Policy 1112

Subject
FIELD INTERVIEWS, INVESTIGATIVE STOPS, WEAPONS PAT-DOWNS & SEARCHES

Date Published
DRAFT 12 October 2020

Page
1 of 24

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Baltimore Police Department (BPD) members conduct all Voluntary Contacts, Field Interviews, Investigative Stops, Vehicle Stops, Weapons Pat-Downs, Searches and Arrests in accordance with the rights secured and protected by the U.S. Constitution, federal and state law, as well as BPD policy. This policy instructs members on how to conduct any interaction with persons fairly and respectfully, to enhance trust between the Department and the community it serves. Additionally, this policy provides guidance to supervisors on proper response, review and documentation regarding the aforementioned law enforcement activities.

CORE PRINCIPLES

1. **Constitutional Stops.** Members may conduct a brief stop of a person when there is Reasonable Articulable Suspicion (RAS) to believe that they have committed, are committing, or are about to commit a crime under the Supreme Court’s decision in *Terry v. Ohio*, 392 U.S. 1 (1968), and consistent with the 4th and 14th Amendments to the Constitution and Article 26 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights.

2. **Procedural Justice.** Procedural justice refers to the perception of fairness and impartiality in an encounter by treating all persons with dignity and respect, giving persons a voice during encounters, being impartial in their decision making, and conveying trustworthy motives. Conduct that conforms to these principles has the potential of building community trust and confidence in the police and the community’s willingness to cooperate with police to advance shared public safety goals.

3. **Distinct and Separate Actions.** A Voluntary Contact, Field Interview, Investigative Stop, Vehicle Stop, Weapons Pat-Down, Search, and Arrest are distinct and separate actions, and each is governed by different legal and policy standards depending on the action. An Investigative Stop or a Voluntary Contact between the police and the community DOES NOT automatically justify a Weapons Pat-Down or a Search (refer to the table on page 3 of this policy).

4. **Non-Discriminatory Policing.** Members are prohibited from relying, to any extent or degree, on a person’s race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, gender identity or expression, or affiliation with any other similar identifiable group as a factor in conducting a Field Interview, Investigative Stop, Vehicle Stop, Weapons Pat-Down, Search, or Arrest except when physically observable as part of an actual and credible description of a specific suspect or suspects in any criminal investigation that includes other appropriate non-demographic identifying factors (such as clothing or associated vehicle). See Policy 317, *Fair and Impartial Policing.*
DEFINITIONS

Contacts

Voluntary Contact – A non-investigative consensual encounter between a BPD member and one or more person(s) with the intent of engaging in a casual and/or non-investigative conversation (e.g., chatting with a local business owner or resident). The person(s) is free to leave or decline any request by the member at any point.

Field Interview – A consensual, non-hostile Voluntary Contact during which a member may ask questions or try to gain information about possible criminal activity without indicating or implying that a person is not free to leave or is obligated to answer the member’s questions.

Investigative Stop — The temporary involuntary detention and questioning of a person where the person was stopped based on Reasonable Articulable Suspicion that the person is committing, is about to commit, or has committed a crime. It occurs whenever a member uses words or takes actions to make a person halt, or to keep a person in a certain place, or to compel a person to perform some act. If a reasonable person under the circumstances would believe that they are not free to leave, a “stop” has occurred.

Vehicle Stop – The involuntary detention of a vehicle and the driver and/or the occupants of the vehicle.

Weapons Pat-Down – A brief, non-probing running of the hands over the outside of a person's clothing feeling for a weapon with an open palm. A Weapons Pat-Down is authorized when the member has Reasonable Articulable Suspicion that the person is armed, and the pat-down is designed to ensure the safety of members and others while a member is conducting an investigation. This can include situations in which the member reasonably suspects that the person has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a violent crime or when the member observes something on the person that they reasonably suspect is a weapon. A Weapons Pat-Down may not be conducted to discover evidence or the proceeds or instrumentalities of a crime. A member cannot "pat-down" a bag or item of personal property unless the member has a reasonable suspicion that the person is armed and the bag or item could contain a weapon and is within the person's reach.

Search – An inspection, examination or viewing of persons, places, or items in which a person has a legitimate expectation of privacy. A Search need not be visual; it may include grasping, prying into or manipulating persons or objects (e.g., reaching into a purse or pocket, feeling inside of the trunk of a car; physical manipulation of a duffel bag, etc.). In some circumstances, a dog sniff may constitute a Search as well. See Policy 1602, Canine Procedures.

Arrest – The taking, seizing or detaining of a person by any act that indicates an intention to take the person into custody by a BPD member, and that subjects the person to the actual control and will of the member making the arrest. An arrest is effected (1) when the arrestee is physically restrained or (2) when the arrestee is told of the arrest and submits. In addition, a person is seized within the meaning of the Fourth Amendment when, “In view of all the circumstances surrounding the incident, a reasonable person would have believed that they were not free to leave.” An arrest requires Probable Cause that a crime was committed or is being committed.
**General Terminology**

**Boilerplate Language** — Words or phrases that are standardized, “canned” or patterned and that do not describe a specific event, situation or set of circumstances (e.g., “furtive movement” or “fighting stance”).

