

## Chapter 6 - Investigation Operations

## Investigation and Prosecution

### 600.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to set guidelines and requirements pertaining to the handling and disposition of criminal investigations.

### 600.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Metro Transit Police Department to investigate crimes thoroughly and with due diligence, and to evaluate and prepare criminal cases for appropriate clearance or submission to a prosecutor.

### 600.3 INITIAL INVESTIGATION

#### 600.3.1 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

An officer responsible for an initial investigation shall complete no less than the following:

- (a) Make a preliminary determination of whether a crime has been committed by completing, at a minimum:
  - 1. An initial statement from any witnesses or complainants.
  - 2. A cursory examination for evidence.
- (b) If information indicates a crime has occurred, the officer shall:
  - 1. Preserve the scene and any evidence as required to complete the initial and follow-up investigation.
  - 2. Determine if additional investigative resources (e.g., investigators or scene processing) are necessary and request assistance as required.
  - 3. If assistance is warranted, or if the incident is not routine, notify a supervisor or the Shift Supervisor.
  - 4. Make reasonable attempts to locate, identify and interview all available victims, complainants, witnesses and suspects.
  - 5. Collect any evidence.
  - 6. Take any appropriate law enforcement action.
  - 7. Complete and submit the appropriate reports and documentation.
- (c) If the preliminary determination is that no crime occurred, determine what other action may be necessary, what other resources may be available, and advise the informant or complainant of this information.

#### 600.3.2 CIVILIAN MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

A civilian member assigned to any preliminary investigation is responsible for all investigative steps, except making any attempt to locate, contact or interview a suspect face-to-face or take

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any enforcement action. Should an initial investigation indicate that those steps are required, the assistance of an officer shall be requested.

### **600.4 CUSTODIAL INTERROGATION REQUIREMENTS**

Suspects who are in custody and subjected to an interrogation shall be given the *Miranda* warning, unless an exception applies. Interview or interrogation of a juvenile shall be in accordance with the Temporary Custody of Juveniles Policy.

#### **600.4.1 AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDINGS**

Any custodial interrogation of a person who is suspected of having committed a criminal offense should be electronically recorded (audio/video or both as available) in its entirety, including any information or discussion about the person's rights and any waiver of those rights. Regardless of where the interrogation occurs, every reasonable effort should be made to secure functional recording equipment to accomplish such recordings.

Consideration should also be given to recording a non-custodial interrogation, or any investigative interview, for any other offense when it is reasonable to believe it would be appropriate and beneficial to the investigation and is otherwise allowed by law.

No recording of a custodial interrogation should be destroyed or altered without written authorization from the prosecuting attorney and the Investigation Division supervisor. Copies of recorded interrogations or interviews may be made in the same or a different format as the original recording, provided the copies are true, accurate and complete and are made only for authorized and legitimate law enforcement purposes.

Recordings should not take the place of a thorough report and investigative interviews. Written statements from suspects should continue to be obtained when applicable.

### **600.5 DISCONTINUATION OF INVESTIGATIONS**

The investigation of a criminal case or efforts to seek prosecution should only be discontinued if one of the following applies:

- (a) All reasonable investigative efforts have been exhausted, no reasonable belief that the person who committed the crime can be identified, and the incident has been documented appropriately.
- (b) The perpetrator of a misdemeanor has been identified and a warning is the most appropriate disposition.
  - 1. In these cases, the investigator shall document that the person was warned and why prosecution was not sought.
  - 2. Warnings shall not be given for felony offenses or other offenses identified in this policy or by law that require an arrest or submission of a case to a prosecutor.
- (c) The case has been submitted to the appropriate prosecutor but no charges have been filed. Further investigation is not reasonable nor has the prosecutor requested further investigation.

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- (d) The case has been submitted to the appropriate prosecutor, charges have been filed, and further investigation is not reasonable, warranted or requested, and there is no need to take the suspect into custody.
- (e) Suspects have been arrested, there are no other suspects, and further investigation is either not warranted or requested.
- (f) Investigation has proven that a crime was not committed (see the Sexual Assault Investigations Policy for special considerations in these cases).

The Domestic Abuse, Child Abuse, Sexual Assault Investigations and Adult Abuse policies may also require an arrest or submittal of a case to a prosecutor.

### **600.6 COMPUTERS AND DIGITAL EVIDENCE**

The collection, preservation, transportation and storage of computers, cell phones and other digital devices may require specialized handling to preserve the value of the related evidence. If it is anticipated that computers or similar equipment will be seized, officers should request that computer forensic examiners assist with seizing computers and related evidence. If a forensic examiner is unavailable, officers should take reasonable steps to prepare for such seizure and use the resources that are available.

### **600.7 INVESTIGATIVE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET SOURCES**

Use of social media and any other Internet source to access information for the purpose of criminal investigation shall comply with applicable laws and policies regarding privacy, civil rights and civil liberties. Information gathered via the Internet should only be accessed by members while on-duty and for purposes related to the mission of this department.

If a member encounters information relevant to a criminal investigation while off-duty or while using his/her own equipment, the member should note the dates, times and locations of the information and report the discovery to his/her supervisor as soon as practicable. The member, or others who have been assigned to do so, should attempt to replicate the finding when on-duty and using department equipment.

Information obtained through social media will only be retained as part of a criminal investigative file or to document threats to public safety and will then be held in accordance with MTPD data retention schedules or applicable law.(see the Records Maintenance and Release and Criminal Organizations policies).

#### **600.7.1 ACCESS RESTRICTIONS**

Information that can be accessed from any department computer, without the need of an account, password, email address, alias or other identifier (unrestricted websites), may be accessed and used for legitimate investigative purposes without supervisory approval.

Accessing information from any Internet source that requires the use or creation of an account, password, email address, or other identifier, or the use of non-government IP addresses, requires approval from the Chief of Police or their designee. In addition, the creation or use of alias

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accounts is prohibited except in extraordinary or exigent circumstances. The Chief of Police or their designee will review the justification for accessing the information or creating the alias account and consult with legal counsel as necessary to identify any policy or legal restrictions. Usage must be pre-approved by the Chief of Police or their designee and documented by the investigator in the related investigative report.

Accessing information that requires the use of a third party's account or online identifier requires supervisor approval and the consent of the third party. The consent must be voluntary and shall be documented in the related investigative report.

Information gathered from any Internet source should be evaluated for its validity, authenticity, accuracy and reliability. Corroborative evidence should be sought and documented in the related investigative report.

Any information collected in furtherance of an investigation through an Internet source should be documented in the related report. Documentation should include the source of information and the dates and times that the information was gathered.

#### **600.7.2 INTERCEPTING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION**

Intercepting social media communications in real time may be subject to federal and state wiretap laws. Officers should seek legal counsel before any such interception.

#### **600.8 ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER (EBT) CARDS**

Officers shall make a report any time they arrest a person who possesses more than one welfare Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card. The investigating officers shall forward this report to the Minnesota Department of Human Services within 30 days of the arrest. The report shall include all of the following (Minn. Stat. § 626.5533):

- (a) The name, address and driver's license or state identification card number of the suspect
- (b) The number on each EBT card and name, if any
- (c) The date and location of any alleged offense
- (d) Any other information the Minnesota Department of Human Services may require on related state forms

#### **600.9 LOCAL AGENCY NOTIFICATION**

It is the responsibility of this Department to notify the law enforcement agency with primary jurisdiction when surveillance or an investigation has been initiated on any person within the jurisdiction of that agency (Minn. Stat. § 473.407 Subd. 3). Notification to the law enforcement agency should be accomplished in one of the following manners:

- (a) Manual completion of the local agency police report.
- (b) Automatic or automated population of the local agency police report (data transfer).
- (c) Providing a copy of the Metro Transit Police report to the local agency.

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Crash reconstructionist from this agency may be called upon by State Patrol for assistance in major metro area crashed.

If any MTP crash investigators are working, TCC will contact the on-duty LT to check if staffing allows for any crash investigators to respond. If so, they will respond with safety vests and a marked squad.

