

Columbus Police Division Directive	EFFECTIVE	NUMBER
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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 **Division** 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 **or Traffic Bureau** 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 **Office**, 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 **Division** 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 **Division** 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 **Division** 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.