**Demographic Category** — Race, ethnicity, color, national origin, age, gender, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, disability status, religion, or language ability.

**Pretext Stop** — Stopping a person for an infraction to investigate other suspected or possible criminal activity for which the BPD member has neither RAS nor Probable Cause. Members must have RAS for the infraction or violation for which they are stopping a person.

**Probable Cause** — Where facts and circumstances taken as a whole, known to the member at the time of the arrest, would lead a reasonable member to believe that a particular person has committed or is committing a crime. As with Reasonable Articulable Suspicion, Probable Cause is based upon an objective assessment of the facts and circumstances presented to the member.

**Reasonable Articulable Suspicion (RAS)** — A well founded suspicion based on specific, objective, articulable facts, taken together with the member’s training and experience, that a subject has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a crime.

**DIRECTIVES**

A quick reference chart is provided below to assist members in determining the minimum legal and reporting requirements for each type of contact with a person.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF CONTACT</th>
<th>JUSTIFICATIONS</th>
<th>MINIMUM FORMS REQUIREMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reasonable Articulable Suspicion</td>
<td>Probable Cause</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Contact</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Interview</td>
<td></td>
<td>X*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigative Stop</td>
<td>X*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weapons Pat-Down</td>
<td>X*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Searches</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrest</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Stop – traffic violation</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
* Remember that for an Investigative Stop, the member must have RAS that the person is committing, is about to commit, or has committed a crime. For a Weapons Pat-Down, the member must have RAS that the person is armed.

**Voluntary Contacts**

1. Members are encouraged to conduct Voluntary Contacts in order to enhance communication, trust and understanding between BPD and members of the public.

2. Strong relationships between members and community residents are a key aspect of community policing and a significant contributor to neighborhood safety. Voluntary Contacts are a great way to build strong relationships, as well as to foster community support in crime prevention and intervention efforts.

3. Voluntary Contacts, like all other community contacts, shall be conducted in a friendly, professional manner.

4. Voluntary Contacts do not require any written documentation or Body-Worn Camera (BWC) recording.

5. If the member is seeking information about a suspected crime, the Voluntary Contact becomes a Field Interview.

**Field Interviews**

**Required Actions**

1. A member may initiate Field Interviews for legitimate law enforcement purposes. The person is free to end the Field Interview at any time and refuse to answer the member’s questions.

2. Members conducting a Field Interview shall:

   2.1. Activate BWC at the onset of the observation or activity on which they base their decision to conduct a Field Interview, and shall not deactivate BWC until the completion of the Field Interview (see Policy 824, Body-Worn Camera);

   2.2. Before asking any questions, introduce themselves by name and rank unless exigent circumstances require gathering information immediately;

   2.3. Use words, tone, and actions indicating that the person’s responses are voluntary, and refrain from using words or actions that tend to communicate that the person(s) are not free to leave or that they must answer questions (e.g., blocking path of person’s vehicle, placing hands on shoulder, holding a person’s property); and

---

* Member must complete an Incident Report, Form 8, when conducting a Vehicle Stop, when that stop leads to an Investigative Stop, Weapons Pat-Down, Search or Arrest.
2.4. If asked by the person(s) whether they are free to leave or may decline to answer questions, inform them that they may decline to answer and leave without consequences.

3. If a person refuses to answer questions during a Field Interview, they must be permitted to leave. A person’s failure to stop, refusal to answer questions, decision to end the encounter, or decision to walk or run away, cannot be used as the basis for establishing RAS or to extend the encounter or further intrude on the person through an Investigative Stop, Weapons Pat-Down, Search, or Arrest of the person.

4. If asking a person to identify themselves, members must inform the person(s) that providing identification is voluntary. People are not required to carry any means of identification, nor are persons required to identify themselves or account for their presence in a public place.

5. The duration of the Field Interview should be as brief as possible. The success or failure of a meaningful Field Interview rests on the member’s ability to put the person at ease and establish a rapport.

Prohibited Actions

1. Because a person is free to end the Field Interview at any time and to refuse to answer the member’s questions, members shall not engage in conduct that would lead a reasonable person to believe they must comply, provide identification, or respond. Where many people view a marked patrol car, police uniform, firearm or other weapons as symbols of authority and potential coercion, members shall act in a manner that would inform a reasonable person that the encounter is voluntary, such as using a non-coercive tone of voice, asking questions, and refraining from giving orders.

2. Field Interviews shall not be conducted in a hostile or aggressive manner, or as a means of harassing any person or attempting to coerce a person to do anything (e.g., leave the area, consent to a Search, etc.).

3. Taking action intended to create RAS without previous particularized facts to justify action, such as “jump outs.”

4. Targeting treatment facilities and prior arrestees for CDS possession, based solely on knowledge of drug addiction.

Documentation Requirements

All Field Interviews require the completion and issuance of a Citizen/Police Contact Receipt (See Appendix A).