MTP crash investigators will monitor MTP police main while at the scene in case they need to clear and respond to any Metro Transit call. Officers that respond to a scene will complete a Metro Transit Incident Report for an Agency Assist

### **600.10 MODIFICATION OF CHARGES FILED**

Members are not authorized to recommend to the prosecutor or to any other official of the court that charges on a pending case be amended or dismissed without the authorization of a Division Commander, Deputy Chief or the Chief of Police. Any authorized request to modify the charges or to recommend dismissal of charges shall be made to the prosecutor.

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## Sexual Assault Investigations

### 602.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Metro Transit Police Department adopts the Investigations of Sexual Assault model policy established and published by the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (MN POST) (Minn. Stat. § 626.8442).

See attachment: [Model Sexual Assault Investigation Policy 03-03-21.pdf](#)

### 602.2 COPY OF SUMMARY

The Investigation Division supervisor shall ensure that the victim of a sexual assault who reports an incident to this department is provided with a copy of the written summary of the allegation. If the incident occurred outside the jurisdiction of the Metro Transit Police Department, a copy of the written summary shall also be provided to the law enforcement agency where the incident occurred. If the Metro Transit Police Department learns that both the victim and the accused are members of the Minnesota National Guard, the Department shall provide a copy of the summary to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (Minn. Stat. § 609.3459).

## Asset Forfeiture

### 606.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy describes the authority and procedure for the seizure, forfeiture and liquidation of property associated with specified designated offenses and controlled substance offenses (Minn. Stat. § 609.531 to Minn. Stat. § 609.5318).

### 606.2 POLICY

The Metro Transit Police Department recognizes that appropriately applied forfeiture laws are helpful to enforce the law, deter crime and reduce the economic incentive of crime. However, the potential of revenue shall not be allowed to jeopardize the effective investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses, officer safety, the integrity of ongoing investigations or the due process rights of citizens.

It is the policy of the Metro Transit Police Department that all employees of the agency, all employees assigned to another law enforcement agency's task force and all employees assigned to a task force from an outside law enforcement agency, in which this agency serves as the Fiscal Agent, follow all state and federal laws pertaining to forfeiture.

### 606.3 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

**Cash** - Money in the form of bills or coins, traveler's checks, money orders, checks or other forms of electronic money or stored value cards, including, but not limited to, gift cards, debit cards, gift cards/certificates or other negotiable financial instruments.

**Conveyance device**- A device used for transportation. It includes, but is not limited to, a motor vehicle, trailer, snowmobile, airplane and vessel, and any equipment attached to it. The term "conveyance device" does not include property, which has been stolen or taken in violation of the law.

**Firearms/ammunition/firearm accessories** - A device that projects either single or multiple projectiles at high velocity. Ammunition is a term meaning the assembly of a projectile and its propellant. Accessories include, but are not limited to, holsters, gun cases, firearm optics, suppression devices, cleaning supplies.

**Fiscal Agent** - The person designated by the Metro Transit Police Department to be responsible for securing and maintaining seized assets and distributing any proceeds as a result of any forfeiture proceedings. This includes anytime the Metro Transit Police Department seizes property for forfeiture or when the Metro Transit Police Department is acting as the fiscal agent pursuant to a multi-agency agreement.

**Forfeiture** - The process by which legal ownership of an asset is transferred to a government or other authority.



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**Forfeiture Reviewer** - The Metro Transit Police Department employee assigned by the Metro Transit Police Department responsible for reviewing all forfeiture cases and for acting as the liaison between the Department and the prosecutor's office.

**Jewelry/precious metals/precious stones** - The term includes items of jewelry, such as rings, necklaces and watches that reasonably appear to be made of precious metals or precious stones. Precious metals include, but are not limited to, gold, silver, platinum, iridium and palladium. Precious stones, often referred to as gemstones, include, but are not limited to, diamonds, emeralds and rubies.

**Property subject to administrative forfeiture** - The following property is presumed to be subject to administrative forfeiture under Minnesota Law (Minn. Stat. § 609.5314):

- (a) All cash, precious metals and precious stones found in proximity to controlled substances, forfeitable drug manufacturing or distributing equipment or devices, or forfeitable records of manufacture or the distribution of controlled substances.
- (b) All conveyance devices containing controlled substances with a retail value of \$100 or more if possession or sale of the controlled substance would be a felony under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 152.
- (c) All firearms, ammunition and firearm accessories found:
  1. In a conveyance device used or intended for use to commit or facilitate the commission of a felony offense involving a controlled substance.
  2. On or in proximity to a person from whom a felony amount of controlled substance is seized.
  3. On the premises where a controlled substance is seized and in proximity to the controlled substance, if possession or sale of the controlled substance would be a felony under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 152.

**Seizure** - The act of law enforcement officials taking property, including cash and conveyance devices that have been used in connection with or acquired by illegal activities.

### **606.4 ASSET SEIZURE**

Property may be seized for forfeiture as provided in this policy.

#### **606.4.1 PROPERTY SUBJECT TO SEIZURE**

The following property is subject to seizure.

- (a) The following property may be seized upon review and approval of a supervisor and in coordination with the Forfeiture Reviewer:
  1. Controlled substances and associated property as described in Minn. Stat. § 609.5311.

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2. Property intended for use to commit or facilitate the commission of a designated offense, as listed in Minn. Stat. § 169A.63, Subd. 6 and limited by Minn. Stat. § 169A.63, Subd. 7, and as listed in Minn. Stat. § 609.531, Subd. 1(f) and limited by Minn. Stat. § 609.5312.
- (b) Property subject to administrative forfeiture may be seized without prior supervisor approval if the item has a retail value of \$50,000 or less (Minn. Stat. § 609.5314).

### 606.4.2 PROPERTY NOT SUBJECT TO SEIZURE

The following property should not be seized for forfeiture:

- (a) Cash and property that does not meet the prosecuting agency's current minimum forfeiture thresholds should not be seized.
- (b) Cash totaling less than \$300, unless prerecorded buy funds are included in the cash seized.
- (c) Conveyance devices valued at less than \$3,000 (on drug and fleeing arrests).

### 606.4.3 SEIZURE OF PROPERTY TO BE FORFEITED

An officer may seize property subject to forfeiture based on a court order. An officer may also seize property without a court order under any of the following conditions (Minn. Stat. § 609.531, Subd. 4; Minn. Stat. § 169A.63, Subd. 2):

- (a) The seizure is incident to a lawful arrest or a lawful search.
- (b) The property subject to seizure has been the subject of a prior judgment in favor of the state in a criminal injunction or forfeiture proceeding.
- (c) The officer has probable cause to believe that a delay to obtain a warrant or other process would result in the removal or destruction of the property and that either of the following apply:
  1. The property was used or is intended to be used in commission of a felony.
  2. The property is dangerous to health or safety.

### 606.5 PROCESSING SEIZED PROPERTY FOR FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS

When property or cash subject to this policy is seized, the officer making the seizure should ensure compliance with the following:

- (a) If the retail value of the asset to be seized is \$50,000 or less, completely and accurately prepare the Notice of Seizure and Intent to Forfeit Property Form (seizure form) and present it to the person from whom the property is to be seized for that person's signature. If the person refuses to sign, the officer shall indicate on the seizure form that the person refused. The seizure form is not used when the value of the seized property exceeds \$50,000.

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- (b) Prepare and provide a receipt for the items seized to the person from whom the property is being seized.
  - 1. If cash or property is seized from more than one person, a separate property inventory receipt must be completed for each person specifying the amount of cash seized. The receipt shall include a detailed description of all property, checks, money orders, traveler's checks or other financial instruments.
- (c) Complete and submit a report within 24 hours of the seizure if practicable. The report must include, at minimum, the following:
  - 1. A description of the items seized
  - 2. The location where the property was turned in or stored
  - 3. The name of the individual who was served with the seizure form
  - 4. The date that the seizure form was served
  - 5. The name of the officer making the seizure
  - 6. Whether the individual signed the seizure form
- (d) If property is seized from multiple individuals, a separate seizure form will be completed for each individual. A copy of the receipt and seizure form must be given to the individual from whom the property was seized.
- (e) When property is seized and no one claims possession of the property, the officer must leave a receipt in the place where the property was found if it is reasonably possible to do so.
- (f) The officer will book seized property into the Property and Evidence Office as evidence, with the notation in the comment section of the property form, "Seized Subject to Forfeiture." Property seized subject to forfeiture should be booked on a separate property form. No other evidence from the case should be booked on this form.
- (g) Forward the original and the pink copy of the seizure form, and any seized property processing worksheets, property receipts and reports to the Forfeiture Reviewer within 10 days of seizure.
- (h) Inform the Forfeiture Reviewer of the estimated retail value of drugs found in proximity to the asset seized.

