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**COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS
LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY**

Policy No. 4240 **Date Issued:** June 1, 1996
Section: 4200 - Officer Safety **Date Revised:** February 14, 2022

SUBJECT: IN-PROGRESS FELONY CALLS

APPROVED: <signed copy on file>
Chairperson, Law Enforcement Users Subcommittee
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Amethyst Uchida, General Manager

1.0 Purpose

To assure the safety of responding officers and the public during high priority events by properly identifying and dispatching in-progress felony calls.

2.0 Definitions

- 2.1 Not all felony calls are appropriate for this category. Incidents that are considered in-progress felony calls include, but are not limited to:
- Robberies – armed or strong arm
 - Kidnappings
 - Rapes
 - Murder or attempted murder
 - Assaults with deadly weapons
 - Burglaries – commercial or residential
 - Fights involving weapons
 - Silent robbery alarms
 - Escapes from a jail facility
 - Carjackings

3.0 Call Taking Procedures

- 3.1 The call taker will correctly prioritize in-progress felony calls (hot felony calls) for service in accordance with Procedure No. 4701.80 – *Creating and Dispatching First Priority Calls for Service*.
- 3.2 If reporting parties are in a location where they can make further observations, the call taker will keep them on the phone pending the arrival of the officers, if it is safe to do so.

4.0 Dispatch Procedure

- 4.1 All in-progress felony calls will be dispatched using alert tones as described in Policy No. 4310 – *Alert Tone*.
- 4.2 The format for dispatching an in-progress felony call is as follows:

Broadcast, without waiting for an acknowledgement:
 1. Triple beep.
 2. Assign the closest primary and cover unit by unit identifier using ARL (Automatic Resource Locator (GPS location)) in CAD.
 3. State the Incident Type.
 4. State the incident location.
 5. Broadcast the nearest cross street(s) and/or business name.
 6. Broadcast known details of the call, including if weapons are involved
 7. Notify the patrol supervisor of the incident
 8. If the beat unit was not originally dispatched as primary or cover and is available, they should be assigned to the incident.
- 4.3 The decision to respond code 3, using red lights and siren, will be made by the responding officers and/or the patrol supervisor.
 - 4.3.1 Immediately advise the patrol supervisor of the code 3 response.
- 4.4 Dispatchers will not call the scene of an in-progress felony call if calling could pose a risk to responding officers of the public.
 - 4.4.1 If the dispatcher is unsure if calling the scene of the crime would pose a risk, the dispatcher will refer to the patrol supervisor or primary responding officer.
- 4.5 Upon arrival of responding officers, the dispatcher or an officer may request radio silence in accordance with Policy No. 4325 – *Radio Silence*.
- 4.6 An on-scene unit may request that the dispatcher call into the business or residence to assess the conditions inside. If calling a business, the dispatcher will attempt to make contact with the supervisor or manager. The dispatcher

will then advise the officer of the reported conditions inside and request further instructions, if necessary.

- 4.6.1 If the officer requests that someone exit the building for contact, the dispatcher will obtain a physical and clothing description and advise the officers. The dispatcher will also advise what door the person will be exiting from, if the officer did not specify.

5.0 Notify Surrounding Agencies

- 5.1 Provide BOL information to surrounding law enforcement agencies, as soon as possible.
- 5.2 The patrol supervisor may request Project R.O.P.E. activation in accordance with Policy No. 4770 – *Project R.O.P.E.* If the dispatcher is aware that Project R.O.P.E. criteria are present, they should ask the patrol supervisor if s/he desires implementation.