3.535 PROTESTS: PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS, CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, AND RIOTS

3.535.1 Definitions
3.535.2 Response Protocol
3.535.3 General Rules
3.535.4 Anticipated Event
3.535.5 Unplanned or Spontaneous Event
3.535.6 Incident Commander Role
3.575.7 Orders to Disperse
3.575.8 Last-Chance Notice
3.535.9 Arrest, Transport and Field-Based Booking Process
3.535.10 Use of Force During a Protest
3.535.11 Pepper Ball Deployment (SWAT and HSST Use Only)
3.535.12 Field Force Extrications
3.535.13 Use of Drones for Protest Events

It is the policy of this department to maintain a visible and sufficient presence at protests to protect the safety of demonstrators, counter-protesters, and the public, while actively facilitating the peaceful exercise of First Amendment rights. This measured approach ensures that lawful assembly and free speech can occur without disruption, while preventing violence, protecting property, and maintaining public order.

The department does not suppress lawful activity. However, First Amendment rights do not protect unlawful actions such as violating laws, inciting violence, endangering others, rioting, looting, obstructing entrances, or trespassing. Governments can impose reasonable and viewpoint-neutral restrictions on free speech to maintain public safety, order, commerce, and freedom of movement under federal, state and local laws.

This policy defines a protest as any form of dissent, which may include peaceful demonstrations, civil disobedience, or riots. Protests are often unpredictable and can quickly change, potentially involving a mix of different activities.

LVMPD personnel should include community members when planning for and responding to demonstrations.

3.535.1 Definitions

aerosol irritant	A department-authorized chemical agent released into the air as liquid, mist, fog, or powder. Its purpose is to temporarily incapacitate, control, or move people by irritating the eyes, skin, or respiratory system. Examples include oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray (e.g., pepper spray), high-capacity OC delivery systems, pepper ball-delivered OC powder, tear gas, and the Devastator.
anticipated event	An activity involving large numbers of people that requires a permit or is planned and publicized beforehand (e.g., parades, marches, rallies, concerts, religious gatherings, parties, community activities, sporting events, labor disputes, and peaceful demonstrations).
area denial	A crowd management tactic employing aerially dispersed agents to compel individuals to leave or avoid an area following a dispersal order. This tactic, which is not intended to target specific individuals, requires a clearly defined threat to public safety and approval from a supervisor.
Booking Information Sheet (LVMPD 1088)	A document completed by the arresting officer at the time of arrest to record essential details including individualized probable cause (PC), arrestee

	information, arresting and witness officer information, event number, time of arrest, and other relevant details to support booking, supervisory review, and subsequent reporting and prosecution. This document facilitates the transfer of custody to the booking station and ensures accurate arrest processing, especially when the arresting officer needs to remain in the field.
booking station	A designated field-based location established by the incident commander during protest or crowd-management operations for the coordinated processing and documentation of arrests. The station is where arrest and booking paperwork is completed, individualized PC is reviewed, and the Booking Station Log is maintained with arrestee, arresting officer, and event details. Booking station personnel conduct follow-up investigation as needed to support individualized PC.
buffer zone	A safety zone maintained by officers that creates distance and space between opposing groups.
command post	A temporary location established near a protest event for managing and coordinating a response. It serves as the headquarters for the incident commander and their staff to direct planning and tactical operations, ensuring communication and resource management among all responding agencies.
crowd management	Techniques used to address crowds, including communication with event organizers, a display of police officers, containment, travel lane closures, buffer zones, Mobile Field Force tactics, dispersal tactics, and arrest procedures.
Devastator	A device designed for crowd control, capable of delivering a large amount of OC aerosol in a wide spray or fog, affecting many people in a specific area.
dispersal order	A formal directive issued by law enforcement during a crowd event when an incident commander has determined that an unlawful assembly or other public safety threat exists. A dispersal order directs individuals to immediately leave the area, informs them that failure to comply may result in enforcement action, and provides notice sufficient to allow a reasonable opportunity for compliance. Dispersal orders will be announced repeatedly and at frequent intervals, including as officers move with the crowd, to maximize the likelihood the order is heard and understood.
dispersal order team	Each Mobile Field Force unit designates this two-officer team, which consists of: 1. **Dispersal lead** – Responsible for issuing continuous dispersal orders using amplification when feasible and providing directional instructions. 2. **Dispersal evidence officer** – Responsible for recording the announcements of dispersal orders and surrounding crowd conditions using BWC.
field force extrication (FFE)	The process of safely removing protesters from protester devices intentionally used to obstruct the law. This process is completed by utilizing techniques and specialized training by the Homeland Security Saturation Team (HSST).
Homeland Security Saturation Team (HSST)	A team of officers who are well-rehearsed in crowd management techniques. They have the training, tools, and skills to safely extricate an individual from protester devices.
incident commander (IC)	The commissioned officer in charge of the department's on-scene response to a protest event.
jail liaison	A detective assigned to a jail to coordinate the transfer of arrestees from the transport teams to the jail.
last-chance notice	A final verbal advisement given to an individual after a dispersal order has been issued, reminding them that the order is still in effect and directing them to leave the designated area before enforcement action is taken. This notice offers a reasonable opportunity to comply, especially when the individual is not actively violent or posing an immediate threat. Enforcement after this notice is based on non-compliance with lawful restrictions implemented for public safety, not on the individual's speech or expressive activity.