#### 606.5.1 CASH HANDLING

It is the responsibility of the seizing officer to secure and count cash consistent with this policy and the Cash Handling, Security and Management Policy. All cash shall be counted in the presence of another officer and the envelope initialed by both officers. A supervisor shall be contacted for cash in excess of \$500. The supervisor shall also witness the count, and will initial and date the property documentation and specify any additional security procedures to be used.

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All forfeitable cash seized will be turned over to the Forfeiture Reviewer or property/evidence room as soon as practicable.

Prior to deposit with the Forfeiture Reviewer, officers shall examine all cash seized to determine whether it contains any prerecorded buy funds. Officers shall document the recovery of all buy funds and deposit those funds with the Forfeiture Reviewer to be returned to the appropriate buy fund account.

### 606.5.2 JEWELRY/PRECIOUS METALS/PRECIOUS STONES

Officers seizing jewelry, precious metals and/or precious stones will write a detailed description of each item on the property inventory receipt. A copy of the property inventory receipt and any photographs of the jewelry, precious metals and/or precious stones shall be delivered to the Forfeiture Reviewer.

Officers seizing jewelry, precious metals and/or precious stones shall book those items according to current property and evidence procedures as soon as practicable.

### 606.5.3 VEHICLES

Any conveyance device seized for forfeiture shall be taken to a secure designated area or to a department-approved impound facility as soon as practicable.

Officers shall inventory the conveyance device and its contents in accordance with the Vehicle Towing and Release Policy. Officers shall also complete applicable report forms and distribute them appropriately. A copy of the vehicle storage report shall be included with the seizure documentation that is submitted to the Forfeiture Reviewer.

### 606.5.4 FIREARMS/AMMUNITION/FIREARM ACCESSORIES

When firearms, ammunition or firearms accessories are seized, they shall be inventoried and delivered to the Property and Evidence Office in accordance with the current booking procedures and the Property and Evidence Office Policy.

## **606.6 MAINTAINING SEIZED PROPERTY**

The Property and Evidence Office supervisor is responsible for ensuring compliance with the following:

- (a) All property received for forfeiture is reasonably secured and properly stored to prevent waste and preserve its condition (Minn. Stat. § 609.531 Subd. 5).
- (b) All property received for forfeiture is checked to determine if the property has been stolen.
- (c) All property received for forfeiture is retained in the same manner as evidence until forfeiture is finalized or returned to the claimant or person with an ownership interest.
- (d) Property received for forfeiture is not used unless the forfeiture action has been completed.

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### **606.7 FORFEITURE REVIEWER**

The Chief of Police will appoint an officer as the Forfeiture Reviewer. Prior to assuming duties, or as soon as practicable thereafter, the Forfeiture Reviewer should attend a department-approved course on asset forfeiture.

The responsibilities of Forfeiture Reviewer include the following:

- (a) Confer regularly with the prosecuting attorney's office to remain familiar with forfeiture laws, particularly Minn. Stat. § 609.531 to Minn. Stat. § 609.5318, Minn. Stat. § 169A.63, and the forfeiture policies of the prosecuting agency.
- (b) Make reasonable efforts to obtain annual training that includes best practices in pursuing, seizing and tracking forfeitures.
- (c) Ensure responsibilities, including designation of a Fiscal Agent, are clearly established whenever multiple agencies are cooperating in a forfeiture case.
- (d) Ensure that a seizure form, property inventory receipt and a forfeited property processing worksheet is available and appropriate for department use. The seizure form will minimally include the following (Minn. Stat. § 609.5314):
  - 1. Space for an itemized list of items seized
  - 2. The location and date of the seizure
  - 3. A place for the name of the individual served with the seizure form
  - 4. The date and signature of the officer conducting the seizure
  - 5. The agency case number
  - 6. A space for the signature of the person from whom property is seized or an appropriate space or check box for the officer to indicate that the person refused to sign
  - 7. At least an original and the pink copy
  - 8. Information in English, Hmong, Somali and Spanish explaining the right to obtain judicial review and the procedure provided by Minn. Stat. § 609.5314.
- (e) Ensure that officers who may be involved in asset forfeiture receive training in the proper use of the seizure form and the forfeiture process. The training should be developed in consultation with the prosecuting attorney and may be accomplished through traditional classroom education, electronic media, Daily Training Bulletins or department directives. The training should be based on this policy and address any relevant statutory changes and court decisions.
- (f) Review each asset forfeiture case to ensure the following:
  - 1. Written documentation of the seizure and items seized is present in the case file.

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2. Independent prosecutorial review of the circumstances and propriety of the seizure is made in a timely manner.
  3. A timely notice of seizure has been given to interest holders of seized property.
  4. Property is promptly released to those entitled to its return.
- (g) Forward all changes to forfeiture status to any supervisor who initiates a forfeiture case.
  - (h) Deposit any cash received with the Fiscal Agent.
  - (i) Ensure the current minimum forfeiture thresholds are communicated appropriately to officers.
  - (j) Annually review and update this policy and any related policies to reflect current federal and state statutes and case law.
  - (k) Prepare a written plan for the Chief of Police to address any extended absence of the Forfeiture Reviewer to ensure that contact information for other law enforcement officers and attorneys who may assist in these matters is available.
  - (l) Ensure the Department disposes of property as provided by law following any forfeiture (Minn. Stat. § 609.5315).
  - (m) Ensure that any forfeited property used in an undercover capacity, or that is sold or added to the department inventory is done so according to Minnesota law.
  - (n) Ensure that all forfeited property is used or disposed of in a manner consistent with the use and disposition of similar property by this department.
  - (o) Upon completion of any forfeiture process, ensure that no property is retained by the Metro Transit Police Department unless the Metro Transit Police Department authorizes in writing the retention of the property for official use.
  - (p) Ensure that forfeiture proceeds are maintained in a separate fund or account subject to appropriate accounting control with regular reviews or audits of all deposits and expenditures (Minn. Stat. § 609.5315).
  - (q) Ensure that records of forfeiture are retained for a minimum of six years.
  - (r) Ensure monthly forfeiture reporting is made to the state auditor in the manner prescribed by the auditor (Minn. Stat. § 609.5315 Subd. 6).

### **606.8 DISPOSITION OF FORFEITED PROPERTY**

Legal disposition may include (Minn. Stat. § 609.5315; Minn. Stat. § 169A.63, Subd. 10):

- (a) Retention by the Department and/or prosecuting agency.
  1. If a forfeited motor vehicle is kept for Department use, the Department will make a reasonable effort to ensure the vehicle is available for use and adaptation by

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officers who participate in the Department's Drug Abuse Resistance Education program (Minn. Stat. §609.5315).

- (b) Destruction.
- (c) Sale performed in a commercially reasonable manner.
- (d) Other disposition pursuant to applicable provisions of Minnesota Statutes.

No member of this department may use property that has been seized for forfeiture until the forfeiture action has been completed and the Metro Transit Police Department has given written authorization to retain the property for official use.

Members of this department or persons related to members of this department by blood or marriage are prohibited from purchasing forfeited items sold by this department (Minn. Stat. § 609.5315, Subd. 1(c)).

## Informants

### 608.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the use of informants.

#### 608.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

**Informant** - A person who covertly interacts with other individuals or suspects at the direction of, request of, or by agreement with the Metro Transit Police Department for law enforcement purposes. This also includes a person agreeing to supply information to the Metro Transit Police Department for a benefit (e.g., a quid pro quo in the form of a reduced criminal penalty, money).

