University of Central Florida Public Safety and Police Department
General Order-612
Campus Protest and Demonstrations

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Policy Statement: The Public Safety and Police must carefully balance the First Amendment rights and other civil liberties of individuals with the interventions required to protect public safety and property. All persons have the right to assemble, demonstrate, protest, rally, or perform other activities protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. The Campus Free Expression Act allows for outdoor areas of the University campus to be used for demonstrations and other exercises of free speech and assembly. (§1004.097 Fla. Stat.) Such use must not interfere with the conduct of classes or other University activities or otherwise be disruptive, and such use must not infringe on the rights of others as defined in UCF Regulation 4.029.

Employees must not be affected by the content of the opinions being expressed or by the race, gender, physical disability, appearance, religion, or political affiliation of anyone lawfully exercising their First Amendment rights. Employees must have the integrity to not let personal, political, or religious views affect how they perform their duties.

612.01 Crowd/Assembly Categories: UCFPD must be aware of various crowd-associated behaviors that may result in a law enforcement response. If feasible, the UCFPD officers should identify and isolate unlawful behavior. Crowd/assembly categories may be used as a guide to the appropriate law enforcement response:

Lawful First Amendment - Assembly with no substantive disruption of ongoing campus operations or traffic. The usual police response or required action is minimal other than a community policing orientation to demonstrate police presence for the participants' safety and to enable a successful assembly; or assembly wherein large crowds may unintentionally disrupt campus operations or traffic. In general, the proper posture is a community policing orientation but with a clear traffic control plan that is geared to protect participants from harm from traffic, and also to redirect traffic to minimize the inconvenience to motorists.

Unlawful Civil Disobedience - Officers should recognize situations in which participants may be willing to risk arrest (or negotiate for arrest) to publicly demonstrate their point. Understanding crowd tactics and intentions is critical to prevent unnecessary escalation of behavior and any perception of a law enforcement overreaction. Participant intent is generally to create a physical inconvenience to draw attention to a political or social cause. Incident Commanders should focus on a deliberate and thoughtful tactical approach to these situations whenever circumstances permit.

Celebratory crowd (e.g. Special Events) - In general requires a highly visible police presence from the onset, particularly if alcohol is a factor; crowd control resources should be readily available to officers; Incident Commander should evaluate timing and direction of coordinated street clearing during pre-planning sessions; Incident Commanders should provide clear direction as to when and how to engage. Please refer to GO 613.

Crowd violence - Includes assaultive behavior or significant intentional damage to property, regardless of initial motivations; requires Incident Commanders to take dynamic tactical action; Incident Commanders should strive to use tactical responses based on previous training and equipment.

612.02 Planning: Planning and preparation are essential elements of effective crowd management. The planning process establishes a foundation for informed decision-making and accountability. Whenever possible, the appropriate law enforcement response to peaceful assemblies/demonstrations/protests should be intelligence driven, and supported by continuous situational awareness provided through firsthand officer reports or real time technology; as a consequence, the evolution and development of the response is based on these stages:

a. Pre-Event Stage
b. Operational Stage
c. Post Event Stage

612.03 Pre-Event Stage: The pre-event stage focuses on whether law enforcement is necessary at the event, and if so at what level of involvement or presence and in what posture. The pre-event assessment includes a safety assessment of the event to determine if violence or other criminal conduct might reasonably be expected to occur at the event. Consideration for mutual aid requests should be made at this stage. The department should establish relationships, have a shared, respectful understanding of the organizers' objectives and intentions, and communicate the institutions' priorities and responsibilities to ensure public safety and establish an open, ongoing, productive, and positive line of communication. This communication should include the use/scanning of social media.

612.04 Operational Stage: The operational response of law enforcement will be highly dependent on the pre-event evaluation and evolving issues at the time. The department shall provide sufficient police presence at assemblies and gatherings in the posture which best ensures the constitutional rights of participants and promotes a lawful assembly /demonstration and ensures public safety. Incident Commander should strive to recognize crowd actions/intentions and determine the appropriate police response, with the goal of minimizing any unintended escalation or misunderstanding. The Incident Commander is responsible for developing and implementing an operational plan. The operational plan shall:

a. Protect the rights of demonstrators by allowing the exercise of free expression.
b. Protect the rights of the university community members and surrounding community members.
c. Protect the health and safety of demonstrators, university students, and community members alike.
d. Ensure that open and accurate information is provided to the public through a comprehensive media strategy that includes both traditional news media and social media.
e. Facilitate, to the extent possible, the continuity of operations of the university.
f. Protect the university physical plant and minimize damage to university property.

Incident Commanders should consider quickly developing a traffic management plan to redirect traffic around the event, ensuring crowd control resources are readily available in the unlikely circumstance such resources are necessary and ensuring preplanning has occurred including the potential for arrests. The

Incident Commander shall make every effort possible to engage in discussion with demonstration/protest organization leadership, if identified, to establish

a. Objectives of the event and intentions of the event planners
b. Duration of the event
c. A mutual understanding of time frame, the law enforcement response and reasonableness on the part of the police and the participants.
d. A good faith and mutual understanding of the participants' expectations regarding arrest and a cooperative understanding of how that scenario will unfold, thus reducing the potential for misunderstanding or misperceptions.
e. Clear communication with responding police officers and supervisors regarding the Incident Commander's intent.
f. An understanding that participants may be vocal and loud, but such actions are not a threat to officers.
g. That in the event arrests are required, a deliberate and methodical process to avoid injury to demonstrators and police officers is the desired approach.

The operational plan steps may include (not in priority order):

a. Response During Events
b. Mediation
c. De-escalation Techniques
d. Response to Resistance
e. Mass Arrest Procedures

At the conclusion of any crowd situation, the Incident Commander should strive to return the affected areas to a state of normalcy as quickly as possible.

612.05 Post Event Stage: A de-briefing, assessment, and after-action report should be completed to objectively identify the outcomes and consequences of the event as it unfolded as well as the appropriateness of the department's posture, response and lessons learned for the future.

612.06 Incident Management: The UCFPD shall utilize the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the core set of doctrines, concepts, principles, terminology, and organizational processes to enable effective efficient and collaborative incident management at all levels. All supervisors shall familiarize themselves with NIMS Manual. Supervisors who may be tasked with managing civil disorder shall have attended ICS 300-400 training courses.

612.07 Potentially Hazardous Events: If the protest or demonstration takes the form or involves a parade or march on campus the Demonstrators/Organizational Group should follow the requirements of University Regulation 4.029, Potentially Hazardous Event. If the group did not receive prior approval, this may be considered a disruption or interference with the administration or functions of an educational institution, per section 877.13 of the Florida Statutes, and subjects may be required to leave the campus immediately or be subject to arrest.

In the event of a disruption, UCF policy 4.0293 Use of University Facilities Campus Demonstrations and Other Outdoor Events gives the Police Department the ability to act. The Police Department shall

a. Declare a demonstration or assembly to be disruptive, disorderly, or in violation of law and request all participants to cease and desist and to disperse and clear the area or be subject to arrest and/or University disciplinary action;

b. Arrest any participants observed to be in violation of the law; and
c. Enlist the assistance of outside law enforcement agencies, if necessary.



Robin Griffin-Kitzerow
Chief of Police