Mobile Field Force	A large, specialized element of police officers organized to implement crowd management techniques through presence, maneuver, and enforcement.
pepper ball system	A less-lethal tool that uses kinetic energy projectiles for targeted impact and/or OC powder for area denial. It is classified as either a kinetic energy projectile (targeted) or aerosol irritant (area denial) – each function requires separate articulation.
protest	A form of dissent, varying in degrees of action or disruption, identified as: 1. **Peaceful Demonstration** – A lawful public expression of objection, disapproval, or dissent toward an idea or action. 2. **Civil Disobedience** – Nonviolent protest where there is an intentional breach of the law. 3. **Riot –** An unlawful assembly that constitutes a clear and present danger of violent or unlawful acts, including civil unrest, destruction of property, arson, looting, or when another immediate threat to public safety, peace, or order appears.
protester device	A device (e.g., bicycle locks, chains, tripods, or sleeping dragons) that physically or mechanically connects a person or animal to a stationary object in violation of the law. These devices are used to create confusion, delay law enforcement response, and tax public safety resources.
scribe	A role assigned by the IC to accurately document relevant information and decisions made during an event, including the time(s) when a protest was declared an unlawful assembly and announced to the crowd.
sound amplification device	Any device used to project spoken announcements at a volume intended to be heard by a crowd (e.g., vehicle-based loudspeaker, public address system, or other approved amplification equipment).
unlawful assembly	This occurs when two or more people gather with the intention of committing a crime (see NRS 203.060), thus creating a threat to public safety, order or property.
unplanned or spontaneous event	An unanticipated or unannounced public gathering where the department did not receive prior notice nor have time to preplan a response to address public safety concerns.

3.535.2 Response Protocol

The department's response to protests (peaceful demonstration, civil disobedience, or riot) will emphasize de-escalation (see LVMPD 3.110, *Use of Force*). The department will ensure that tactics and resources are properly and proportionally balanced against the activities observed or anticipated, understanding that the current situation may be evolving. Additional factors (e.g., crowd size, time of day, and location) will also be considered in determining the department's response.

Ideally, police action in peaceful demonstrations will be minimal, prioritizing the safe movement of the crowd. In many circumstances, officers will be staged out of view of protesters, and the protest will only be monitored. In other circumstances, officers will be visible, present, and placed at critical locations to keep the peace, help with traffic control, and enforce violations of the law.

When it is necessary to implement crowd management measures or take enforcement action, it should be an organized and well-communicated effort involving multiple officers and supervisory oversight.

3.535.3 General Rules

The following rules apply to protests:

1. The department utilizes the Incident Command System (ICS) as a standard tool for command, control, response coordination, and overall management of complex incidents, planned events, or

emergencies (for further guidelines and tasks, see LVMPD 3.500, *Major Incident and All Hazard Plan*). ICS will be implemented in LVMPD's response to protests.

2. Department supervisors are responsible for attempting communication with protest organizers or leaders. In many protest situations, contact with formal or informal leaders can be established. Such communication helps to clarify expectations for both sides, thereby increasing the likelihood that a demonstration will remain peaceful and lawful.