### 608.2 POLICY

The Metro Transit Police Department recognizes the value of informants to law enforcement efforts and will strive to protect the integrity of the informant process. It is the policy of this department that all funds related to informant payments will be routinely audited and that payments to informants will be made according to the criteria outlined in this policy.

### 608.3 USE OF INFORMANTS

#### 608.3.1 INITIAL APPROVAL

Before using an individual as an informant, an officer must receive approval from his/her supervisor and the Investigation Division supervisor. The officer shall compile sufficient information through a background investigation and experience with the informant in order to determine the suitability of the individual, including age, maturity and risk of physical harm, as well as any indicators of his/her reliability and credibility.

Members of this department should not guarantee absolute safety or confidentiality to an informant.

#### 608.3.2 JUVENILE INFORMANTS

The use of informants under the age of 13 is prohibited.

In all cases, a juvenile 13 years of age or older may only be used as an informant with the written consent of each of the following:

- (a) The juvenile's parents or legal guardians
- (b) The juvenile's attorney, if any
- (c) The court in which the juvenile's case is being handled, if applicable
- (d) The Chief of Police or the authorized designee



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### 608.3.3 INFORMANT AGREEMENTS

All informants are required to sign and abide by the provisions of the designated department informant agreement. The officer using the informant shall discuss each of the provisions of the agreement with the informant.

Details of the agreement are to be approved in writing by the Investigation Division supervisor before being finalized with the informant.

### 608.4 INFORMANT INTEGRITY

To maintain the integrity of the informant process, the following must be adhered to:

- (a) The identity of an informant acting in a confidential capacity shall not be withheld from the Chief of Police, Division Commander, Investigation Division supervisor or their authorized designees.
  - 1. Identities of informants acting in a confidential capacity shall otherwise be kept confidential.
- (b) Criminal activity by informants shall not be condoned.
- (c) Informants shall be told they are not acting as police officers, employees or agents of the Metro Transit Police Department, and that they shall not represent themselves as such.
- (d) The relationship between department members and informants shall always be ethical and professional.
  - 1. Members shall not become intimately involved with an informant.
  - 2. Social contact shall be avoided unless it is necessary to conduct an official investigation, and only with prior approval of the Investigation Division supervisor.
  - 3. Members shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities or engage in any private business transaction with an informant.
- (e) Officers shall not meet with informants in a private place unless accompanied by at least one additional officer or with prior approval of the Investigation Division supervisor.
  - 1. Officers may meet informants alone in an occupied public place, such as a restaurant.
- (f) When contacting informants for the purpose of making payments, officers shall arrange for the presence of another officer.
- (g) In all instances when department funds are paid to informants, a voucher shall be completed in advance, itemizing the expenses.
- (h) Since the decision rests with the appropriate prosecutor, officers shall not promise that the informant will receive any form of leniency or immunity from criminal prosecution.

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#### **608.4.1 UNSUITABLE INFORMANTS**

The suitability of any informant should be considered before engaging him/her in any way in a covert or other investigative process. Members who become aware that an informant may be unsuitable will notify the supervisor, who will initiate a review to determine suitability. Until a determination has been made by a supervisor, the informant should not be used by any member. The supervisor shall determine whether the informant should be used by the Department and, if so, what conditions will be placed on his/her participation or any information the informant provides. The supervisor shall document the decision and conditions in file notes and mark the file "unsuitable" when appropriate.

Considerations for determining whether an informant is unsuitable include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) The informant has provided untruthful or unreliable information in the past.
- (b) The informant behaves in a way that may endanger the safety of an officer.
- (c) The informant reveals to suspects the identity of an officer or the existence of an investigation.
- (d) The informant appears to be using his/her affiliation with this department to further criminal objectives.
- (e) The informant creates officer-safety issues by providing information to multiple law enforcement agencies simultaneously, without prior notification and approval of each agency.
- (f) The informant engages in any other behavior that could jeopardize the safety of officers or the integrity of a criminal investigation.
- (g) The informant commits criminal acts subsequent to entering into an informant agreement.

#### **608.5 INFORMANT FILES**

Informant files shall be utilized as a source of background information about the informant, to enable review and evaluation of information provided by the informant, and to minimize incidents that could be used to question the integrity of department members or the reliability of the informant.

Informant files shall be maintained in a secure area within the Investigation Division. The Investigation Division supervisor or the authorized designee shall be responsible for maintaining informant files. Access to the informant files shall be restricted to the Chief of Police, Division Commander, Investigation Division supervisor or their authorized designees.

The Criminal Investigations Supervisor should arrange for an audit using a representative sample of randomly selected informant files on a periodic basis, but no less than one time per year. If the Investigation Division supervisor is replaced, the files will be audited before the new supervisor takes over management of the files. The purpose of the audit is to ensure compliance with file content and updating provisions of this policy. The audit should be conducted by a supervisor who does not have normal access to the informant files.

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### 608.5.1 FILE SYSTEM PROCEDURE

A separate file shall be maintained on each informant and shall be coded with an assigned informant control number. An informant history that includes the following information shall be prepared for each file:

- (a) Name and aliases
- (b) Date of birth
- (c) Physical description: sex, race, height, weight, hair color, eye color, scars, tattoos or other distinguishing features
- (d) Photograph
- (e) Current home address and telephone numbers
- (f) Current employers, positions, addresses and telephone numbers
- (g) Vehicles owned and registration information
- (h) Places frequented
- (i) Briefs of information provided by the informant and his/her subsequent reliability
  1. If an informant is determined to be unsuitable, the informant's file is to be marked "unsuitable" and notations included detailing the issues that caused this classification.
- (j) Name of the officer initiating use of the informant
- (k) Signed informant agreement
- (l) Update on active or inactive status of informant

### 608.6 INFORMANT PAYMENTS

No informant will be told in advance or given an exact amount or percentage for his/her service. The amount of funds to be paid to any informant will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- The extent of the informant's personal involvement in the case
- The significance, value or effect on crime
- The value of assets seized
- The quantity of the drugs or other contraband seized
- The informant's previous criminal activity
- The level of risk taken by the informant

The Investigation Division supervisor will discuss the above factors with the Patrol Division Commander and recommend the type and level of payment subject to approval by the Chief of Police.

### 608.6.1 PAYMENT PROCESS

Approved payments to an informant should be in cash using the following process:

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- (a) Payments of \$500 and under may be paid in cash from a Investigation Division buy/expense fund.
  - 1. The Investigation Division supervisor shall sign the voucher for cash payouts from the buy/expense fund.
- (b) Payments exceeding \$500 shall be made by issuance of a check, payable to the officer who will be delivering the payment.
  - 1. The check shall list the case numbers related to and supporting the payment.
  - 2. A written statement of the informant's involvement in the case shall be placed in the informant's file.
  - 3. The statement shall be signed by the informant verifying the statement as a true summary of his/her actions in the case.
  - 4. Authorization signatures from the Chief of Police and the General Manager are required for disbursement of the funds.
- (c) To complete the payment process for any amount, the officer delivering the payment shall complete a cash transfer form.
  - 1. The cash transfer form shall include the following:
    - (a) Date
    - (b) Payment amount
    - (c) Metro Transit Police Department case number
    - (d) A statement that the informant is receiving funds in payment for information voluntarily rendered.
  - 2. The cash transfer form shall be signed by the informant.
  - 3. The cash transfer form will be kept in the informant's file.

### 608.6.2 REPORTING OF PAYMENTS

Each informant receiving a cash payment shall be advised of his/her responsibility to report the cash to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as income. If funds distributed exceed \$600 in any reporting year, the informant should be provided IRS Form 1099 (26 CFR 1.6041-1). If such documentation or reporting may reveal the identity of the informant and by doing so jeopardize any investigation, the safety of officers or the safety of the informant (26 CFR 1.6041-3), then IRS Form 1099 should not be issued.

