
Patrol Function

400.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to define the functions of the patrol unit of the Department to ensure intraorganizational cooperation and information sharing.

400.1.1 FUNCTION

Officers will generally patrol in clearly marked vehicles. They will patrol assigned jurisdictional areas of Lorain, respond to calls for assistance, act as a deterrent to crime, enforce state, local and federal laws when authorized or empowered by agreement or statute, and respond to emergencies 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Patrol will generally provide the following services within the limits of available resources:

- (a) Patrol that is directed at the prevention of criminal acts, traffic violations and collisions, the maintenance of public order and the discovery of hazardous situations or conditions.
- (b) Crime prevention activities, such as residential inspections, business inspections and community presentations.
- (c) Calls for service, both routine and emergency.
- (d) Investigation of both criminal and non-criminal acts.
- (e) The apprehension of criminal offenders.
- (f) Community Oriented Policing and problem-solving activities, such as citizen assists and individual citizen contacts of a positive nature.
- (g) The sharing of information between the patrol and other divisions within the Department, as well as other government agencies.
- (h) The application of resources to specific problems or situations within the community that may be improved or resolved by Community Oriented Policing and problem-solving strategies.
- (i) Traffic direction and control.
- (j) Disasters, civic unrest and natural emergencies.

400.1.2 TERRORISM

It is the goal of the Lorain Police Department to make every reasonable effort to accurately and appropriately gather and report any information that may relate to either foreign or domestic terrorism. Officers should advise a supervisor as soon as practicable of any activity believed to be terrorism related and should document such incidents with a written report or Field Interview (FI).

The supervisor should ensure that all terrorism-related reports and FIs are forwarded to the Criminal Investigations supervisor in a timely fashion.

Lorain Police Department

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400.2 PATROL INFORMATION SHARING PROCEDURES

The following guidelines are intended to develop and maintain intraorganizational cooperation and information flow between the various divisions of the Lorain Police Department.

400.2.1 CRIME ANALYSIS UNIT

The Crime Analysis Unit will provide weekly statistical reports for review.

400.2.2 CRIME REPORTS

A crime report may be completed by any patrol officer who receives criminal information. The report will be processed and forwarded to the appropriate bureau for retention or follow-up investigation.

400.2.3 PATROL BRIEFINGS

Patrol supervisors, investigative sergeants and special unit sergeants are encouraged to share information as much as reasonably possible. All supervisors and/or officers will be provided an opportunity to share information through daily patrol briefings, as time permits.

400.2.4 BULLETIN BOARDS

A bulletin board will be kept in the typing room for display of suspect information, investigative reports and photographs. New Special Orders will be made available for patrol supervisors and will be discussed at briefings and shift meetings.

400.3 CROWDS, EVENTS AND GATHERINGS

Officers may encounter gatherings of people, including but not limited to, civil demonstrations, civic, social and business events, public displays, parades and sporting events. Officers should monitor such events as time permits in an effort to keep the peace and protect the safety and rights of those present. A patrol supervisor should be notified when it becomes reasonably foreseeable that such an event may require increased monitoring, contact or intervention.

Officers responding to an event or gathering that warrants law enforcement involvement should carefully balance the speech and association rights of those present with applicable public safety concerns before taking enforcement action. Officers are encouraged to contact organizers or responsible persons to seek voluntary compliance that may address relevant public safety/order concerns.

Officers should consider enforcement of applicable state and local laws when the activity blocks the entrance or egress of a facility or location and when voluntary compliance with the law is not achieved.