3. Department supervisors will attempt to communicate with media members and legal observers (or their liaison). Media members should be identifiable by carrying a press pass or having identifiable attire from their organization, similar to legal observers. (A legal observer is an independent third-party volunteer who monitors, records, and reports on police actions.)

4. Officers will be identifiable by a name plate or name badge on their uniform and/or tag attached to the back of their helmet (see LVMPD 8.500, *Appearance Standards*). Officers will give their name and P# if asked (see LVMPD 8.149, *Interaction with the Public*).

5. Officers will maintain a fair and professional attitude to all parties involved in a protest and avoid expressing any personal opinion concerning the protest (see LVMPD 8.174, *Respect for Individual Rights of Persons*).

6. To maintain impartiality, officers will avoid fraternizing with parties involved in the protest. Officers will not accept food, beverage, or any gratuity from anyone involved in a protest. In labor disputes, officers should not enter the property where a protest is occurring, except for official business.

7. Officers will not use personal cellphones, nor take photographs of the protest, nor pose with protesters (see LVMPD 8.157, *Social Media and Electronic Communications by Department Members*).

8. Officers issued a body-worn camera (BWC) will ensure they are utilized to document police actions at a protest (see LVMPD 7.136, *Body Worn Cameras*). If possible, officers who do not have an issued BWC will not deploy in a forward location where interaction with participants is likely. Officers without BWC will be assigned with an officer who is equipped with a BWC.

    a. Officers wearing turtle gear will, when feasible and safe, reposition their BWC to avoid obstruction, and supervisors will ensure compliance when conditions permit, in accordance with LVMPD 7.136, *Body Worn Cameras*.

9. Officers and supervisors will be properly equipped, including department-issued protective gear such as helmets with a face shield, gas masks, and carriers (see LVMPD 8.500, *Appearance Standards*). Officers assigned to a traffic control task will wear a reflective vest and utilize a flashlight, when necessary. Additional equipment needs (e.g., flex cuffs or fire extinguishers) will be managed by a supervisor.

10. Since the use of patrol dogs may inflame a volatile situation, the department will limit their use for crowd management (see LVMPD 3.110, *Use of Force*).

3.535.4 Anticipated Event

The affected area command captain will act as the LVMPD liaison with event organizers who are planning a protest. The Community Engagement Bureau may assist.

Area command captains or designees will:

1. Make every effort to contact the organizer(s) prior to a protest event to ascertain the particulars (e.g., permits, location, time, duration, scope, languages spoken and type of planned activities).

    a. Communicate expectations and inform organizer(s) on permissible and restricted actions during the event. Provide the Protest Safety flyer, outlining unlawful acts or other public safety concerns.

2. Assist with the coordination of any planning meetings prior to the event between the group(s) involved and the bureau(s) affected (e.g., the Events Planning Section, the Special Investigations Section [SIS], Public Information Office [PIO], Emergency Management, Detention Services Division [DSD]).

3. Research and assess information on past events.

4. Forward information regarding the protest(s) to Fusion Watch and the Deployment Operation Center (DOC) if activated.

5. Determine the appropriate response based on the type of anticipated protest (peaceful demonstration, civil disobedience, or potential riot). Complete an Incident Action Plan (IAP) and determine if it needs broader distribution to inform other department resources.

3.535.5 Unplanned or Spontaneous Event

When responding to an unplanned or spontaneous protest or large public gathering, first-responding officer will assess conditions, including:

1. Location

2. Number of participants

3. Apparent purpose of the event

4. Identity of event organizers

5. Any initial indicators of unlawful or disruptive activity

6. Presence of counterprotesters

The initial assessment will be promptly communicated through Dispatch, and a supervisor will be assigned to the call.

When an event requires continuous supervisory oversight or monitoring, the supervisor will assume the role of IC. Upon responding to a protest, the supervisor or IC will evaluate the current and evolving conditions.

At minimum, the area command captain will be made aware of a protest that requires continuous oversight.

3.535.6 Incident Commander Role

When a large-scale protest event is anticipated, an IC will be assigned to oversee the incident. The success of any critical incident depends on the IC exercising active leadership, strategic thinking, and decisive decision making.