Investigative Stops

The Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects individuals from unreasonable seizure when they are lawfully present in a place. It permits officers to briefly detain a person for investigation where an officer has a reasonable suspicion that a person is involved in criminal activity.
Justification

1. Reasonable Articulable Suspicion (RAS) is an objective legal standard that is less than Probable Cause but more than a hunch or general suspicion. RAS depends on all of the circumstances which the member observes and the reasonable assumptions that are drawn based on the member's training and experience. RAS can result from a combination of particular facts, which may appear harmless in and of themselves, but taken together amount to reasonable suspicion.

2. RAS should be founded on specific and objective facts or observations about how a person behaves, what the person is seen or heard doing, and the circumstances or situation in regard to the person that are/is either witnessed or known by the member. Accordingly, RAS must be described with reference to facts or observations about a particular person's actions or the particular circumstances that a member encounters. The physical characteristics of a person are never, by themselves, sufficient. Instead, those characteristics must be combined with other factors, including a specific, non-general description matching the suspect or the observed behaviors of the person.

Required Actions

1. For all Investigative Stops, a member must possess specific and articulable facts which, combined with rational assumptions from these facts, reasonably warrant a belief that the person is committing, is about to commit, or has committed a crime.

NOTE: One factor alone is typically not sufficient to establish RAS and circumstances will vary in each case.

2. Before conducting an Investigative Stop, members must:

   2.1. Activate BWC at the onset of the observation or activity on which they base their reasonable suspicion, to the extent practicable and safe, and shall not deactivate BWC until the completion of the Investigative Stop.

   2.2. Notify the dispatcher and include the location, number of persons being stopped and whether additional units are needed, and when safe to do so, a brief basis for the stop.

   2.3. Always determine whether the circumstances warrant a request for backup assistance and whether the Investigative Stop can and should be delayed until such backup arrives.

3. During an Investigative Stop, members must:

   3.1. Remain courteous and respectful at all times.

   3.2. Inform the person(s) stopped that they are not free to leave, and explain the reason for the stop if safe and practicable to do so.

   3.3. Limit questions to those relevant and necessary to resolve the member's suspicions.
3.4. Ensure that the person is stopped for only that period of time necessary to effect the purpose of the stop. If the stop is not brief, then it may become an arrest and must be supported by Probable Cause.

4. The scope of the stop must be tied to the basis for it. Actions that would indicate to a reasonable person that they are being arrested or indefinitely detained may convert an Investigative Stop into an arrest, which would require Probable Cause or an arrest warrant. Unless justified by the RAS for the original stop, members must have additional articulable justification for further limiting a person’s freedom during an Investigative Stop by doing any of the following:

4.1. Taking a person’s identification or driver’s license away from the immediate vicinity;

4.2. Ordering a motorist to exit a vehicle;

4.3. Directing a person to stand (or remain standing), or to sit any place not of their choosing;

4.4. Directing a person to lie or sit on the ground;

4.5. Applying handcuffs;

4.6. Transporting any distance away from the scene of the initial stop (including for the purpose of witness identification);

4.7. Placing a person into a police vehicle;

4.8. Pointing a firearm;

4.9. Performing a Weapons Pat-Down;

4.10. Or any level of force.

5. Notify a supervisor immediately, as soon as it is safe to do so, if the person is:

5.1. Injured during the Investigative Stop or complains of injury;

5.2. Transported from the initial place of contact;

5.3. Stopped more than 20 minutes; or

5.4. Handcuffed and/or subjected to an Arrest and control technique.

NOTE: When the encounter is over, it is over. Member shall not detain the person for longer than needed in order to wait for the arrival of a supervisor.

6. Members shall immediately release a person from an Investigative Stop if:

6.1. The member no longer has RAS that the person is committing, is about to commit, or has committed a crime; or
NOTE: This may occur when, upon stopping the person, the member learns that the person is not a specific suspect being sought or that the person’s actions or behaviors are justified and do not indicate a violation of law.

6.2. If the member fails to develop the Probable Cause necessary to arrest within a reasonable time.

7. Members shall not transport or otherwise move the person from the location where they are stopped unless they voluntarily consent or there is an exigency necessitating relocation (e.g., hostile crowd, immediate threat to safety, etc.).

NOTE: If intending to move the person from the stop location as a result of one of the above circumstances, obtain the approval of a permanent-rank supervisor before relocating the person and inform the supervisor where the person will be taken.

8. If the person stopped is to be released:

8.1. Immediately release the person and explain the reason for the Investigative Stop and the release.

8.2. If the person was taken to another location, provide return transportation to the scene of the initial stop.

Prohibited Actions

Members are prohibited from:

1. Conducting Pretext Stops that lack RAS that the subject has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a crime or on the basis of a person’s race, national origin, or other demographic categories. Such stops may violate the Fourteenth Amendment, federal law, and BPD policies;

2. Conducting Pretext Stops in which the pretext justification is loitering or misdemeanor trespass. This does not prohibit stops that are not pretextual, such as a stop in response to a call for service concerning loitering or misdemeanor trespass;

3. Using Boilerplate Language or language that states a conclusion without providing supporting detail in the report documenting the Investigative Stop;

4. Relying on information known at the time of reliance to be materially false or incorrect in effectuating an Investigative Stop;

5. Making an Investigative Stop based solely on a person’s presence in a location known for criminal activity.

NOTE: Despite this prohibition, a member may use the fact that a location is known for a particular type of criminal activity as one fact among multiple facts that, in combination, establish RAS (Reasonable Articulable Suspicion). To conclude that the type of criminal activity in a specific location contributes to establishing RAS, the member should be able to articulate how the nature of the criminal activity in that location, its frequency, and its recency are relevant to the suspected
crime. For example, the fact that drug dealing is known to occur on a specific corner at a particular time of day within the past two weeks could be one fact that, when considered together with other facts, establishes RAS that two people exchanging money on that corner at that time of day are engaged in a drug transaction. By contrast, the fact that there has been a recent rash of nighttime, forced rear window burglaries in a particular area does not help to establish RAS that a person flagging down cars in that area during the daytime is a burglar.

