

	<b>Houston Independent School District Police Department Directives</b>	<b>DIRECTIVE: 440-005</b>
		<b>EFFECTIVE DATE: October 18, 2013</b>
	<b>SUBJECT: Mass Arrests</b>	<b>REVISED DATE: January 28, 2022</b>

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this directive is to address policy and procedures for multiple arrests. This directive applies to all Houston Independent School District Police Personnel.

## **POLICY**

When arresting groups of people, sufficient evidence must be gathered to establish probable cause for the arrest of each person taken into custody. Generalized situational conditions cannot be substituted for specific evidence.

## **PROCEDURE**

The necessity to arrest groups of people poses special problems. Demonstrations, sports events, and other crowd-drawing activities can provide a setting that encourages violations while providing anonymity. The actions of law enforcement officers may, themselves, serve as catalysts for further violations. In such situations, coordination is essential to avoid escalating the situation.

A scene commander must determine whether the desirability of arresting violators outweighs the potential for conflict escalation. When arrests become necessary, officers must remember that each arrest must satisfy the probable cause requirement.

## **NONVIOLENT MINOR OFFENSES**

If mass arrests for nonviolent minor offenses appear imminent, the supervisor in charge of the scene shall approach the demonstration or other center of activity and, from a safe distance, inform the people present that their conduct is illegal and that all violations must cease immediately.

If the leaders do not comply with the directives, the supervisor in charge shall publicly give an order to disperse to the crowd. Once the dispersal order is given, a reasonable time must be allowed for compliance. An order for arrest may then be given.

If tape or video equipment is available, both of these announcements, along with any statements by the demonstration leadership, should be recorded as evidence, if possible.

## **MASS ARRESTS**

During civil disturbances, it may be necessary to make arrests of numerous individuals over a relatively short period of time. For this process to be handled efficiently, safely, and legally, the following shall be observed:

Suspects shall be arrested, processed, and confined in accordance with directive 450-009 Prisoner Processings. The following guidelines will be adhered to when handling prisoners during a mass arrest incident;

- a) All offenders shall be transported in accordance with the prisoner transport policy.
- b) Prisoners shall not be left unattended.
- c) Evidence collection shall be in accordance with HISD Property and Evidence Policy.
- d) Detention facilities are the responsibility of municipalities with shared jurisdiction or Harris County per Memorandums of Understanding (MOU). Interagency agreements shall be in accordance with the MOU with HPD.
- e) HISD Police Department personnel shall keep prisoners secure. This includes vehicles and staging areas as necessary.
- f) Defense counsel visits shall be the responsibility of municipalities with shared jurisdiction or Harris County once prisoners are transported.
- g) Sworn HISD Police Department personnel will be assigned as court and prosecution liaisons to facilitate filing charges.
- h) The Public Information Officer (PIO) shall be located in or near the command post set up for the incident. They shall be responsible for keeping the media and public updated. The PIO shall also participate in rumor control to minimize adverse reactions to misinformation generated during mass arrest situations.
- i) Food, water, and sanitation shall be made available as required.
- j) Medical treatment shall be provided as required.

Approved By

  
Pedro Lopez Jr., Chief of Police