IC will assess:

1. Any evolving threat to public safety.

2. Protection and preservation of citizens' civil rights.

3. Unlawful actions or violations of laws or ordinances, if any, of protesters.

4. Movement of vehicular traffic and pedestrian safety concerns.

5. Impact of protest on business and commerce.

6. Level of communication and cooperation with event organizers, legal observers, and professional members of the media.

7. Anticipated duration of the event.

8. Positioning of officers and crowd management tactics, including the need to designate units for overwatch.

9. Need for the authorization of police protective gear.

10. Need for additional units or resources (e.g., in-the-box squads, Traffic, Emergency Management, SWAT).

11. Need for a scribe to record operational decisions and actions (including logging use of force by officers).

12. Need to video record protest activities (either by BWCs or handheld recorder).

13. Necessity for medical assistance to be staged nearby.

14. Environmental factors (e.g., weather and street conditions).

If an unlawful assembly and/or large-scale arrests are anticipated, IC will:

1. Complete an IAP and distribute it to relevant department resources.

2. Establish a command post staffed by Fusion Watch, tactical operations personnel and outside agency liaisons.

    a. Designate a scribe to contemporaneously document significant command decisions, including the timing and location of dispersal orders. The IC is responsible for selecting a capable scribe who can effectively document the IC's clearly articulated considerations, decisions and reasoning to the scribe throughout the event (e.g., the reasons for declaring an unlawful assembly).

3. Establish a field-based booking station staffed by commissioned personnel and at least one supervisor to serve as the centralized location for arrest documentation, review, and coordination.

4. Arrange for standby officers, medical and fire department personnel to be staged nearby when necessary.

5. Assign a jail liaison to assist with the booking process.

6. Ensure officers are equipped with and using BWC in accordance with LVMPD 7.136, *Body Worn Cameras*, including communicating an order to all personnel in the field to activate BWC prior to a dispersal order.

7. Provide periodic updates through the chain of command, relaying information to senior command staff regarding the event.

8. In cases of protests in separate locations, coordinate with other ICs to ensure dispersing crowds do not converge on same area.

9. Once the crowd has dispersed, assess whether the threat to public safety, order, or property has been abated. If abated, inform all personnel that the dispersal order is no longer in effect. If the threat to public safety, order, or property remains, direct personnel to continue to communicate dispersal orders.

10. At the conclusion of the event, ensure all reports are completed and finalize the after-action report.

Dispatch will make appropriate notifications and requests for additional resources relayed by the IC.

3.535.7 Orders to Disperse

Delivery of Notice
Reasonable Opportunity and Method of Compliance
Procedure
The Order to be Read
Scribe Duties

The determination to give an order to disperse is the responsibility of the IC upon consultation with the on-scene lieutenant.

Delivery of Notice

The department will make every reasonable effort to provide clear, continuous, and repeated notice of dispersal orders using multiple methods. Dispersal orders are not intended to rely on a single announcement or a single location, but on notice reasonably calculated to reach participants of an unlawful assembly.

When feasible, orders will be delivered through:

1. Sound amplification devices (e.g., vehicle-based loudspeakers, public address system, or other approved amplification equipment).

2. Mobile announcements from multiple positions.

3. PIO messaging through social media or other real-time platforms.

4. Distribution of protest safety information to organizers or participants when practical.

While audible announcements are the primary means of communication, environmental conditions may serve as supporting indicators of dispersal when considered in combination with other notice efforts. These may include police in riot gear or skirmish lines, deployment of crowd-control tools such as tear gas or projectiles, street closures, and visible movement of crowds dispersing in response to police activity.

Reasonable Opportunity and Method of Compliance

Dispersal orders will provide participants a reasonable opportunity and method to comply. Compliance is evaluated based on time, conduct, and context, not solely on geographic location.

A dispersal order remains in effect based on:

1. Time: For a defined operational period while enforcement is under way (e.g., 90 minutes or as directed by the IC).

2. Conduct: Continued protest-related behavior (e.g., chanting, marching, blocking traffic, regrouping, or acting in concert) constitutes non-compliance. Disengagement (e.g., separating from the group, and moving away from police activity) demonstrates compliance.