In such cases, the informant shall be provided a letter identifying the amount he/she must report on a tax return as "other income" and shall be required to provide a signed acknowledgement of receipt of the letter. The completed acknowledgement form and a copy of the letter shall be retained in the informant's file.

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### 608.6.3 AUDIT OF PAYMENTS

The Investigation Division supervisor or the authorized designee shall be responsible for compliance with any audit requirements associated with grant provisions and applicable state and federal law.

At least once every six months, the Chief of Police or the authorized designee should conduct an audit of all informant funds for the purpose of accountability and security of the funds. The funds and related documents (e.g., buy/expense fund records, cash transfer forms, invoices, receipts and logs) will assist with the audit process.

# Eyewitness Identification

## 610.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy sets forth guidelines to be used when members of this department employ eyewitness identification techniques (Minn. Stat. § 626.8433).

### 610.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to the policy include:

**Eyewitness identification process** - Any field identification, live lineup or photographic identification.

**Field identification** - A live presentation of a single individual to a witness following the commission of a criminal offense for the purpose of identifying or eliminating the person as the suspect.

**Live lineup** - A live presentation of individuals to a witness for the purpose of identifying or eliminating an individual as the suspect.

**Photographic lineup** - Presentation of photographs to a witness for the purpose of identifying or eliminating an individual as the suspect.

## 610.2 POLICY

The Metro Transit Police Department will strive to use eyewitness identification techniques, when appropriate, to enhance the investigative process and will emphasize identifying persons responsible for crime and exonerating the innocent.

### 610.2.1 POST MODEL POLICY

It is the policy of the Metro Transit Police Department to follow the requirements of the Eyewitness Identification Procedures model policy, established and published by the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) (Minn. Stat. § 626.8433).

[See attachment: Eyewitness Identification Procedures model policy.pdf](#)

## 610.3 INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

Members should make a reasonable effort to arrange for an interpreter before proceeding with eyewitness identification if communication with a witness is impeded due to language or hearing barriers.

Before the interpreter is permitted to discuss any matter with the witness, the investigating officer should explain the identification process to the interpreter. Once it is determined that the interpreter comprehends the process and can explain it to the witness, the eyewitness identification may proceed as provided for within this policy.

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### **610.4 EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION PROCESS AND FORM**

The Investigation Division supervisor shall be responsible for the development and maintenance of an eyewitness identification process for use by members when they are conducting eyewitness identifications.

The process should include appropriate forms or reports that provide:

- (a) The date, time, and location of the eyewitness identification procedure.
- (b) The name and identifying information of the witness.
- (c) The name of the person administering the identification procedure.
- (d) If applicable, the names of all individuals present during the identification procedure.
- (e) An instruction to the witness that it is as important to exclude innocent persons as it is to identify a perpetrator.
- (f) An instruction to the witness that the perpetrator may or may not be among those presented and that the witness is not obligated to make an identification.
- (g) If the identification process is a photographic or live lineup, an instruction to the witness that the perpetrator may not appear exactly as he/she did on the date of the incident.
- (h) An instruction to the witness that the investigation will continue regardless of whether an identification is made by the witness.
- (i) A signature line where the witness acknowledges that he/she understands the identification procedures and instructions.
- (j) A statement from the witness in the witness's own words describing how certain he/she is of the identification or non-identification. This statement should be taken at the time of the identification procedure.
- (k) Any other direction to meet the requirements of the POST model policy.

The process and related forms should be reviewed at least annually and modified when necessary.

#### **610.4.1 POST REQUIREMENTS**

The Investigation Division supervisor should remain familiar with the requirements contained in the Eyewitness Identification Procedures model policy issued by POST and incorporate these, as necessary, into the eyewitness identification process for use by members when conducting photographic and live lineups.

### **610.5 EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION**

Members are cautioned not to, in any way, influence a witness as to whether any subject or photo presented in a lineup is in any way connected to the case. Members should avoid mentioning that:

- The individual was apprehended near the crime scene.
- The evidence points to the individual as the suspect.
- Other witnesses have identified, or failed to identify, the individual as the suspect.

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In order to avoid undue influence, witnesses should view suspects or a lineup individually and outside the presence of other witnesses. Witnesses should be instructed to avoid discussing details of the incident or of the identification process with other witnesses.

Whenever feasible, the eyewitness identification procedure should be audio and/or video recorded and the recording should be retained according to current evidence procedures.

#### 610.5.1 PHOTOGRAPHIC AND LIVE LINEUP CONSIDERATIONS

When conducting a live lineup, the member presenting the lineup should not be involved in the investigation or know the identity of the suspect (Minn. Stat. § 626.8433).

When conducting a photographic lineup, if practicable, the member presenting the lineup should not be involved in the investigation of the case or know the identity of the suspect. In no case should the member presenting a lineup to a witness know which photograph or person in the lineup is being viewed by the witness.

Individuals in the lineup should reasonably match the description of the perpetrator provided by the witness and should bear similar characteristics to avoid causing any person to unreasonably stand out. In cases involving multiple suspects, a separate lineup should be conducted for each suspect. The suspects should be placed in a different order within each lineup.

The member presenting the lineup to a witness should do so sequentially (i.e., show the witness one person at a time) and not simultaneously. The witness should view all persons in the lineup.

A live lineup should only be used before criminal proceedings have been initiated against the suspect. If there is any question as to whether any criminal proceedings have begun, the investigating officer should contact the appropriate prosecuting attorney before proceeding.

#### 610.5.2 FIELD IDENTIFICATION CONSIDERATIONS

Field identifications, also known as field elimination show-ups or one-on-one identifications, may be helpful in certain cases, where exigent circumstances make it impracticable to conduct a photo or live lineup identification. A field elimination show-up or one-on-one identification should not be used when independent probable cause exists to arrest a suspect. In such cases a live or photo lineup is the preferred course of action if eyewitness identification is contemplated.

When initiating a field identification, the member should observe the following guidelines:

- (a) Obtain and document a complete description of the suspect from the witness.
- (b) Assess whether a witness should be included in a field identification process by considering:
  - 1. The length of time the witness observed the suspect.
  - 2. The distance between the witness and the suspect.
  - 3. Whether the witness could view the suspect's face.
  - 4. The quality of the lighting when the suspect was observed by the witness.
  - 5. Whether there were distracting noises or activity during the observation.



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6. Any other circumstances affecting the witness's opportunity to observe the suspect.
  7. The length of time that has elapsed since the witness observed the suspect.
- (c) If safe and practicable, the person who is the subject of the show-up should not be handcuffed or in a patrol vehicle.
  - (d) When feasible, members should bring the witness to the location of the subject of the show-up, rather than bring the subject of the show-up to the witness.
  - (e) The person who is the subject of the show-up should not be shown to the same witness more than once.
  - (f) In cases involving multiple suspects, witnesses should only be permitted to view the subjects of the show-up one at a time.
  - (g) The person who is the subject of the show-up should not be required to put on clothing worn by the suspect, to speak words uttered by the suspect, or to perform other actions mimicking those of the suspect.
  - (h) If a witness positively identifies a subject of the show-up as the suspect, members should not conduct any further field identifications with other witnesses for that suspect. In such instances members should document the contact information for any additional witnesses for follow up, if necessary.

#### **610.6 DOCUMENTATION**

A thorough description of the eyewitness process and the results of any eyewitness identification should be documented in the case report.

If a photographic lineup is utilized, a copy of the photographic lineup presented to the witness should be included in the case report. In addition, the order in which the photographs were presented to the witness should be documented in the case report.

##### **610.6.1 DOCUMENTATION RELATED TO RECORDINGS**

The member conducting the lineup should document the reason that an audio and/or video recording was not obtained, if applicable.

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## Brady Material Disclosure

### 611.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines for identifying and releasing potentially exculpatory or impeachment information (so-called "*Brady* information") to a prosecuting attorney.

#### 611.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

**Brady information** -Information known or possessed by the Metro Transit Police Department that is both favorable and material to the current prosecution or defense of a criminal defendant.