NOTE: In order to be used as a fact that helps to establish RAS, a location known for a certain type of criminal activity must be a specific location (e.g., an address, a specific business location, a specific corner, a specific block or blocks, a park, etc.) and must not be a general location (e.g., a district, or an entire neighborhood for a crime that is location-specific (for example, CDS distribution)). Members shall avoid broad, boilerplate phrases such as “high crime area” when articulating RAS.

6. Making an Investigative Stop based solely on a person’s response to the presence of police, including a person’s attempt to avoid contact with a member (e.g., walking away, declining to talk, running away, or crossing the street to avoid contact). People may avoid contact with police for many reasons other than involvement in criminal activity.

NOTE AS TO 5 AND 6: Despite the prohibitions in Directives 5 and 6, members may conduct an Investigative Stop when a person in a location known for certain criminal activity runs, unprovoked, from the police and there is an articulable reason to believe the person is running because they are involved in the type of criminal activity prevalent in that location. In this situation, the member must be able to articulate the specific facts establishing RAS, including how the individual’s unprovoked flight is linked to their suspected participation in the type of criminal activity prevalent in that location. Examples of facts that may establish a link between a person’s unprovoked flight and the type of criminal activity prevalent in a location include: the member observes the person taking actions that are consistent with the commission of the particular crime prevalent at that location; the member has personal knowledge that a person has committed the crime previously; the member has personal knowledge that there was a recent call for service about that particular crime being committed at that location.

7. Intentionally provoking or attempting to provoke flight to justify an Investigate Stop or a Foot Pursuit. For example, a member may not drive at a high rate of speed toward a group congregated on a corner, perform a threshold brake, and exit quickly with the intention of stopping anyone in the group who flees.

8. Making an Investigative Stop based solely on a person’s proximity to the scene of a reported or suspected crime.

NOTE: Members may use a person’s proximity to the scene of a specific reported or suspected crime as a fact in formulating RAS that the person committed that specific crime, but must explain how close the person was to the scene and why it was reasonable to believe the person was involved in the reported or suspected crime based on their proximity to the scene. Facts to consider include: how long ago the crime was committed and whether a person could have travelled that distance in that time, whether the member observes the person taking actions that are consistent with someone who just committed that crime, whether the person matches any witness’s descriptions or observations of the incident, etc.
NOTE: The prohibition in 8 does not interfere with a member’s ability to “freeze” a crime scene under Policy 1002, Securing and Interviewing Witnesses.

Documentation Requirements

1. Members shall not use Boilerplate Language when describing the basis for an Investigative Stop. Members must use specific and descriptive language individualized to the person stopped and the circumstances of the stop to describe the basis of the contact. The amount of detail required depends on the complexity of the encounter.

2. Following an Investigative Stop:
   2.1. A central complaint number must be issued from police dispatch, and an Incident Report, Form 8, must be completed. Members should describe in detail the circumstances which led to the Investigative Stop in a Supplemental Report, Form 7, including clearly and specifically documenting the facts on which the member’s RAS was based (See Appendix B and C).
   2.2. The report must include the following information:
       2.2.1. A complete description of the person, including height, weight, hair color, eye color, skin tone, identifying features (e.g., tattoos, scars), clothing type and color, and any other notable features or descriptors relevant to RAS.
       2.2.2. Perceived race, ethnicity, gender and age of the person stopped;
       2.2.3. The location of the stop, including the address or nearest intersection;
       2.2.4. The central complaint number;
       2.2.5. Specific, individualized description of the facts that established RAS for the stop, prior to the stop being made;
       2.2.6. Approximate duration of the stop;
       2.2.7. Outcome of the stop, including whether member(s) issued a civil or criminal citation, made an Arrest or issued a warning;
       2.2.8. Whether member(s) conducted a Weapons Pat-Down, and if so, the RAS that the person was armed;
       2.2.9. Whether member(s) conducted a Search based on Probable Cause, and if so, the facts establishing Probable Cause for the Search;
       2.2.10. Whether member(s) asked any person(s) to consent to a Search whether such consent was given, and in what form (i.e., verbal or written) See Policy 1109, Warrantless Searches;
2.2.11. Whether member(s) found any unlawful weapons, narcotics, or other contraband during a Search, and the nature of the contraband;

2.2.12. Whether the Investigative Stop began as a Voluntary Contact or Field Interview;

2.2.13. If the person was moved from the initial stop location, document that they were moved, where they were taken to, and why they were moved from the stop location; and

2.2.14. If the member receives information during the call or the facts that the member observes indicate that a person has or is experiencing behavioral health disabilities.