3. Context: Areas of ongoing unlawful assembly or enforcement activity may reasonably indicate that the dispersal order should remain in effect.

Procedure

When a crowd is deemed unlawful, the IC will:

1. Ensure the dispersal order is communicated to all field personnel.

2. Ensure that there are sufficient avenues of egress to allow the crowd to depart and that those in the vicinity are clearly informed of the avenues for dispersal.

3. Designate on-scene personnel to announce dispersal orders from different vantage points, locations or angles.

    a. Unless limited by immediate life-safety concerns or riot conditions that demand all available personnel for emergency response, each Mobile Field Force unit will designate a dispersal order team consisting of a dispersal lead and a dispersal evidence officer.

        1) The dispersal evidence officer will verbally narrate into the camera what is being observed, including the time, location, description of the crowd, observed behavior, directions given, and the crowd's response. The officer will update the IC and document key details in CAD.

4. Ensure that the dispersal order announcement is documented by the dispersal order team and scribe and recorded on BWC to include the time, location, and identity of officers announcing the order.

5. Ensure dispersal orders are issued continuously with the intent for those in the area to be on notice (e.g., dispersal order announcements continually delivered until the crowd is dispersed and the IC informs all personnel that the dispersal order is no longer in effect).

6. Depending on location and size of crowd, coordinate with PIO to push out a clear notice of the dispersal order on social media.

Personnel announcing the dispersal order will:

1. Ensure BWC is turned on prior to reading the announcement for proper documentation of exact time of order.

2. Read clear, loud instructions, stating why the assembly was declared unlawful, time to leave, consequences (arrest), and safe egress routes.

    The order should be publicly announced as follows:

    "This is the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. You are committing the unlawful act of (describe unlawful action, i.e., blocking travel lanes, assault, etc.). This gathering has been declared an unlawful assembly per Nevada Revised Statute 203.020. The statute requires you to disperse immediately upon this order. You may disperse by (give most convenient routes of

dispersal). If you fail to disperse, you will be subject to police action, which may include the use of force and/or tear gas. This will cause pain and discomfort. Failure to disperse will result in your arrest."

a. If a contingent of the crowd is Spanish-speaking, a certified Spanish-speaking officer will announce orders to disperse in Spanish (IAPs will include a Spanish translation of the order).

3. Announce dispersal orders three times initially (see NRS 193.307) and then repeatedly and frequently using a sound amplification device. Dispersal orders should be announced as often as practical to maximize the likelihood the order is heard and understood before enforcement action is taken. Unless there is an immediate risk to public safety or significant property damage is occurring, allow reasonable time for a crowd to comply with commands before enforcement action is taken (e.g., a person who is making an apparent effort to disperse should be considered in compliance).

   a. No dispersal order needs to be provided if there is an immediate threat of physical harm or death to a person.

   b. Only one dispersal order needs to be provided if there is an immediate threat of harm to property.

4. As the crowd disperses, continue to verbalize egress routes or directions of travel.

   a. A person is in compliance with the dispersal order if they are making a reasonable attempt to exit the area and desist from unlawful activity.

   b. A person who has been given multiple warnings and refuses to leave the area is in violation and can be arrested.

      1) Areas showing ongoing protest or enforcement activity may reasonably indicate that the dispersal order remains in effect.

Once an order to disperse is announced, media members/legal observers must witness the event from a distance outside the area of the dispersal order that does not interfere with police operations.

Scribe will:

1. Maintain a contemporaneous chronological log of significant IC considerations, decisions and reasoning during protest or crowd-management operations.

2. Document the time, location, and basis for the declaration of an unlawful assembly. Document the time disbanded as identified by the IC.

3. Record the issuance of dispersal orders, to include the time, location, and identity of officers announcing the order.

4. Document the general geographic area of the unlawful assembly, including the designated egress route(s).

5. Track arrest activity, including the initiation of arrest operations and general arrest numbers as provided by booking station personnel.

6. Note significant changes in crowd behavior or conditions that impact command decisions, as communicated by the IC and/or made known within the command post.

