involving large crowds |
| B. Crowd Control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Techniques used to address Civil Disturbance or Unlawful Assemblies include a show of force, crowd containment, dispersal equipment and tactics, and preparations for potential arrest. |
| C. Crowd Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Techniques used to manage lawful assemblies before, during, and after the event to maintain lawful status through event planning, pre-event contacts with event organizers, issuance of permits when applicable, information gathering, personnel training, and other means |
| D. First Amendment Assemblies/ Demonstration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assembly of persons engaging in First Amendment-protected activity. These may be scheduled events that allow law enforcement planning and may include spontaneous gatherings. They include, but are not limited to, marches, protests, and other assemblies. |

2. **DEFINITIONS** (continued)


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| E. Incident Management Team (IMT) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployed at the direction of the Police Chief or City Manager based on size, complexity, and duration of an event • The Police Chief or City Manager will provide the public safety objectives for the incident. • Unified Command is established in coordination between the Homeland Defense Bureau (HDB) Commander and the Fire Department's Deputy Chief and is comprised of the operations, planning, logistics, intelligence, safety, finance sections, public information officer (PIO), and liaison officer. |
| F. Planned Event/Planned First Amendment Assembly | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A First Amendment exercise that the Department becomes aware of in advance, whether through the submission of a permit request, media coverage, social media, or other means, and which allows sufficient time for the Department to conduct a needs assessment, plan the deployment of resources, and coordinate operations with demonstration leadership. |
| G. Spontaneous Event | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An event or incident that is not anticipated and for which the Department does not have adequate time to develop an action plan or otherwise prepare for the event. |
| H. Unlawful Assembly | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A breach of the peace by a gathering of persons where there is violence or a threat of collective violence, destruction of property, or other unlawful acts. Other unlawful acts may include obstructing public thoroughfares, trespassing, disorderly conduct, rioting, resisting arrest, failure to comply with a police officer directive, and interfering with governmental operations. |
| I. Civil Disturbance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Random violence and destruction of property committed by a group of people making a political statement or reacting to an emotional or controversial event |

3. **PROCEDURES**

A. Planned/Permitted Events

- (1) Planned events are those the Department is aware of in advance, either through a permit request or other means that allow for the planning of resources and response procedures. When large-scale, planned, or permitted events are anticipated:
 - (a) The Community Engagement Unit (CEU) and Homeland Defense Bureau (HDB) will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the event to identify the specific groups or individuals who will participate. This is to ensure the safety of all attendees.
 - (b) CEU detectives will contact representatives of the demonstrators to seek cooperation and will gather necessary information and provide it to the CEB commander or designee.
 - (c) CEU personnel will act as a liaison and communicate with the demonstration representative before, during, and after the event.
- (2) For additional information about obtaining a permit for a street closure reference a demonstration follow the link below:

[2023_Special_Event_Permitting_Resource_Guide.pdf \(phoenix.gov\)](#)

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|  | FIRST AMENDMENT FACILITATION AND MANAGEMENT | Operations Order 1.10 |
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3. B. Unplanned Events

- (1) An unplanned event is an occurrence the Department does not know about beforehand. Such events may consist of spontaneous gatherings or First Amendment assemblies. Unplanned events are usually peaceful and do not pose any threat to public safety. However, peaceful gatherings can turn violent, resulting in the need for contingency plans to safeguard life and property as necessary.
- (2) The initial response to unplanned public demonstrations, which remain in a lawful state, is usually carried out by an ad-hoc assembly of patrol officers who have completed the basic crowd control training offered during basic training.
 - (a) Incident Command (IC) falls under the command of the first arriving supervisor.
 - (b) The first units to arrive on the scene of an unplanned event shall:
 - Evaluate the scene and ensure the safety of participants and the general public. Determine if the gathering is peaceful, violent or has the potential to turn violent.
 - Attempt to identify a leader or representative of the demonstration group and communicate any safety issues or concerns.
 - Instruct identified leaders or representatives on what is necessary to maintain the safety of participants and the community.
 - Explain a failure to comply will result in a declaration of an unlawful assembly, which will result in an order to cease demonstration activities.
 - If unsafe or illegal behavior is observed by specific individuals, contact will be made with those individuals, allowing those complying with expectations to continue participating in a lawful, peaceful, and safe assembly.
 - (c) If a demonstration has escalated to the level of civil disturbance, the PSRT will be deployed.
 - (d) If escalation occurs or is imminent, the Homeland Defense Bureau (HDB) commander shall be requested to respond to the scene and assume command of the event as the IC.
 - The IC responsibilities apply regardless of rank and should be implemented immediately.
 - The primary responsibility of the IC is the rapid assembly of sufficient staffing to provide a safe environment for the event and ensure disruptions to people in the area are minimized.
 - The IC shall immediately assess the situation for seriousness and its potential for escalation.
 - In the case of First Amendment assemblies, if the assembly is peaceful and adequate resources are available, efforts shall be made to allow the protest to continue by redirecting vehicular and pedestrian traffic around the incident.

C. Declaring Unlawful Assembly

- (1) Declaration of unlawful assembly is rare and should only be made when the assembly threatens collective violence and/or destruction of property.
- (2) Efforts must be made to remove individuals engaged in unlawful or unsafe behavior before declaring an unlawful assembly.



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3. C. (3) Dispersal orders shall be issued by a lieutenant or their designee and only after the declaration of an unlawful assembly.
- (4) Safe egress locations and a timeline must be provided and made known to the demonstrators once dispersal orders are given.

D. Arrest Procedures

- (1) Arrests of individuals engaged in unlawful activities may be required to restore order to the community.
- (2) When applicable, Subjects will be cited in lieu of detention (CLD) for an offense that qualifies for a CLD.
- (3) Arrests shall be used sparingly and limited to individuals engaged in serious criminal behavior.

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