

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

ORDER NO. 5

February 21, 1996

TO: All Personnel, Office of Operations

FROM: Director, Office of Operations

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE JEOPARDY PROGRAM
IN GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

PURPOSE

This Order supplements Office of Operations Order No. 11, 1991, entitled "Voluntary Expansion of the Jeopardy Program" and provides additional guidelines that may be used by commanding officers in the management of youth-at-risk programs.

INFORMATION

In 1990, the Department implemented the Jeopardy Program on a pilot basis in Foothill and Southeast Areas. The purpose of the program was to identify juveniles who were at risk of becoming gang members and to provide referrals to alternative, positive activities. In 1991, due to the success of the pilot programs, all Area commanding officers were allowed to voluntarily adopt the Jeopardy Program as part of their commands.

Currently, the existing programs vary greatly by geographic Area. Because the Jeopardy Program has been designated as optional, some Area commanding officers, with their Bureau approval, have elected not to establish a Jeopardy Program, but have pursued handling youth-at-risk through other avenues. Within the Areas utilizing Jeopardy, the program varies from a part-time intervention effort involving one or two officers, to full-time intervention and youth services programs involving teams of five or six officers working full-time. The Jeopardy youth services programs have, in some cases, duplicated other pre-existing Department youth services programs (especially within Area Community Relations Offices [CRO]) and sometimes created conflicts with services provided by other referral agencies. These guidelines have been developed in order to re-focus the Jeopardy Program on intervention and to conserve valuable Department and community resources.

PROCEDURE

Program Guidelines

Jeopardy programs must maintain the flexibility currently allotted to Area commanding officers to adapt the program to the youth intervention and crime needs of their Areas. Area commanding officers must be able to determine the extent of involvement, the chain of command for the involved officers, and the supervisory requirements for their programs. However, current Department deployment priorities mandate that each Area designate no more than two sworn officers for Jeopardy assignments to minimize the number of officers removed from field duty. Also, the Jeopardy Program must be an intervention program. In that capacity, the program must: 1) identify at-risk youth by establishing liaison with schools, parks, and field officers; 2) provide an opportunity for a meeting between the involved youth, their parents, and the jeopardy officers to discuss appropriate referrals; and, 3) follow up on referrals to evaluate the need for a different course of action and to evaluate both the success of the referral and of the program in general.

NOTE: When making referrals, Jeopardy officers must consider the entry requirements for each referral program. (For example, the Department's Explorer Program requires that candidates maintain a "C" average in school.)

Further, the CRO of each geographic Area must maintain supervisory responsibility for all Department sponsored youth programs, including but not limited to, Explorer Posts, DAP units, Police Athletic League activities, field trips, and sporting events. Jeopardy programs should freely use the Department's YSO programs as some of the appropriate referrals for Jeopardy participants but should not develop or conduct independent or duplicate programs.

Officers' Responsibilities

When field officers or detectives contact a juvenile who, based on their training and experience, is believed to be "in jeopardy" of becoming involved in gangs, in criminal activity, or who has committed a minor illegal act, the officers shall complete a Field Interview Card (FI), Form 15.43, and forward the FI to the Area Jeopardy officers. Each FI shall indicate the reason at-risk association is suspected. The completion of the FI card should be in addition to any other required action (arrest, release to parents, etc.).

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Area Jeopardy Officers' Responsibilities

When designated as an Area Jeopardy Officer (AJO) by their Area commanding officer, AJO's shall:

- * Review all Jeopardy referrals and FI's to determine which subjects are appropriate candidates for the Jeopardy Program;
- * Maintain liaison with other concerned entities in order to identify any potential Jeopardy candidates (i.e., schools, Boys and Girls clubs, Park Directors, etc.);
- * Conduct personal interviews with at-risk subjects and their parents/legal guardians;
- * Advise parents/legal guardians of their legal responsibility to control their son/daughter as required in Section 272 of the Penal Code;
- * Identify referral agencies that would assist the subject in avoiding criminal conduct. Make all appropriate referrals for each subject (Youth Advocacy Program, City Attorney Parenting Program, Area CRO youth activities, YMCA programs, Department of Recreation and Parks events, etc.);
- * Monitor the subject's progress as a result of referrals; and
- * Submit all necessary criminal charges against negligent parents/legal guardians or Jeopardy subjects to the Area Juvenile Coordinator for appropriate action.

Area Jeopardy Coordinator's Responsibilities

The Area Jeopardy Coordinator (AJC) shall:

- * Provide line supervision over AJO's;
- * Ensure that the Area Jeopardy Program is operating efficiently and that appropriate at-risk awareness interviews and referrals are being made; and
- * Maintain records on all subjects involved in the Jeopardy Program.

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Area Commanding Officers' Responsibilities

Area Commanding Officers shall:

- * In conjunction with the Bureau C/O, determine whether or not the needs of the Area justify the establishment of a Jeopardy program;
- * Implement a Jeopardy Program within their command, when appropriate;
- * Appoint an AJC for supervision of Jeopardy officers and identify the officers' chain of command;
- * To maximize field deployment, limit the number of personnel for each Area's Jeopardy Program to no more than two full-time officers.

NOTE: Area commanding officers may wish to utilize PM Watch Juvenile Patrol Car (J-Car) personnel or other personnel assigned to the Juvenile Unit as AJO's in conjunction with their other juvenile-related duties.

- * Ensure that the officers selected as AJO's receive Jeopardy training. Jeopardy training may be coordinated through Juvenile Division;
- * Ensure the security and confidentiality of Jeopardy records by restricting access to authorized personnel only;
- * Ensure that Area Jeopardy statistics are audited at the end of each year and forwarded to Juvenile Division by January 15 of each year;
- * Ensure that all youth activities (Athletic Leagues, Explorer Programs, boxing matches, karate competitions, field trips, etc.), are conducted under the Officer-in-Charge of each Area CRO.

NOTE: Area commanding officers may assign personnel from other units (including Jeopardy) to the CRO office to assist in the operation of youth programs.

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- * Limit fund raising efforts to those essential to the continuance of the Jeopardy Program and ensure compliance with procedures for control of non-budgetary funds.

The Jeopardy Program, when properly implemented and vigorously applied, is an effective front-end intervention strategy that assists many juveniles in avoiding gangs and criminal activity. By re-focusing the Jeopardy Program toward intervention, the Department will avoid costly duplication of effort, more wisely use scarce private and public resources, reduce negative impacts on Patrol deployment, and ensure continuing community support for both youth intervention and youth services programs.

Questions regarding these guidelines should be referred to Operations-Juvenile Group, at (213) 237-1998.



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