3. The member must provide the person with an explanation of the purpose of the stop, and provide Form 309 (Appendix E) to the person with the member’s name, the date, and central complaint number.

**Weapons Pat-Downs**

**Justification**

For a Weapons Pat-Down, a member must possess specific and articulable facts, combined with rational assumptions from these facts, that the person is armed, and the pat-down must be designed to ensure the safety of the member and others while a member is conducting a legitimate investigation. Pertinent factors may include the member’s prior knowledge that the person carries a weapon. However, members must also be mindful that most persons carry mobile phones, wallets, or other personal items in their pockets.

**NOTE:** An Investigative Stop and a Weapons Pat-Down are two distinct actions – both require independent RAS (e.g., to stop a person there must be RAS of criminal activity, but to stop a person and perform a Weapons Pat-Down there must be RAS of criminal activity and RAS that the person is armed).

**Required Actions**

1. In determining whether sufficient RAS exists to support the Weapons Pat-Down, a member should consider the following factors:

   1.1. The type of crime suspected, particularly in crimes of violence where the use or threat of deadly weapons is involved.

   1.2. The hour of the day and the location where the stop takes place.

   1.3. Prior knowledge of the person’s history of carrying deadly weapons or committing crimes of violence.

   1.4. Visual indications that suggest the person is carrying a firearm or other deadly weapon, such as a bulge under the person’s clothing, although a bulge could also indicate personal items such as a cell phone or wallet.
2. Whenever possible, Weapons Pat-Downs should be conducted by at least two members – one who performs the Weapons Pat-Down and another who provides protective cover.

3. Absent exigent circumstances, when conducting a Weapons Pat-Down, members will 1) honor the person’s preference about the gender identity of the member conducting the search; and 2) in the absence of a stated preference, the gender identity of the person being searched shall be consistent with the gender identity of the member conducting a search. See Policy 720, Interactions with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) Individuals.

4. Members are permitted only to pat the outer clothing of the person.

5. If, during a Weapons Pat-Down, the member feels an item which is the shape and size of a weapon that could be used to harm the member or others, the member may reach into or disturb the article of clothing and remove the item.

NOTE: If, during the process of removing the suspected weapon, the member discovers other items which are contraband or evidence of a crime, the member may lawfully seize those items, and the items may be considered when establishing Probable Cause to make an Arrest or to conduct a Search of the person.

6. If the person stopped is arrested because a weapon was found, a Search incident to Arrest, may be conducted in accordance with departmental training and procedures. See Policy 1109, Warrantless Searches.

7. If the person stopped is to be released because no weapon was found, and there is no Probable Cause for an Arrest, the member must immediately release the person, comply with the documentation guidelines in number 2 under Documentation Requirements below, and explain the reason for the Investigative Stop, the Weapons Pat-Down, and the release.

Prohibited Actions

1. Members are prohibited from automatically engaging in a Weapons Pat-Down during an Investigative Stop for “member safety.”

2. Members shall not place their hands in pockets or reach into an article of clothing unless the member feels an object they reasonably believe is a weapon, such as a firearm, knife, club, or other item, that could be used to harm the member or others. The member may not manipulate an object underneath clothing in an effort to determine the nature of the object.

3. A Weapons Pat-Down shall not be used to conduct full Searches designed to produce evidence or other incriminating material.

4. Members may not request the consent of a person to conduct a Weapons Pat-Down without RAS that the person is carrying a weapon.

5. Members shall not open an object that a person is carrying – such as a handbag, suitcase, briefcase, sack, or other object that may conceal a weapon. Instead, the member should place it out of the person’s reach.
6. The member may not manipulate the exterior or search the interior of the object the person is carrying. If the member reasonably suspects that harm may result if the unsearched object is returned to the person, the member may briefly feel the exterior of the object in order to determine if the object contains a weapon or other dangerous item.

Documentation Requirements

1. Members must use specific and individualized descriptive language sufficient to describe the basis of the contact. The amount of detail required depends on the complexity of the encounter. Members shall not use Boilerplate Language when describing the basis for a Weapons Pat-Down.

2. If the stopped person is to be released, and there is no Probable Cause for an Arrest, the member must:
   2.1. Obtain a central complaint number from police dispatch and complete an Incident Report, Form 8. Describe in detail the circumstances which led to the Weapons Pat-Down in a Supplemental Report, Form 7 (See Appendix B and D), and follow the reporting guidelines listed under Investigative Stops - Documentation Requirements.
   2.2. Provide Form 309 (Appendix E) to the person with the member’s name, the date and central complaint number.

3. If the person stopped is arrested because a weapon was found for which they did not have a permit, a search incident to arrest, may be conducted in accordance with departmental training and procedures. See Policy 1109, Warrantless Searches.

NOTE: Complete any related reports and submit to a supervisor. The completed reports shall make it clear that the Arrest was the result of an Investigative Stop or Weapons Pat-Down, and the member must follow the reporting guidelines listed under Investigative Stops - Documentation Requirements.

