

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 10

July 13, 2022

SUBJECT: PRE-TRIAL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES – REVISED

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Order is to establish and implement Department protocols regarding the booking and authorization of the immediate disposition of cannabis edibles. The following amendments are intended to provide Department personnel with instructions on how to immediately dispose of cannabis edibles booked as evidence.

PROCEDURE: Department Manual Section 4/552.02, *Pre-Trial Authorization for the Destruction of Large Quantities of Controlled Substances*, has been revised. Attached is the revised manual section with the revisions indicated in italics.

AMENDMENT: This Order amends Section 4/552.02 of the Department Manual.

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.



MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police

Attachments

DISTRIBUTION "D"

**DEPARTMENT MANUAL
VOLUME IV
Revised by Special Order No. 10, 2022**

552.02 PRE-TRIAL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES. This section delineates procedures for pre-trial authorization for the destruction of large quantities of controlled substances *including those* that were not authorized for destruction at the time of booking.

PRE-TRIAL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF CANNABIS EDIBLES. *The following procedures shall be followed for seizures of large quantities of cannabis edibles in excess of ten pounds net weight.*

Officer's Responsibilities. *Officers who seize quantities of cannabis edibles in excess of ten (10) pounds net weight, which are to be booked into Evidence and Property Management Division, shall:*

- *Photograph and document the condition and packaging of all the edibles being seized. The photographs shall depict the description of the contents of the package as well as the ingredients that indicate the edible contains Delta-9-Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC);*
- *Place the item(s) in a re-sealable zipper storage bag if the original packaging has been compromised;*
- *Complete a Property Report, Form 10.01.00, in compliance with the following procedures:*
 - *Book a minimum of 10 pounds of the seized edibles as an item on the Property Report;*
 - *Book a minimum of five random and representative edible samples from the total remaining seized edibles that can be made available for testing, if needed, as separate items on the property report;*
- *Weigh the remainder of the edibles and list them as one item on the Property Report;*
- *Check the box on the Property Report, indicating the items are eligible for immediate disposal;*
- *Complete a Property Disposition/Update Request, Form 10.06.00, authorizing the disposition of the remaining cannabis edibles while ensuring compliance with Section 11479 of the California Health and Safety Code; and,*
- *Submit the completed Property Disposition/Update Request to the Property Officer at the time of booking of the controlled substance.*

Responsibility of Commanding Officer, Evidence and Property Management Division.

Upon determining that a quantity of a booked controlled substance, exceeding the limits defined in H&S Code Section 11479 et seq., poses a security or storage problem, the Commanding Officer (CO), Evidence and Property Management Division, will direct an LAPD Pre-Trial Narcotics Destruction Authorization, Form 10.11.00, via the Director, Office of Special Operations (OSO) to the CO, Gang and Narcotics Division (GND).

Responsibilities of Commanding Officer, Gang and Narcotics Division. The CO, GND, or his/her designee, will review and facilitate requests for the pre-trial destruction of excessive quantities of controlled substances submitted by the CO, Evidence and Property Management Division.

DEPARTMENT MANUAL
VOLUME IV
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Upon receiving an LAPD Pre-Trial Narcotics Destruction Authorization, the CO, GND, or his/her designee, will direct a member of GND to *determine if* the controlled substance *qualifies* for pre-trial destruction.

Upon determining the narcotics can be destroyed, the CO, GND, or his/her designee, will forward the LAPD Pre-Trial Narcotics Destruction Authorization to the Director, OSO, requesting the destruction of the controlled substance.

When circumstances indicate that pre-trial destruction of narcotics would be inappropriate, the CO, GND, will explain the reason for non-destruction in the narrative portion of the LAPD Pre-Trial Narcotics Destruction Authorization and return the signed form to the CO, Evidence and Property Management Division.

Note: Appeals to the decision of the CO, GND, may be made telephonically to the CO, GND, and the Director, OSO, if critical to storage or security.

Responsibility of the Director, Office of Special Operations. The Director, OSO, will review the LAPD Pre-Trial Narcotics Destruction Authorization and upon approval or disapproval, will forward the form to the CO, Evidence and Property Management Division. The Director, OSO, has the final authority to approve the destruction of excess quantities of controlled substances that were not authorized for destruction at the time of booking.