

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 2

March 10, 2016

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT-WIDE DOMESTIC ABUSE RESPONSE TEAM PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES – ESTABLISHED

PURPOSE: Due to an increase in aggravated assaults, the Los Angeles Police Department analyzed statistical crime data and determined that nearly one third of the increase in crime was caused by domestic violence related incidents. At the direction of the Mayor's Office, the Department developed a Citywide Domestic Violence Prevention and Outreach Initiative. This resulted in the Department partnering with domestic violence service providers in order to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence. This program specializes in responding to incidents of domestic violence with the goal of educating and providing resources to assist those affected with breaking the cycle of domestic violence. The Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) program consists of police officers, detectives, and civilian personnel who provide advocacy and resources to victims of domestic violence.

PROCEDURE:

I. DOMESTIC ABUSE RESPONSE TEAM OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES.

Officer(s) assigned to DART as a primary duty assignment shall provide expertise in the area of domestic violence. The officer's responsibilities include:

- * Assignment to detectives under the direct supervision of the Major Assault Crimes (MAC) Coordinator;
- * Check-in with the on-duty watch commander at the start of watch and check-out with the on-duty watch commander at the end of watch;
- * Attend the roll call that most closely coincides with the officer's start of watch;
- * Be deployed as unit designation "DV1";
- * Inform the victim of his/her right to have a domestic violence advocate and a support person of the victim's choosing present at any interview by law enforcement authorities, prosecutors, or defense attorney, pursuant to California Penal Code Section 679.05;
- * Respond to domestic violence calls for service and **assist** the primary responding unit by providing investigative expertise/support including, but not limited to, the following areas:
 - Completion of applicable report(s), to include Crime/Arrest reports, Domestic Violence Incident reports, etc.;
 - Interview techniques/questions (with emphasis on strangulation investigations);
 - Emergency Protective Orders (EPOs); and,
 - Provide telephonic advice when unable to respond to domestic violence calls for service.
- * Avoid becoming involved in emergency, tactical, or enforcement related activities when deployed with a civilian advocate unless exigent circumstances exist;

- * Attend the Domestic Violence MAC School as soon as possible after being assigned to the DART car;
- * Be cross-trained by the current dedicated DART officer(s) and advocates for a reasonable period, determined by and subject to change by both the Area commanding officer and detective commanding officer; and,
- * Attend offered training in the field of domestic violence, when feasible.

II. MAJOR ASSAULT CRIMES COORDINATOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES. The MAC Coordinator shall be responsible for the following:

- * Permit advocates to work on-site at the geographic Area during normal business hours, under the direct supervision of the MAC Coordinator, while providing follow-up services to victims of domestic violence;
- * Ensure the deployment of DART officer(s) on a 4/10 schedule during peak days and hours as provided in the "Cooperation Agreement" between the geographic Area and the service provider. These days and hours are subject to change by either the Area commanding officer or the detective commanding officer;
- * Ensure that the DART car consists of at least one Police Officer II and a maximum of two advocates at any given time; and,
- * Ensure that DART officer(s) are not assigned as case carrying detectives and function only in the capacity of assisting patrol officers and civilian advocates in providing domestic violence expertise and resources.

III. COMMANDING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES. Area commanding officers shall be responsible for the following:

- * Permit advocates to work on-site at the geographic Area during normal business hours, under the direct supervision of the MAC Coordinator, while providing follow-up services to victims of domestic violence;
- * Provide a DART car, subject to the availability of resources;
- * Ensure that the DART car consists of at least one Police Officer II assigned to DART as a primary duty assignment, and a maximum of two advocates at any given time;
- * Ensure the deployment of DART officer(s) on a 4/10 schedule during peak days and hours as provided in the "Cooperation Agreement" between the geographic Area and the service provider. These days and hours are subject to change by either the Area commanding officer or the detective commanding officer;
- * Ensure that DART officer(s) are not assigned as case carrying detectives and function only in the capacity of assisting patrol officers and civilian advocates in providing domestic violence expertise and resources; and,
- * Ensure that the officer(s) are reassigned to patrol in the event the DART program is deactivated through a termination or non-renewal of the "Cooperation Agreement" between the geographic Area and the service provider, or if there is no advocate assigned to the DART car for a period of 30 days.

AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY: The Commanding Officer, Audit Division, shall review this directive and determine whether an audit or inspection shall be conducted in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.

Should you have questions regarding this matter, please contact the Evaluation and Administration Section, Office of Operations, at (213) 486-6050.



JORGE A. VILLEGAS, Assistant Chief
Director, Office of Operations

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