


POLICY 501.10	MASS ARRESTS	
	Revised: 2/98, 9/02, 01/05, 11/07, 01/14, 10/15, 07/20, 04/21, 08/23	RELATED POLICIES: 501.1, 501.2, 501.3, 501.4, 501.5, 501.6, 501.7, 501.8, 501.9
	CFA STANDARDS: 14.07, 22.14	REVIEWED: AS NEEDED THIS VERSION PUBLISHED: 09/05/2023

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines and to outline procedures for the arrest and processing of a large number of persons.

B. POLICY

Mass arrests will be accomplished according to law and this order.

C. PROCEDURE

1. General:
 - a. During civil disturbance incidents, in which mass arrests are anticipated, the Fort Lauderdale Police Department will continue to enforce Florida law and city ordinances. When mass violations occur, discretionary enforcement may be necessary due to the number of violators and law enforcement personnel present. Decisions concerning this issue will be made only by the Police Chief, or a designee, after consultation with the State Attorney's Office when practical.
 - b. Officers will not engage in demonstration related discussion with participants. They will conduct themselves in a manner that conveys an attitude of neutrality and will be courteous and professional in their actions.
 - c. Supervisors will attempt to communicate directly with demonstration leaders in order to facilitate negotiations and maintain the peace.

2. When mass arrests are anticipated:
 - a. Incident Commander: The Incident Commander is defined as the highest-ranking and/or most qualified officer on scene, who has complete authority for conducting the overall operation, will:
 - (1). Establish a command post and staging area as needed;
 - (2). Prepare/obtain situational maps;
 - (3). Notify both the FLPD prisoner intake personnel and Broward County Jail facilities;

- (4). Compile and disseminate tactical and intelligence information to include:
 - (a). Estimated number of disturbance participants;
 - (b). Weapons involved; and
 - (c). Hostages involved, if any.
 - (5). Arrange for security at public facilities, as needed;
 - (6). Arrange for traffic to be diverted from the area and prevent entry by the public;
 - (7). Formulate arrest squads;
 - (8). Arrange for a large transport vehicle (i.e. bus); and
 - (9). Establish a media command center.
 - (10). Activate the FLPD Command Center, BSO Real Time Crime Center, and a Tactical Dispatcher.
- b. Executive Officer: The Executive Officer will be selected by, and report to the Incident Commander and provide assistance as directed. The Administrative Officer will facilitate the acquisition of specialized equipment and maintain mass arrest kits in a state of operational readiness. The kits will contain:
- (1). Probable Cause Affidavits;
 - (2). Primary Arrest Sheets;
 - (3). Flexcuffs/Rubber gloves;
 - (4). Wire cutters or snips;
 - (5). Digital Evidence Tablet
 - (6). Large manila envelopes and appropriate containers for evidence;
 - (7). Incident log and associated materials including: forms, evidence sheets, NTAs, etc.
- c. FLPD Tactical Dispatcher: The FLPD Tactical Dispatcher will request BSO Dispatch to activate a tactical radio talk group. FLPD Teletype will make necessary call-out notifications at the direction of the Incident Commander. A dispatcher will be assigned to the tactical talk group designated for the operation.

- d. Public Information: The Public Information Officer (P.I.O.) will respond to the field command post to establish media relations. Media representatives will be discouraged from accessing a disturbance area until order has been restored.
- e. Other Law Enforcement and Military Support: Law enforcement and military support will be obtained as provided by statute and interagency agreement, as needed.
- f. Warnings: When the Incident Commander determines that the participants are unlawfully, riotously, or tumultuously assembled in violation of F.S. 870.04, the following proclamation must be issued before an arrest for unlawful assembly is made:

DISPERSAL ORDER

I am (rank and name), of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department. I hereby declare this to be an unlawful assembly and, in the name of the State of Florida, command all persons so assembled at (specific address of location) to immediately and peacefully disperse, which means to separate and leave the area. If you do not do so, you will be arrested or subjected to other police action. Other police action may include the use of less-lethal munitions, or chemical agents. Chapter 870.04 of the Florida State Statutes prohibits remaining present at an unlawful assembly. If you remain in the area, which was just described, regardless of your purpose for remaining, you will be in violation of Section 870.04. The following routes of dispersal are available: (give directions for evacuation routes). You have (X number of minutes) to leave in a peaceful, orderly manner, or face arrest or other police action.

- (1). Warnings will be made from stationary vantage points that are observable by the crowd, or to a large number of participants. Additional warnings will be given via public address systems in police vehicles. The warning will be given at an amplitude to be heard by the entire assemblage.

- (2). Final reading/warning add the following:

This order was originally read at (give time) which means you are in violation. Please continue to move or you will be subject to arrest or other police action as described.

- (3). The number of warnings given, the methods used, the intervals between warnings, and the interval between the final warning, and any order to arrest, will be documented in the incident log by the executive officer.

- (4). When possible, the dispersal order will be video recorded.

3. Arrests: The Incident Commander will direct that violators be arrested if the crowd refuses to disperse after a reasonable time following the final warning.
 - a. Additional law enforcement personnel should be assembled within the outer perimeter area, out of sight of the crowd, and brought into the critical area at the direction of the Incident Commander.
 - b. The squad supervisor(s) will inform members of the appropriate charge(s), and direct the arrest of selected participants who are in violation of the law.
 - (1). The applicable charges included, but not limited to:
 - (a). Affrays and Riots – F.S. 870.01
 - (b). Unlawful Assembly – F.S. 870.02
 - (c). Resisting/Obstructing an Officer – F.S. 843.02
 - c. Note: An individual that refuses to disperse after being so ordered cannot be charged with F.S. 870.04.
4. Identification and Processing: The Incident Commander will notify FLPD intake personnel of anticipated mass arrests and will ensure enough personnel are on hand throughout the operation.
 - a. Arresting officers are responsible for completing Probable Cause Affidavits. They will process the affidavits, maintain the paperwork, and be responsible for the overall processing of arrestees.
 - b. Juveniles taken into custody will be processed as directed by Fort Lauderdale Police Department Policy and Procedures Manual.
 - c. Evidence: The arresting officer is responsible for collecting and placing evidence into the Evidence Section.
 - d. Transportation: Designated officers will transport arrestees from mass arrest scenes to the appropriate detention facility, or temporary-processing center. Arrestee transportation will be conducted in accordance with Departmental guidelines.
 - e. Photographs: A photograph shall be taken of the arresting officer with his/her prisoner and two copies printed.
 - (1). Each photo shall have the following information indicated. The information shall be in the photo on a clearly visible plaque (8X12 sheets with heavy marker should be used):
 - (a). Offense Report number;
 - (b). Date;

(c). Time;

(d). Names of the officer(s) and prisoner.

(2). One photo shall be kept by the officer for court presentation and the other shall be affixed to the Probable Cause Affidavit.

5. Post Occurrence Duties:

a. Officers will be released from the area of the disturbance when the Incident Commander determines that resurgence is unlikely. Officers will complete necessary supplement reports.

b. After Action Report: The Incident Commander will submit an after action report to the appropriate District Captain. The report should include comments concerning the execution of the Civil Disturbance/Mass Arrest Plan.