### 611.2 POLICY

The Metro Transit Police Department will conduct fair and impartial criminal investigations and will provide the prosecution with both incriminating and exculpatory evidence as well as information that may adversely affect the credibility of a witness. In addition to reporting all evidence of guilt, the Metro Transit Police Department will assist the prosecution by complying with its obligation to disclose information that is both favorable and material to the defense. The Department will identify and disclose to the prosecution potentially exculpatory information as provided in this policy.

### 611.3 DISCLOSURE OF INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION

Officers must include in their investigative reports adequate investigative information and reference to all material evidence and facts that are reasonably believed to be either incriminating or exculpatory to any individual in the case. If an officer learns of potentially incriminating or exculpatory information any time after submission of a case, the officer or the handling investigator must prepare and submit a supplemental report documenting such information as soon as practicable. Supplemental reports shall be promptly processed and transmitted to the prosecutor's office.

If information is believed to be privileged or confidential (e.g., confidential informant or protected personnel files), the officer should discuss the matter with a supervisor and/or prosecutor to determine the appropriate manner in which to proceed.

Evidence or facts are considered material if there is a reasonable probability that they would affect the outcome of a criminal proceeding or trial. Determining whether evidence or facts are material often requires legal or even judicial review. If an officer is unsure whether evidence or facts are material, the officer should address the issue with a supervisor.

Supervisors who are uncertain about whether evidence or facts are material should address the issue in a written memo to an appropriate prosecutor. A copy of the memo should be retained in the Department case file.

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## *Brady Material Disclosure*

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### **611.4 DISCLOSURE OF PERSONNEL INFORMATION**

If a member of this department is a material witness in a criminal case, a person or persons designated by the Chief of Police shall examine the personnel file and/or internal affairs file of the officer to determine whether they contain *Brady* information. If *Brady* information is located, the following procedure shall apply:

- (a) In the event that a motion has not already been filed by the criminal defendant or other party, the prosecuting attorney and department member shall be notified of the potential presence of *Brady* material in the member's personnel file.
- (b) If the data is classified as public data, a copy of it shall be provided to the prosecuting attorney. In the case of non-public data, the prosecuting attorney should then be requested to file a motion in order to initiate an in camera review by the court.
  1. If no motion is filed, the supervisor should work with counsel to determine whether the records should be disclosed to the prosecutor.
- (c) The Custodian of Records shall accompany all relevant personnel files during any in camera inspection to address any issues or questions raised by the court.
- (d) If the court determines that there is relevant *Brady* material contained in the files, only that data ordered released will be copied and released to the parties filing the motion.
  1. Prior to the release of any materials pursuant to this process, the Custodian of Records should request a protective order from the court limiting the use and further dissemination of such materials to the involved case and requiring the return of all copies upon completion of the case.
- (e) If a court has determined that relevant *Brady* information is contained in the member's file in any case, the prosecutor should be notified of that fact in all future cases involving that member.

The person or persons designated by the Chief of Police should periodically examine the personnel files and/or internal affairs files of all officers who may be material witnesses in criminal cases to determine whether they contain *Brady* information. The obligation to provide *Brady* information is ongoing. If any new *Brady* information is identified, the prosecuting attorney should be notified.

### **611.5 INVESTIGATING BRADY ISSUES**

If the Department receives information from any source that a member may have issues of credibility, dishonesty or has been engaged in an act of moral turpitude or criminal conduct, the information shall be investigated and processed in accordance with the Personnel Complaints Policy.

### **611.6 TRAINING**

Department personnel should receive periodic training on the requirements of this policy.

## Warrant Service

### 613.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines for the planning and serving of arrest and search warrants by members of this department. It is understood that this policy cannot address every variable or circumstance that can arise in the service of a search or arrest warrant, as these tasks can involve rapidly evolving and unique circumstances.

This policy is intended to be used in conjunction with the Operations Planning and Deconfliction Policy, which has additional guidance on planning and serving high-risk warrants.

This policy is not intended to address the service of search warrants on locations or property already secured or routine field warrant arrests by patrol officers.

### 613.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Metro Transit Police Department to balance the safety needs of the public, the safety of department members, privacy interests and other relevant factors when making decisions related to the service of search and arrest warrants.

### 613.3 OPERATIONS DIRECTOR / INVESTIGATIVE SUPERVISOR

The operations director / investigative supervisor (see the Operations Planning and Deconfliction Policy) shall review all risk assessment forms with the involved supervisor to determine the risk level of the warrant service.

The operations director will also have the responsibility to coordinate service of those warrants that are categorized as high risk. Deconfliction, risk assessment, operational planning, briefing and debriefing should follow guidelines in the Operations Planning and Deconfliction Policy.

### 613.4 SEARCH WARRANTS

Officers must receive authorization from a supervisor and the Chief of Police or their designee before preparing a no-knock (unannounced entry) search warrant application (Minn. Stat. 626.14). For standard search warrants (announced entry), officers need only authorization from a supervisor. Once authorization is received, the officer will prepare the affidavit and search warrant, consulting with the applicable prosecuting attorney as needed. He/she will also complete the risk assessment form and submit it, along with the warrant affidavit, to the appropriate supervisor and the operations director / investigative supervisor for review and classification of risk (see the Operations Planning and Deconfliction Policy).

### 613.5 ARREST WARRANTS

If an officer reasonably believes that serving an arrest warrant may pose a higher risk than commonly faced on a daily basis, the officer should complete the risk assessment form and submit it to the appropriate supervisor and the operations director / investigative supervisor for review and classification of risk (see the Operations Planning and Deconfliction Policy).

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If the warrant is classified as high risk, service will be coordinated by the operations director / investigative supervisor. If the warrant is not classified as high risk, the supervisor should weigh the risk of entry into a residence to make an arrest against other alternatives, such as arresting the person outside the residence where circumstances may pose a lower risk.

### 613.6 WARRANT PREPARATION

An officer who prepares a warrant should ensure the documentation in support of the warrant contains as applicable:

- (a) Probable cause to support the search or arrest, including relevant dates and times to demonstrate timeliness and facts to support any request for nighttime or no-knock warrant execution.
  - 1. No-knock search warrant applications shall comply with the requirements, including the reporting requirements to the Commissioner of Public Safety, as provided by Minn. Stat. § 626.14.
- (b) A clear explanation of the affiant's training, experience, and relevant education.
- (c) Adequately supported opinions, when relevant, that are not left to unsubstantiated conclusions.
- (d) A nexus between the place to be searched and the persons or items central to the investigation. The facts supporting this nexus should be clear and current. For example, the affidavit shall explain why there is probable cause to believe that a particular person is currently residing at a particular location or that the items sought are present at a particular location.
- (e) Full disclosure of known or suspected residents at the involved location and any indication of separate living spaces at the involved location. For example, it should be disclosed that several people may be renting bedrooms at a single location, even if the exact location of the rooms is not known.
- (f) A specific description of the location to be searched, including photographs of the location, if reasonably available.
- (g) A sufficient description of the items to be seized.
- (h) Full disclosure of any known exculpatory information relevant to the warrant application (refer to the *Brady* Material Disclosure Policy).

### 613.7 HIGH-RISK WARRANT SERVICE

The operations director / investigative supervisor or the authorized designee shall coordinate the service of warrants that are categorized as high risk and shall have sole authority in determining the manner in which the warrant will be served, including the number of officers deployed.

The member responsible for directing the service should ensure the following as applicable:

- (a) When practicable and when doing so does not cause unreasonable risk, video or photographic documentation is made of the condition of the location prior to execution

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of a search warrant. The images should include the surrounding area and persons present.

- (b) The warrant service is audio- and video-recorded when practicable and reasonable to do so.
- (c) Evidence is handled and collected only by those members who are designated to do so. All other members involved in the service of the warrant should alert one of the designated members to the presence of potential evidence and not touch or disturb the items.
- (d) Reasonable efforts are made during the search to maintain or restore the condition of the location.
- (e) Persons who are detained as part of the warrant service are handled appropriately under the circumstances.
- (f) Reasonable care provisions are made for children and dependent adults (see the Child and Dependent Adult Safety Policy).
- (g) A list is made of all items seized and a copy provided to the person in charge of the premises if present or otherwise left in a conspicuous place.
- (h) A copy of the search warrant is left at the location.
- (i) The condition of the property is documented with video recording or photographs after the search.

