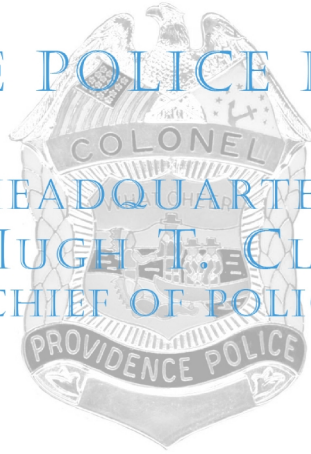


PROVIDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HEADQUARTERS
COLONEL HUGH T. CLEMENTS, JR.
CHIEF OF POLICE



TYPE OF ORDER	NUMBER/SERIES	ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
General Order	520.01	3/28/2014	3/30/2014
SUBJECT TITLE		PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DATES	
News Media Access		Supersedes G.O. #3 Series 2002	
REFERENCE		RE-EVALUATION DATE	
CALEA 54.1.3		3/28/2017	
SUBJECT AREA		DISTRIBUTION	
Community Relations & Services		All Personnel	

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a set of parameters pertaining to interaction with the news media.

POLICY

It is the policy of this Department to ensure the right of the public to be informed, and to facilitate the accurate, timely, and proper dissemination of information concerning the official business of the Department.

DISCUSSION

All members of the Department will make every effort to assist news media representatives who request information or access to an incident scene whenever the news media has a legal right to obtain such information or access. These rights should be observed when the release of information DOES NOT:

- Pose undue risk to the personal safety of members of the Department, news media representatives, or others.
- Interfere with law enforcement operations.
- Adversely affect the rights of an accused or the investigation or prosecution of a crime.

PROCEDURE

I. COOPERATION

- A. This Department will cooperate with the news media by not interfering or allowing others to interfere with the news media's ability to perform its duties.
 - 1. Members of the Department will not interfere or obstruct the news media from videotaping or photographing incidents in public areas.
 - 2. Under no circumstances shall the news media be provided with either more access or less access to an area than that afforded to the general public.
 - 3. News media personnel do not have a right to enter crime scenes or to enter any areas that are excluded for security or investigative reasons.

II. FREEDOM OF SPEECH

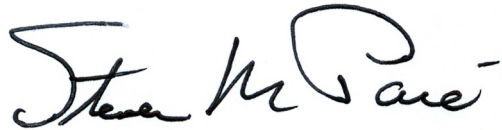
- A. It is not the policy of the Providence Police Department to restrict its members from exercising their right to free speech. However, the dissemination of any information that may hinder, interfere with, or otherwise compromise the integrity of any investigation, is prohibited.
- B. It is imperative that no information be released that would violate the privacy rights of either the victim or the accused.

III. NEWS MEDIA REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

- A. It is not uncommon for local investigations, arrests, operations, etc., to overlap into other agencies, bureaus, or jurisdictions. Therefore, it is imperative that ALL news media requests for information be referred to the Commissioner's Office or the Office of the Chief of Police.

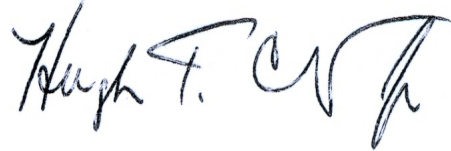
NOTE: This order is for internal use only, and does not enlarge an officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third-party claims. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

APPROVED:

Handwritten signature of Steven M. Paré in black ink.

STEVEN M. PARÉ
COMMISSIONER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

APPROVED:

Handwritten signature of Hugh T. Clements, Jr. in black ink.

HUGH T. CLEMENTS, JR.
COLONEL
CHIEF OF POLICE