

Columbus Police Division Directive	EFFECTIVE	NUMBER
	Jan. 30, 1998	5.09
	REVISED	TOTAL PAGES
	Jun. 30, 2011	2
Traffic Escorts		



I. Introduction

Traffic escorts provide only for the expeditious movement of the escorted vehicle through traffic and are not a dignitary protection detail.

II. Policy Statements

- A. Sworn personnel shall use marked vehicles for traffic escorts.
- B. Prior to starting a non-emergency escort, sworn personnel in charge of the escort shall ensure **that** the driver of the escorted vehicle is notified of the following:
1. The specific route to be taken,
 2. To turn **on his or her vehicle's** headlights,
 3. To maintain a safe distance from the vehicle ahead, **and**
 4. Not to enter an intersection without the right-of-way unless signaled to do so by a police officer and all traffic has been stopped.
- C. **The use of lights and siren/emergency equipment may be authorized. Refer to the "Emergency Vehicle Operations (EVO)" directive.**
- D. Type of escort
1. High-level public officials and dignitaries

Though usually reserved for persons whose position entitles them to protection by the U.S. Secret Service, **an escort may be provided either at the request of another law enforcement agency with protective responsibilities or the Mayor of the City of Columbus.**
 2. Emergency vehicles entering the City with emergency lights and siren operating
 - a. **Sworn personnel may provide an** escort if:
 - (1) The final destination of the emergency vehicle is within the City limits.
 - (2) Assistance was requested through the **Communications Bureau** prior to arriving in the City, **and**
 - (3) Approval **is given by** the **on-duty** zone lieutenant.
 3. Funerals

Generally, **the Division** does not participate in funeral escorts unless the Columbus Police or Columbus Fire Honor Guard is participating in the funeral; **however, the Traffic Bureau may provide funeral**

escorts when the size of the procession is likely to pose a significant problem within the City of Columbus.

4. Oversized vehicles
 - a. **An** escort may be provided to vehicles that exceed the normal width, length, height, or weight requirements specific to the vehicle and that have a valid permit issued by the State of Ohio or the City of Columbus.
 - b. Escorts of oversized vehicles shall be handled through the Special Duty Unit, **except for those vehicles belonging to** the state or federal government, which shall be escorted by Traffic Bureau personnel.
5. Vehicles hauling hazardous or unusual cargo
 - a. These vehicles are required by Columbus City Code to travel on I-270, unless the point of origin or delivery is within I-270.
 - b. **Sworn personnel shall ensure the vehicle operator has the proper permits issued by the Columbus Division of Fire** to deliver hazardous cargo **within the city and** inside I-270.
6. Civilian vehicles with medical emergencies aboard

Sworn personnel should not escort civilian vehicles **with a medical emergency aboard unless they are in the immediate vicinity of a medical facility. In most instances, sworn personnel shall request medical assistance and have** victims treated and transported by Emergency Medical Service personnel.
7. Miscellaneous non-emergency escorts

The Special Events Section Lieutenant shall **determine the appropriate EVO response, if any, and** coordinate traffic escorts **involving** tour buses, parades, and vehicles carrying athletic teams **and** officials or famous persons.