Vehicle Stops

Required Actions

1. A member may conduct a Vehicle Stop only when they have Probable Cause to believe that the driver has committed a traffic violation, or RAS that the driver or an occupant of the vehicle has committed, is committing or is about to commit a crime.

NOTE: A “routine” Vehicle Stop conducted for the purposes of issuing a traffic citation is a seizure under the Constitution. The stop may last no longer than the time reasonably required to issue a ticket for the violation. If the stop lasts longer than the time reasonably required to issue the ticket, this is a Fourth Amendment violation. Activities that ensure vehicles on the road are operated safely and responsibly are considered part of the reasonable time to issue the ticket. Such activities typically involve checking the driver’s license, determining whether the driver has outstanding warrants, and inspecting the vehicle’s registration and proof of insurance.

2. Activate BWC upon initiating a Vehicle Stop, prior to approaching vehicle. The BWC shall not be deactivated until the completion of the Vehicle Stop.
3. Members shall notify dispatch to report all Vehicle Stops, and shall state the location of each stop.

Documentation Requirements

1. Members will use specific and individualized descriptive language sufficient to describe the basis of the contact. The amount of detail required depends on the complexity of the encounter. Members shall not use Boilerplate Language when describing the basis for the contact.

   **EXAMPLE:** If a person is stopped in a vehicle because they ran through a stop sign, member may write "Person ran through stop sign at XYZ location." Whereas, if a person is stopped because they engaged in erratic driving near the scene of a homicide and matches the suspect description, a correspondingly more detailed report is required.

2. No matter the outcome of the Vehicle Stop, members shall document the following information after conducting all Vehicle Stops:
   
   2.1. Members’ names and sequence numbers;
   
   2.2. Date and time of the stop;
   
   2.3. Location of the violation and/or stop;
   
   2.4. Duration of the stop;
   
   2.5. The driver’s apparent demographic category, to include race, ethnicity, gender and age;
   
   2.6. Reason for the Vehicle Stop, such as a statement of the traffic offense observed prior to the Vehicle Stop or other facts creating Probable Cause or RAS that were observed prior to initiating the Vehicle Stop;
   
   2.7. Whether the driver was ordered by a member to exit the vehicle, and the reason;
   
   2.8. Whether any member approached the vehicle with a service weapon drawn;
   
   2.9. Whether members conducted a Weapons Pat-Down and, if so, the specific RAS that the person(s) was/were armed with a dangerous and deadly weapon;
   
   2.10. Whether members conducted a Search of the vehicle based on Probable Cause and, if so, the facts establishing the Probable Cause to conduct a Search;
   
   2.11. Whether members asked any person(s) to consent to a Search and whether such consent was given, and in what form (See Policy 1109, Warrantless Searches);
   
   2.12. Whether members found any unlawful weapons, narcotics, or other contraband during a Search, and the nature of such contraband; and
   
   2.13. Disposition of the Vehicle Stop, including whether member(s) issued a citation, warning or made an Arrest.
NOTE: If a passenger of a stopped vehicle is questioned, required to produce an ID, or is required to exit the vehicle, these law enforcement actions require their own documentation as the actions relate to the passenger.

Superiors’ Responsibilities for Field Interviews, Vehicle Stops, Investigative Stops, Weapons Pat-Downs and Searches

First-line Supervisor

1. Review all Citizen/Police Contact Receipts and all documentation for Investigative Stops, Weapons Pat-Downs and Searches. This should be completed during the shift, by the end of the tour of duty, but no later than 72 hours after the encounter occurred.

NOTE: This deadline may be extended only if deficiencies are found and additional investigation or corrective action is required.

1.1. Ensure the encounter and law enforcement action taken was constitutional and complied with policy.

NOTE: For any actions that require further review in order to confirm compliance, review the member's BWC footage and that of any other members present.

1.2. Ensure the documentation is complete and complies with policy. Review reports and forms for deficiencies, including:

   1.2.1. Boilerplate Language and language that comes to a conclusion without providing supporting detail, inconsistent information, lack of articulation of the legal basis for the action, or other indicia that the reports or forms may contain information that was not accurate at the time it was reported;

   1.2.2. Consult with the member to assess whether additional information from the member may remedy the deficiency.

1.3. Upon confirming completion and sufficiency, sign off on the report and forward through proper channels.

2. Document and report in BlueTeam:

2.1. Investigative Stops that appear unsupported by RAS, or that otherwise violate BPD policy;

2.2. Searches that appear to be without legal justification or are in violation of BPD policy;

2.3. When a Search resulting in the recovery of contraband appears to be unsupported by Probable Cause; and

2.4. Stops or Searches that, while complying with law and policy, indicate a need for corrective action or review of agency policy, strategy, tactics, or training.
3. Submit all Incident Reports, Form 8, Supplemental Reports, Form 7, and Citizen/Police Contact Receipts through the unit administrative staff.

4. Take appropriate action to address all apparent violations or deficiencies in Field Interviews, Vehicle Stops, Investigative Stops, Weapons Pat-Downs, Searches, and Arrests including deficiencies in reporting.
   
