

Policy Name:	CROWD MANAGEMENT, DEMONSTRATIONS AND DISTURBANCES		
Policy #:	OP 4.14	Last Updated:	2022-06-08
Issued By:	COMMUNITY POLICING BUREAU	Approved By:	SURREY POLICE BOARD
		Review Frequency:	AS REQUIRED

RELATED POLICIES

OP 2.1 Use of Force

OP 2.4 IIO Notification

OP 3.1 Arrest and Detention

OP 3.2 Searches of a Person

OP 4.14.1 Civil Court Injunctions

OP 4.31 Labour Disputes

OP 6.2. Emergency Operations and Planning

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide Members general direction regarding Surrey Police Service (SPS) management of public demonstrations.
- 1.2 To ensure a standardized response to any pre-planned or spontaneous events which require management of large crowds. The SPS response to these events focuses on public safety while maintaining public order, upholding the rule of law, and preventing crime.
- 1.3 SPS is committed to resolving public order incidents safely using all resources available within the department, other police agencies and by working in partnership with community stakeholders.

2. SCOPE

2.1 This policy applies to all Members.

3. POLICY

3.1 Members may be required during their duties to control large crowds (Public Order) under varying circumstances, which include but are not limited to:

- i. large public celebrations;
- ii. sporting events;
- iii. parades;
- iv. demonstrations; and
- v. visits from dignitaries.

3.2 Maintaining the public peace is a critical police function. It is, however, a challenging responsibility as police must use discretion and balance the right to peaceful assembly and protecting people and property while policing Public Order events.

3.3 Every person in Canada has the fundamental freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly as guaranteed under section 2 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Protest is a right enjoyed by every person, but that protest must be peaceful, lawful and safe.

3.4 SPS subscribes to the following principles of Public Order policing:

- i. Lawful justification: all police action must be pursued towards a necessary and legitimate policing objective;
- ii. Proportionality: the risk and impact of police actions must be proportional to the priority of the policing objectives, and the severity of the situation in need of intervention; and
- iii. Intrusiveness: police actions will be the least intrusive available, the smallest possible in geographic area, and the briefest in time as necessary to fulfill policing responsibilities, including public safety and police officer safety

3.5 When policing large crowds and demonstrations, SPS goals include, but are not limited to:

- i. preventing criminal acts from taking place;
- ii. ensuring that the safety of demonstrators, the public, and the police is maintained; and
- iii. ensuring that the public peace is maintained.

3.6 SPS Public Order policing guidelines are:

- i. facilitate and protect the public’s rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly;
- ii. ensure a high level of restraint in the use of force;
- iii. protect public safety and police officer safety first, and property safety second; and
- iv. consider public safety and police officer safety when deciding a course of action.

3.7 SPS policing approach for crowd management emphasizes professionalism and allowing for responsible celebrations and peaceful, lawful and safe demonstrations.

3.8 For large crowds and demonstrations, SPS will make every reasonable effort to prevent escalation and to de-escalate confrontations that may potentially lead to violence or injuries to the public or Members.

3.9 SPS will use discretion regarding the enforcement of laws and bylaws for large crowds and demonstrations. SPS acknowledges the inherent risks in policing; however, police officer safety should not be put at risk when managing large crowds and demonstrations to immediately enforce minor matters.

3.10 Frontline policing Supervisors will assume initial command of all incidents involving the management of large crowds and demonstrations until relieved by an Incident Commander.

3.11 A demonstration is defined as an incident involving a breach of the peace arising out of labour disputes or politically-motivated activities. The role of SPS Members at labour disputes and politically-motivated activities is to preserve the peace, prevent offences, maintain crowd control, and enforce the law including offences against persons and property, in accordance with powers and discretion available to a police officer under the law (see OP 4.31 *Labour Disputes*).

4. PROCEDURE

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APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

“CAD” means computer aided dispatch.

“DEMON” means the CAD dispatch code for a “demonstration”.

“Duty Officer” means the Frontline Policing Inspector.

“EOP” means the SPS Emergency Operations and Planning Unit.

“Incident Commander” means the senior officer holding the rank of Staff Sergeant or above designated to command an incident.

“Kettling” is a police tactic for controlling large crowds during demonstrations or protests. It involves the formation of large cordons of police officers who then move to contain a crowd within a limited area. The Courts have been clear that Kettling is a last resort for crowd control.

“Member” means a sworn Police Officer appointed by the Surrey Police Board.

“OCC” means the Operational Communications Centre.

“PRIME-BC” means the Police Records Information Management Environment, the provincial police records management system.

“SBOR” means the Subject Behaviour Officer Response template in PRIME-BC.

“Supervisor” means a Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Inspector, Superintendent, Deputy Chief Constable, Chief Constable, and any other person acting in a Supervisory capacity who is accountable for a particular area or shift on behalf of SPS.

APPENDIX B: REFERENCES

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Part I of the Constitution Act, 1982

Criminal Code, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46