

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

ORDER NO. 8

March 21, 1995

TO: All Concerned Personnel, Office of Operations

FROM: Director, Office of Operations

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO "HEARD ONLY" SHOTS FIRED INCIDENTS

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

PURPOSE

This Order implements Office of Operations (O.O.) procedures for responding to "HEARD ONLY" shots fired incidents.

INFORMATION

Recent incidents have prompted O.O. to review the Department's policy relative to the response and handling of shots fired incidents. This Order delineates Department policy for the mandatory response to all "HEARD ONLY" shots fired incidents throughout the City. Previous policy did not require a police unit to be dispatched to "HEARD ONLY" shots fired calls. Such calls were broadcast to all units and then filed. Currently, six percent of all shots fired calls are "HEARD ONLY" and this averages out to less than one call per Area, per day. The change in dispatch policy will not have a great impact on current operational procedures.

POLICY

All incidents of shots fired which are reported as "HEARD ONLY," and not accompanied by additional information, shall be broadcast to police units in the concerned Area. If the call is not acknowledged within fifteen minutes, it shall be assigned to a police unit.

NOTE: Currently, a police unit is dispatched to all reports of shots fired for which any additional information is available, (e.g., identifiable location, persons reporting, description of vehicles, description or identity of possible suspects or victims, evidence at scene, multiple calls to the same location, etc.). The nature and coding of each call is determined by the circumstances described by the reporting party. This policy has not changed.

Officer's Responsibility

Each officer should consider the circumstances involved, the tactical response, and the safety of all persons when responding to incidents involving any shots fired calls. The responding unit should advise Communication Division of their status and broadcast their code 6 location. If warranted, a back-up unit and a supervisor should be requested.


The primary assigned unit is responsible for the timely response, locating of witnesses, the search for suspects and victims, and the preserving and gathering of evidence.

NOTE: Any anticipated delay in handling an assigned "HEARD ONLY" shots fired call shall be brought to the immediate attention of a supervisor.

Supervisor's Responsibility

Supervisors who become aware of an extended delay in a unit's response to "HEARD ONLY" shots fired incidents, shall minimize the delay by causing the call to be re-assigned as soon as practical.

NOTE: New Years Eve and Independence Day have historically generated an inordinate amount of shots fired radio calls. This policy could impair the Department's response to calls for service on these holidays, therefore it is incumbent upon each Area watch commander to coordinate the Area's response with the Communications Division Watch Commander.


BAYAN LEWIS, Deputy Chief
Director
Office of Operations

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