   4.1. All corrective action documentation should occur in BlueTeam for tracking purposes.
   
   4.2. When a member’s actions comply with the law and policy, but indicate a need for positive corrective action, provide training, mentoring, counseling or other appropriate measures. Document non-punitive corrective action in BlueTeam as a performance notice.
   
   4.3. Refer policy and law violations to the Public Integrity Bureau (PIB) for administrative or criminal investigation and document in BlueTeam. For these situations, it may still be appropriate to provide non-punitive counseling, mentoring, training, or other support as a complement to PIB’s investigation.

4.4. For each subordinate, the supervisor shall track each violation or deficiency and the corrective action taken, if any, to identify members needing repeated corrective action.

5. Document evidence of employee negligence or repeated failures to accurately complete applicable reporting in BlueTeam for progressive discipline.

6. Consider the quality and completeness of members’ reports for Field Interviews, Investigative Stops, Searches and Arrests in members’ performance evaluations.

Lieutenant

1. Review and evaluate Sergeant’s review of member’s activity, and any corrective action taken. If the documentation is complete, and the Sergeant’s actions appropriately resolved the underlying issue, approve the documentation. If additional action is needed, return to Sergeant for further action.

2. Mentor and counsel Sergeants, where needed, regarding their responsibilities towards members and the Department.

3. Refer a member or Sergeant’s policy and law violations to PIB for administrative or criminal investigation and document in BlueTeam. Referral to PIB does not preclude non-punitive counseling, mentoring, training, or other support, which should be provided as a complement to PIB’s investigation.

Commanding Officer

1. Provide training and conduct reviews of Incident Reports, Form 8, Supplemental Reports, Form 7, and Citizen/Police Contact Receipts, as necessary, to ensure members understand and apply appropriate legal standards when conducting Field Interviews, Vehicle Stops, Investigative Stops, Weapons Pat-Downs, Searches, and Arrests.
2. Provide training and conduct audits of supervisory reviews of Investigative Stops, Vehicle Stops, Weapons Pat-Downs, Searches and Arrests to evaluate the supervisor’s review and conclusions within seven days of their completion.

3. If misconduct is identified through any of the above-mentioned audits, evaluate the supervisor’s assessment and recommendations and ensure that all appropriate corrective action was taken, including referring the incident to PIB for investigation. For supervisors who fail to conduct complete, thorough, and accurate reviews of members’ Field Interviews, Investigative Stops, Weapons Pat-Downs, Searches and Arrests, take appropriate corrective or disciplinary action.

4. Ensure all Citizen/Police Contact Receipts are forwarded daily to the Records Management Section for entry into the “Stop Ticket” database on a timely basis.

5. Forward daily all hard copies of all Incident Reports, Form 8 and Supplemental Reports, Form 7, to the Records Management Section (RMS).

6. Consider the quality and completeness of supervisory reviews of Investigative Stops, Searches and Arrests in performance evaluations.

**Administrative Officer, Patrol**

1. Review all Field Interview, Investigative Stops, Weapons Pat-Down and Search documentation received for data entry.

2. If reporting errors or deficiencies are noted, return the documentation to the member’s supervisor and report the error or deficiency to the member’s commanding officer.

**Records Management Section, Commanding Officer**

1. Whenever a Weapons Pat-Down was conducted without recovering a firearm, and an Incident Report, Form 8, was received, complete a Maryland State Police Firearms Report and forward the report to:
   
   Superintendent Maryland State Police
   
   Pikesville, Maryland. 21208-3899

2. Collect and forward, on a daily basis, copies of all reports relating to recovered firearms to the Director, Crime Laboratory Section.

3. Ensure Citizen/Police Contact Receipts are entered into the Stop Ticket database within ten business days of receipt.

4. Retain copies of all Citizen/Police Contact Receipts indefinitely.

**Crime Laboratory Section, Director**

1. Shall ensure a Maryland State Police Firearms Report is completed for each firearm recovered and forwarded daily to:
Performance Standards Section

1. Audits of documentation in support of Field Interviews, Vehicle Stops, Investigative Stops, Weapons Pat-Downs, Searches and Arrests will be included in the yearly audit plan. Documents to review may include, but are not limited to, Incident Reports, Form 8, Supplemental Reports, Form 7, Citizen/Police Contact Receipts, and Body-Worn Camera footage.

NOTE: Audits will be conducted to identify deficiencies and gaps in practice of these activities, and those findings will assist in informing future trainings and/or policy on Field Interviews, Vehicle Stops, Investigative Stops, Weapons Pat-Downs, Searches and Arrests.

2. Frequency of these audits will be determined by the Commander of Performance Standards Section, in accordance with the year's audit plan.

