

- I. Policy
- II. Guidelines
- III. Responsibilities

I. Policy

It is the policy of this Division to deploy decoy teams, as needed, to take enforcement action for sex offenses, assaults, thefts, robberies, or other situations where an officer could pose as a potential crime victim.

II. Guidelines

- A. Each decoy team will consist of a decoy officer and at least two (2) cover officers.
- B. The officers involved should vary their patrol tactics as necessary by using bicycles, walking, or by being stationary (i.e., playing basketball, sitting on a bench/picnic table, sunbathing, or whatever is appropriate for the area/case).
- C. The cover officers should position themselves as the terrain allows and will remain within a safe distance, never losing sight of the decoy. Officer safety will be the paramount concern.

NOTE: When operating in the stationary mode and within sight of a roadway or parking lot, the cover officers will consider using the surveillance *vehicle* for observation and cover.

- D. *Signals will be determined prior to the operation to address at a minimum;*
 - 1. *Situation under control,*
 - 2. *Arrest required,*
 - 3. *Emergency, and*
 - 4. *Detail terminated.*

Cover officers will be aware that the decoy may not always be able to give a signal and should be ready to move in at any sign of trouble.

- E. The decoy officer should allow the suspect to initiate all contacts and conversations.
- F. Once contact is made with a possible suspect, the decoy officer will make the determination as to when to make an arrest or whether to break contact.
- G. Clothing worn by the decoy officer, especially in sex offense cases, will be normal to the type of case, conditions and environment. A photograph of the decoy will be taken and submitted along with other documentation appropriate to the case.
- H. Counseling will be provided for any officer who becomes the victim of a sexual assault.

III. Responsibilities

- A. Shift Supervisor/Decoy Team O.I.C will:
 - 1. Ensure that a planning sheet is prepared and approved prior to the deployment of any decoy team.
 - 2. Ensure that the on duty Watch Commander and the appropriate Patrol Commander are notified prior to the deployment of any decoy team.
 - 3. Notify the on duty Watch Commander of any emergency/arrest situation resulting from a decoy operation.

- B. Watch Commanders will make appropriate notifications as required by the Division Directive, "Notifications".

**Approved Park Police Document
Signed Original on File**

End of Directive