



<b>FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>    <b>GENERAL ORDER</b>	SUBJECT: <b>VEHICLE ESCORTS</b>		NUMBER: <b>507.0</b>
	EFFECTIVE DATE: <b>January 1, 2019</b>	REVIEW: <b>December 2022</b>	
	TOPIC: <b>PURPOSE AND POLICY</b>		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: OPERATIONS SUPPORT BUREAU			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 61.3.3	VLEPSC: OPR.07.09	

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish procedures for vehicle escorts provide by the Fairfax County Police Department.


II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Fairfax County Police Department that, under certain circumstances, sworn officers may escort vehicles with due regard for safety of all individuals.

<b>FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>  <b>GENERAL ORDER</b>	SUBJECT: <b>VEHICLE ESCORTS</b>		NUMBER: <b>507.1</b>
	EFFECTIVE DATE: <b>January 1, 2019</b>	REVIEW: <b>December 2022</b>	
	TOPIC: <b>PROCEDURES</b>		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: OPERATIONS SUPPORT BUREAU			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
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I. PROCEDURES

- A. Requests for various vehicle escorts are received on a regular basis by the Police Department. These range from escorts for funeral processions to dignitary protection to hazardous material transportation. Generally, requests for vehicle escorts originate with the Traffic Division of the Operations Support Bureau and are typically provided by the Motor Section. Occasionally, staffing constraints may dictate the need for patrol assistance from the affected district stations. Personnel should be aware of the hazardous circumstances which are present while conducting escorts. Thus, it is recommended that all escorts be conducted with marked police vehicles and/or marked police motorcycles. Marked police vehicles provide maximum visibility to other motorists, which will reduce the risk of crashes.
- B. Escorts of non-emergency equipped vehicles, including civilian vehicles, in an emergency situation are prohibited.
- C. Escorts of public officials and dignitaries will be coordinated with the appropriate personnel representing the official or dignitary and the commander of the Operations Support Bureau through the Traffic Division commander. The Motor Section supervisor will be responsible for establishing the specific duties and assignments of police personnel related to the escort. When such escorts will be done in conjunction with a security detail for the officials, then the policies and procedures established under [General Order 520.6](#), VIP Protection Policy, will also be followed.
- D. Escort requests of an unusual nature, such as for hazardous materials, oversized loads, parades, etc., shall be approved by and coordinated through the Operation's Support Bureau commander or the Traffic Division commander.

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E. Officers assigned to escorts choose the travel route. Factors to be considered in selecting the travel route are, but not limited to:


- Time of day
- Local traffic
- Workload
- Road hazards
- Permit requirements
- Weather

If the escorted party does not agree to the selected route, they will be advised to proceed at their own risk without an escort or, in the case of hazardous materials or wide loads, that they cannot traverse Fairfax County until they agree to the specified conditions.


F. Officers must refuse any escort which presents an unreasonable hazard to their safety or that of the public, after consulting with their supervisor. The primary concern in all escorts is to ensure the safety of the officers involved, persons being escorted, and the public. It is the secondary concern of police personnel to ensure minimal disruption to the normal traffic flow.

G. Police vehicles actively involved in traffic control during an escort assignment shall have their emergency lighting equipment in operation at all times. Intermittent use of the siren may be required as a warning to other motorists. No escorted vehicle shall be permitted to exceed the posted speed limits.

H. The officer in charge of a funeral escort will determine the manageable number of vehicles that can be escorted, based on assigned personnel, route, and weather condition. Generally, processions with less than 15 vehicles will not be escorted unless circumstances dictate otherwise. Prior to refusing such an escort, the officer will notify their immediate supervisor. In the event that the procession is larger than anticipated and cannot be safely escorted with available staffing, the officer will advise the procession coordinator that there will be a delay to await additional assistance or the procession can either proceed without escort at its own risk or the officer may take a manageable number of vehicles, to include the family vehicle and funeral coach. Additionally, funeral home personnel shall be advised of the need to have all participating vehicles illuminate their headlights and activate their four-way flashers. Placarding for the lead and last vehicle should also be recommended.

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	<b>TOPIC:</b> <b>PROCEDURES</b>	

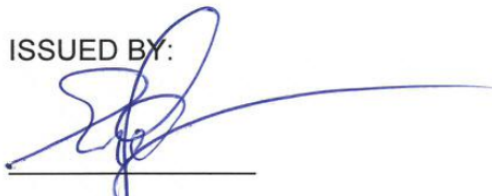
- I. Officers shall enter controlled intersections only on a green traffic signal. The officer may take control of the intersection; however, once this is done, control shall be maintained until the last vehicle in the procession has passed through the intersection. Motor officers may take control of any intersection, regardless of the signal color, when required by traffic conditions.
  
- J. When officers pass vehicles in procession in order to reach the front, they shall not pass within the same traffic lane as the escorted vehicles and shall exercise due regard for their safety and the public. Escorted vehicles shall not be allowed to proceed against a red traffic signal, unless at the direction of a police officer.
  
- K. When the route of travel includes the interstate highway system, officers will advise a funeral home representative that the procession may not be assisted onto the interstate by the police. Escort officers will remain in the right lanes of the interstate at speed of less than 55 miles per hour to facilitate the reassembly of the procession.

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	EFFECTIVE DATE: <p style="text-align: center;">January 1, 2019</p>	REVIEW: <p style="text-align: center;">December 2022</p>	
	TOPIC: <p style="text-align: center;"><b>LEGAL REFERENCES</b></p>		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: OPERATIONS SUPPORT BUREAU			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: Not Applicable	VLEPSC: Not Applicable	

I. LEGAL REFERENCES

- A. [Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-828](#); Right-of-way for funeral processions under police or sheriff's escort; improper joining of, passing through, or interfering with processions prohibited; use of high beam headlights and hazard lights by vehicles traveling in funeral processions.
- B. [Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-829](#); Approach of law-enforcement or fire-fighting vehicles, rescue vehicles, or ambulances; violation as failure to yield right-of-way.
- C. [Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-834](#); Signals by law-enforcement officers, crossing guards, and flaggers.
- D. [Fairfax County Code Section 82-1-18](#); Driving through funeral or other processions; manner of driving in funeral processions.
- E. [Fairfax County Code Section 82-1-19](#); Identification of vehicles in funeral processions; right-of-way.

General Orders 507.0 through 507.2 become effective on January 1, 2019, and rescind all previous rules and regulations pertaining to the subjects.

ISSUED BY:  
  
 Chief of Police

APPROVED BY:  
  
 County Executive