### **613.8 DETENTIONS DURING WARRANT SERVICE**

Officers must be sensitive to the safety risks of all persons involved with the service of a warrant. Depending on circumstances and facts present, it may be appropriate to control movements of any or all persons present at a warrant service, including those who may not be the subject of a warrant or suspected in the case. However, officers must be mindful that only reasonable force may be used and weapons should be displayed no longer than the officer reasonably believes is necessary (see the Use of Force Policy).

As soon as it can be determined that an individual is not subject to the scope of a warrant and that no further reasonable suspicion or safety concerns exist to justify further detention, the person should be promptly released.

Officers should, when and to the extent reasonable, accommodate the privacy and personal needs of people who have been detained.

### **613.9 ACTIONS AFTER WARRANT SERVICE**

The supervisor shall ensure that all affidavits, warrants, receipts and returns, regardless of any associated cases, are filed with the issuing court as soon as reasonably possible, but in any event no later than any date specified on the warrant or by rules established by the court.

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### **613.10 OUTSIDE AGENCIES AND CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL WARRANTS**

The operations director / investigative supervisor will ensure that cooperative efforts with other agencies in the service of warrants conform to existing mutual aid agreements or other memorandums of understanding and will work cooperatively to mitigate risks including, but not limited to, the following:

- Identity of team members
- Roles and responsibilities
- Familiarity with equipment
- Rules of engagement
- Asset forfeiture procedures

Any outside agency requesting assistance in the service of a warrant within this jurisdiction should be referred to the operations director / investigative supervisor. The director should review and confirm the warrant, including the warrant location, and should discuss the service with the appropriate supervisor from the other agency. The director should ensure that members of the Metro Transit Police Department are utilized appropriately. Any concerns regarding the requested use of Metro Transit Police Department members should be brought to the attention of the Chief of Police or the authorized designee. The actual service of the warrant will remain the responsibility of the agency requesting assistance.

If the operations director / investigative supervisor is unavailable, the Shift Supervisor (Lieutenant) should assume this role.

If officers intend to serve a warrant outside Metro Transit Police Department jurisdiction, the operations director / investigative supervisor should provide reasonable advance notice to the applicable agency, request assistance as needed and work cooperatively on operational planning and the mitigation of risks detailed in this policy.

Officers will remain subject to the policies of the Metro Transit Police Department when assisting outside agencies or serving a warrant outside Metro Transit Police Department jurisdiction.

### **613.11 MEDIA ACCESS**

No advance information regarding warrant service operations shall be released without the approval of the Chief of Police. Any media inquiries or press release after the fact shall be handled in accordance with the Media Relations Policy.

### **613.12 TRAINING**

The Training Manager should ensure officers whose job duties require it, receive periodic training on this policy and associated topics, such as legal issues, warrant preparation, warrant service and reporting requirements.

## Operations Planning and Deconfliction

### 614.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for planning, deconfliction and execution of high-risk operations.

Additional guidance on planning and serving high-risk warrants is provided in the Warrant Service Policy.

#### 614.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

**High-risk operations** - Operations, including service of search and arrest warrants and sting operations, that are likely to present higher risks than are commonly faced by officers on a daily basis, including suspected fortified locations, reasonable risk of violence or confrontation with multiple persons, or reason to suspect that persons anticipate the operation.

### 614.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Metro Transit Police Department to properly plan and carry out high-risk operations, including participation in a regional deconfliction system, in order to provide coordination, enhance the safety of members and the public, decrease the risk of compromising investigations and prevent duplicating efforts.

### 614.3 OPERATIONS DIRECTOR / INVESTIGATIVE SUPERVISOR

The Chief of Police will designate a member of this department to be the operations director (typically the Investigative Supervisor).

The operations director / investigative supervisor will develop and maintain a risk assessment form to assess, plan and coordinate operations. This form should provide a process to identify high-risk operations.

The operations director / investigative supervisor will review risk assessment forms with involved supervisors to determine whether a particular incident qualifies as a high-risk operation. The director will also have the responsibility for coordinating operations that are categorized as high risk.

### 614.4 RISK ASSESSMENT

#### 614.4.1 RISK ASSESSMENT FORM PREPARATION

Officers assigned as operational leads for any operation that may qualify as a high-risk operation shall complete a risk assessment form.

When preparing the form, the officer should query all relevant and reasonably available intelligence resources for information about the subject of investigation, others who may be present and the involved location. These sources may include regional intelligence and criminal justice databases,



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target deconfliction systems, firearm records, commercial databases and property records. Where appropriate, the officer should also submit information to these resources.

The officer should gather available information that includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Photographs, including aerial photographs, if available, of the involved location, neighboring yards and obstacles.
- (b) Maps of the location.
- (c) Diagrams of any property and the interior of any buildings that are involved.
- (d) Historical information about the subject of investigation (e.g., history of weapon possession or use, known mental illness, known drug use, threats against police, gang affiliation, criminal history).
- (e) Historical information about others who may be present at the location (e.g., other criminals, innocent third parties, dependent adults, children, animals).
- (f) Obstacles associated with the location (e.g., fortification, booby traps, reinforced doors/windows, surveillance measures, number and type of buildings, geographic and perimeter barriers, the number and types of weapons likely to be present, information that suggests the presence of explosives, chemicals or other hazardous materials, the potential for multiple dwellings or living spaces, availability of keys/door combinations).
- (g) Other environmental factors (e.g., nearby venues such as schools and day care centers, proximity of adjacent homes or other occupied buildings, anticipated pedestrian and vehicle traffic at the time of service).
- (h) Other available options that may minimize the risk to officers and others (e.g., making an off-site arrest or detention of the subject of investigation).

#### 614.4.2 RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW

Officers will present the risk assessment form and other relevant documents (such as copies of search warrants and affidavits and arrest warrants) to their supervisor and the operations director/ investigative supervisor.

The supervisor and operations director / investigative supervisor shall confer and determine the level of risk. Supervisors should take reasonable actions if there is a change in circumstances that elevates the risks associated with the operation.

#### 614.4.3 HIGH-RISK OPERATIONS

If the operations director / investigative supervisor, after consultation with the involved supervisor, determines that the operation is high risk, the operations director / investigative supervisor should:

- (a) Determine what resources will be needed at the location, and contact and/or place on standby any of the following appropriate and available resources:
  - 1. Local agency tactical team
  - 2. Additional personnel
  - 3. Outside agency assistance

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4. Special equipment
  5. Medical personnel
  6. Persons trained in negotiation
  7. Additional surveillance
  8. Canines
  9. Property and Evidence Office or analytical personnel to assist with cataloguing seizures
  10. Forensic specialists
  11. Specialized mapping for larger or complex locations
- (b) Contact the appropriate department members or other agencies as warranted to begin preparation.
  - (c) Ensure that all legal documents such as search warrants are complete and have any modifications reasonably necessary to support the operation.
  - (d) Coordinate the actual operation.

### **614.5 DECONFLICTION**

Deconfliction systems are designed to identify persons and locations associated with investigations or law enforcement operations and alert participating agencies when others are planning or conducting operations in close proximity or time or are investigating the same individuals, groups or locations.

The officer who is the operations lead shall ensure the subject of investigation and operations information have been entered in an applicable deconfliction system to determine if there is reported conflicting activity. This should occur as early in the process as practicable, but no later than two hours prior to the commencement of the operation. The officer should also enter relevant updated information when it is received.

If any conflict is discovered, the supervisor will contact the involved jurisdiction and resolve the potential conflict before proceeding.

### **614.6 OPERATIONS PLAN**

The operations director / investigative supervisor should ensure that a written operations plan is developed for all high-risk operations. Plans should also be considered for other operations that would benefit from having a formal plan.