Education & Training, Director

1. Ensure that the procedures of this policy are consistent with entrance level and in-service training curricula.

2. Provide ongoing roll call training on the contents and subject of this policy.

APPENDICES

A. Citizen/Police Contact Receipt
B. Incident Report, Form 8
C. Supplemental Report – Investigative Stop, Form 7
D. Supplemental Report – Weapons Pat Down, Form 7
E. Victim Assistance/Incident Information Form 309

ASSOCIATED POLICIES

Policy 720, Interactions with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) Individuals
Policy 808, Criminal and Civil Citation Procedures
Policy 809, Marijuana – Uniform Civil Citation
Policy 824, Body-Worn Camera
Policy 906, Traffic Citations
Policy 1007, Search and Seizure Warrants
Policy 1013, Strip Searches and Body Cavity Searches
Policy 1018, Quality of Life Offenses – Core Legal Elements
Policy 1106, Warrantless Arrest Procedures and Probable Cause Standard
Policy 1109, Warrantless Searches
RESCISSION


COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

This policy is effective on the date listed herein. Each employee is responsible for complying with the contents of this policy.
### APPENDIX A

Citizen/Police Contact Receipt

---

**Baltimore Police Department**

**Citizen/Police Contact Receipt**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vehicle</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>CC# (if applicable)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block</th>
<th>Full Street Address (Location of F.I., Stop, etc.)</th>
<th>Post / Sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer’s Name (Last, First)</th>
<th>Seq #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CITIZEN INFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citizen Name (Last, First, MI)</th>
<th>DOB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Asian or Pacific Islander</th>
<th>Native American/Alaskan Native</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Hispanic or Latino</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Language Spoken (Other than English)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block</th>
<th>Full Street Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City, State</th>
<th>Office Number</th>
<th>City Address</th>
<th>Zip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identification</th>
<th>Driver’s License</th>
<th>State Issued ID</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>License ID Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VEHICLE INFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stop Involved</th>
<th>Registration/License Plate</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Exp.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Make</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRIMARY REASON FOR CONTACT** (Mark only one)

- Field Interview
- Investigative Stop
- Weapons Pat-down
- Vehicle Safety Equipment Violation
- Traffic Violation

**INCIDENT/VIOLATION:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description (Traffic Stops MUST INCLUDE the Primary Violation)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ACTION(S) TAKEN** (Mark all that apply)

- None
- Repair Order
- Traffic Citation
- Civil Citation
- Criminal Citation
- Warrant Check
- Arrest
- Warning
- Other

**Warrant Check**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Charge</th>
<th>Criminal</th>
<th>Civil</th>
<th>Traffic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Supervisor's Name (Last, First)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reviewer</th>
<th>Supervisor's Signature</th>
<th>RMS Data Entered By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seq #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Seq #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

---
APPENDIX B

Incident Report, page 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCIDENT REPORT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Form B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1160-25-96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revised 10/97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| POLICE DEPARTMENT |
| BALTIMORE, MARYLAND |

| Crime / Incident Description | 03/11/2023 |
| Location of Offense / Incident (Exact Street Address) | Page 1 of 1 |
| Date / Time Occurred | Date / Time Reported |
| Field | Field Investigator |
| Interview Site | 9300 Block of Maryland Ave |
| Other | 5700 Block of Edmondson Pkwy |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Victim Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name (Last, First, M.I.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>袅袅生花</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suspect Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name (Last, First, M.I.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>袅袅生花</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weapon Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Method Used to Control Crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ignition Locked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence of Theft Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location Towed From</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sequence No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMEI Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIN/IMEI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communications Support Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Replacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acting Officer Name</th>
<th>Sequence No.</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approving Supervisor Name</th>
<th>Sequence No.</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taped To</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Interview, Investigative Stops, Weapons Pat-Downs &amp; Searches</th>
<th>Page 21 of 24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incident Report, page 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Report should be typed or legibly printed in black ink*
APPENDIX C

Incident Report, page 2 for Investigative Stop
APPENDIX D

Incident Report, page 2 for Weapons Pat-Down

---

**SUPPLEMENT REPORT**

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Baltimore, Maryland

---

**WEAPONS PAT-DOWN**

Person stopped for a weapons pat-down is the complainant.

Reporting person is the officer.

Person arrested (if any) is the suspect.

You must write a "weapons pat-down report" for every "weapons pat-down" performed, whether or not an arrest is made or a weapon is found, and whether or not the subject stopped cooperates by identifying himself to you. The incident for which the weapons pat-down was made must be placed in box #1 of the report. For example, if the subject is stopped for a robbery investigation, then the incident will read "robbery" in box #1 of the report. The first line of the narrative must read "weapons pat-down."

**NARRATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

Property listing at the beginning of the narrative if a weapon and/or other contraband is recovered.

Date, time and location of the weapons pat-down:

The reasonable articulable suspicion that existed to justify the weapons pat-down, including but not limited to:

- Type of crime suspected, particularly in crimes of violence where the use or threat of deadly weapons is involved.
- The hour of the day and the location where the stop takes place.
- Prior knowledge of the individual's criminal history and propensity to use force or carry deadly weapons.
- The appearance and demeanor of the individual.
- Furtive behavior.
- Visual indications that suggest the individual is carrying a firearm or other deadly weapon, such as a bulge under the individual's clothing.

---

I affirm and declare that the statements above are true to the best of my knowledge:

---

REPORT SHOULD BE TYPED OR LEGIBLY PRINTED IN BLACK INK
Policy 1112

FIELD INTERVIEWS, INVESTIGATIVE STOPS, WEAPONS PAT-DOWNS & SEARCHES

APPENDIX E
Victim Assistance/Incident Information, Form 309, Page 2

[Image of the document page]