The plan should address such issues as:

- (a) Operation goals, objectives and strategies.
- (b) Operation location and people:
  1. The subject of investigation (e.g., history of weapon possession/use, known mental illness issues, known drug use, threats against police, gang affiliation, criminal history)

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## *Operations Planning and Deconfliction*

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2. The location (e.g., fortification, booby traps, reinforced doors/windows, surveillance cameras and/or lookouts, number/type of buildings, geographic and perimeter barriers, the number and types of weapons likely to be present, information that suggests the presence of explosives, chemicals or other hazardous materials, the potential for multiple dwellings or living spaces, availability of keys/door combinations), including aerial photos, if available, and maps of neighboring yards and obstacles, diagrams and other visual aids
  3. Other environmental factors (e.g., nearby venues such as schools and day care centers, proximity of adjacent homes or other occupied buildings, anticipated pedestrian and vehicle traffic at the time of service)
  4. Identification of other people who may be present in or around the operation, such as other criminal suspects, innocent third parties and children
- (c) Information from the risk assessment form by attaching a completed copy in the operational plan.
1. The volume or complexity of the information may indicate that the plan includes a synopsis of the information contained on the risk assessment form to ensure clarity and highlighting of critical information.
- (d) Participants and their roles.
1. An adequate number of uniformed officers should be included in the operation team to provide reasonable notice of a legitimate law enforcement operation.
  2. How all participants will be identified as law enforcement.
- (e) Whether deconfliction submissions are current and all involved individuals, groups and locations have been deconflicted to the extent reasonably practicable.
- (f) Identification of all communications channels and call-signs.
- (g) Use of force issues.
- (h) Contingencies for handling medical emergencies (e.g., services available at the location, closest hospital, closest trauma center).
- (i) Plans for detaining people who are not under arrest.
- (j) Contingencies for handling children, dependent adults, animals and other people who might be at the location in accordance with the Child Abuse, Adult Abuse, Child and Dependent Adult Safety and Animal Control policies.
- (k) Communications plan.
- (l) Responsibilities for writing, collecting, reviewing and approving reports.

### 614.6.1 OPERATIONS PLAN RETENTION

Since the operations plan contains intelligence information and descriptions of law enforcement tactics, it shall not be filed with the report. The operations plan shall be stored separately and retained in accordance with the established records retention schedule.

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### **614.7 OPERATIONS BRIEFING**

A briefing should be held prior to the commencement of any high-risk operation to allow all participants to understand the operation, see and identify each other, identify roles and responsibilities and ask questions or seek clarification as needed. Anyone who is not present at the briefing should not respond to the operation location without specific supervisory approval.

- (a) The briefing should include a verbal review of plan elements, using visual aids, to enhance the participants' understanding of the operations plan.
- (b) All participants should be provided a copy of the operations plan and search warrant, if applicable. Participating personnel should be directed to read the search warrant and initial a copy that is retained with the operation plan. Any items to be seized should be identified at the briefing.
- (c) The operations director / investigative supervisor shall ensure that all participants are visually identifiable as law enforcement officers.
  - 1. Exceptions may be made by the operations director / investigative supervisor for officers who are conducting surveillance or working under cover. However, those members exempt from visual identification should be able to transition to a visible law enforcement indicator at the time of enforcement actions, such as entries or arrests, if necessary.
- (d) The briefing should include details of the communications plan.
  - 1. It is the responsibility of the operations director to ensure that Transit Control Center is notified of the time and location of the operation, and to provide a copy of the operation plan prior to officers arriving at the location.
  - 2. If the radio channel needs to be monitored by Transit Control Center, the dispatcher assigned to monitor the operation should attend the briefing, if practicable, but at a minimum should receive a copy of the operation plan.
  - 3. The briefing should include a communications check to ensure that all participants are able to communicate with the available equipment on the designated radio channel.

### **614.8 TACTICAL TEAM PARTICIPATION**

If the operations director / investigative supervisor determines that tactical team participation is appropriate, the director and the tactical team supervisor shall work together to develop a written plan. The tactical team supervisor shall assume operational control until all persons at the scene are appropriately detained and it is safe to begin a search. When this occurs, the tactical team supervisor shall transfer control of the scene to the handling supervisor. This transfer should be communicated to the officers present.

### **614.9 MEDIA ACCESS**

No advance information regarding planned operations shall be released without the approval of the Chief of Police. Any media inquiries or press release after the fact shall be handled in accordance with the Media Relations Policy.

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### **614.10 OPERATIONS DEBRIEFING**

High-risk operations should be debriefed as soon as reasonably practicable. The debriefing should include as many participants as possible. This debrief may be separate from any tactical team debriefing.

### **614.11 TRAINING**

The Training Manager should ensure officers who participate in operations subject to this policy should receive periodic training including, but not limited to, topics such as legal issues, deconfliction practices, operations planning concepts and reporting requirements.

## Scrap Metal Theft Investigation

### 615.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance regarding scrap metal theft investigations.

#### 615.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

**Scrap vehicle operator or operator** - A person described in Minn. Stat. § 168A.1501 who engages in a transaction involving the purchase or acquisition of a scrap vehicle.

**Scrap metal dealer or dealer** - A person engaged in the business of buying or selling scrap metal, or both, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 325E.21.

### 615.2 POLICY

The Metro Transit Police Department recognizes the difficulty in preventing scrap metal theft and may investigate, place holds on or confiscate items as provided in this policy.

### 615.3 INSPECTIONS

An officer engaged in scrap metal theft investigations may (Minn. Stat. § 168A.1501; Minn. Stat. § 325E.21):

- (a) Conduct inspections of any purchase and acquisition records maintained by scrap vehicle operators or scrap metal dealers.
- (b) Inspect scrap vehicle or scrap metal received by an operator or dealer at any reasonable time.
- (c) Inspect any video or still camera and any recordings or images required to be maintained by an operator or dealer.

Any refusal to allow such inspections should be referred to the local jurisdiction's attorney for criminal prosecution.

### 615.4 INVESTIGATIVE HOLDS

An officer who has probable cause to believe that a scrap vehicle or motor vehicle parts in the possession of a scrap vehicle operator, or that scrap metal in the possession of a scrap metal dealer, is stolen or is evidence of a crime may verbally order the operator or dealer not to process, sell, remove or allow the removal of the item for 30 days (Minn. Stat. § 168A.1501; Minn. Stat. § 325E.21).

The officer issuing the order is responsible for ensuring that the order to hold the item is confirmed in writing within 72 hours. If the item is identified as evidence in an active criminal case, the officer may extend the hold in writing. This extension must occur within 30 days of the original order and may remain in effect for as long as the investigation or prosecution is active.

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### **615.5 SEIZING ITEMS**

The investigating officer should confer with the prosecuting attorney to determine whether the item should be confiscated. If the item is evidence or otherwise needed for an investigation or prosecution, the officer may issue a written notice to confiscate any time during the investigative hold. The officer shall take custody of the item within 15 days of the notice to confiscate (Minn. Stat. § 168A.1501; Minn. Stat. § 325E.21).

When an item is confiscated, the officer shall:

- (a) Provide the operator or dealer a property receipt that includes at least the following:
  1. The name and telephone number of the Department.
  2. The name and telephone number of the officer.
  3. The case number related to the confiscation.
- (b) Deliver the item to the Property and Evidence Office.

When a confiscated item is no longer needed for an investigation or prosecution, it may be returned to a registered owner only after giving the operator or dealer from whom the item was seized written notice of intent to do so. The written notice should include notice of the right of the operator or dealer to make a written request for return of the item and that if the Department does not return the item within 48 hours of the request, excluding Saturday, Sunday or legal holidays, the operator or dealer may file a petition for the return of the item in the district court in the district in which the property was seized (Minn. Stat. § 626.04).

### **615.6 TERMINATION OF HOLD OR NOTICE TO CONFISCATE**

At the conclusion of any investigation and prosecution, the officer who issued the investigative hold or a notice to confiscate property not yet confiscated shall notify the operator or dealer in writing that the hold or notice is no longer in effect (Minn. Stat. § 168A.1501; Minn. Stat. § 325E.21).