7. Document any uses of force by officers.

Communications will:

1. In addition to logging all orders to disperse, log the general geographic area of any assemblies deemed unlawful by the IC, and the time the IC determined the unlawful assembly had ceased.

3.535.8 Last-Chance Notice

When enforcement occurs in a more isolated or static context, and an individual is believed to have participated in an unlawful assembly but is not in an active crowd environment, a last-chance notice will be provided when feasible.

A last-chance notice consists of:

1. Advising the individual that dispersal orders are in effect.

2. Directing the individual to disengage and move away from police activity.

3. Providing a final opportunity to comply.

If the individual fails to comply after a last-chance notice, arrest may be appropriate. Obstructing a public officer (see NRS 197.190) is an appropriate charge where the individual – with the intent to hinder, delay, or obstruct an officer – responds with physical conduct (e.g., blocking the path of an officer or inaction such as refusing to obey a lawful order) or fighting words.

A last-chance notice is not required when:

1. Immediate life-safety concerns exist.

2. The individual is near active enforcement and is non-compliant (e.g., during active dispersal operations).

3. Environmental conditions clearly demonstrate that dispersal is underway.

This provision ensures fairness while addressing individuals who repeatedly evade dispersal efforts during prolonged or multi-location civil unrest events.

3.535.9 Arrest, Transport, and Field-Based Booking Process

Arrest Procedure
Arrestee Booking Information Sticker
Booking Information Sheet
Exceptions in Booking Process
Booking Station Procedure
Booking Station Log
Booking Documentation

Arrests during a protest will be made to address clear violations of laws or ordinances, coupled with the need to mitigate threats to public safety and to defuse a potential riot. Violent or felony crimes will require urgent response. Persons with a prohibited weapon or in possession of items prohibited at a protest (e.g., improvised weapon, filled balloon, stick, baseball bat, PVC pipe, brick, glass bottle, shield, etc.) will be advised, cited, or arrested. When enforcement action is warranted, individualized arrests are preferred over mass arrests.

Arrests for failure to disperse require individualized PC. Each arresting officer must articulate and document:

1. That dispersal orders were in effect.

2. That the individual had reasonable notice (e.g., was present during dispersal order or received a last-chance notice).

3. How the individual failed to comply.

The on-scene lieutenant will authorize arrests and, time permitting, will coordinate with the IC. The IC will be made aware of all arrests.

Arrest Procedure

Supervisors will:

1. Consider timing, location, and method of the arrest and resources available.

2. If circumstances allow, assemble an arrest team, composed of at least a supervisor and multiple officers. Individual officers are not precluded from making arrests when there is a clear violation of law and the arrest will defuse the situation.

3. Not interfere with or arrest media members or legal observers who are safely and legally performing their respective functions (observing, capturing, and/or reporting on events). If a media member/legal observer is arrested, the IC will be advised as soon as possible.

Arresting officer will:

1. Escort arrestee to transport vehicle and search them.

2. Generate an event number specific to the arrest, separate from the primary event number.

3. Complete yellow Arrestee Booking Information sticker (LVMPD GA 2058) and affix it to arrestee's back.

4. Document the arrest by completing the Booking Information Sheet (LVMPD 1088).

    a. Include all available information necessary to establish individualized PC for the arrest.

    b. Identify any witness officers who may have relevant BWC footage.

5. Provide the Booking Information Sheet to transport personnel.

6. After transport personnel take custody of arrestee, clear from arrest event and reassign to primary event.

Citations and Class II citation arrests should be evaluated as alternatives to bookings for some misdemeanor offenses (per LVMPD 4.136, *Misdemeanor Citation and/or Arrest*, supervisor approval is required for arrests).

Exceptions

When operational requirements prevent escort by the arresting officer, custody may be transferred to another officer. In such cases, the arresting officer will communicate the individualized PC and all relevant arrest information to ensure completion of required documentation.

When operational requirements make completing the Booking Information Sheet impractical, the arresting officer will use the Axon Capture application on their department phone to audio record and upload all information requested on the Booking Information Sheet, including all available information necessary to establish individualized PC for the arrest and to identify any witness officers who may have relevant BWC footage. The audio recording will be uploaded under the event number specific to the arrest, separate from the primary event number. If this procedure is used, the arresting officer will notate “Axon Audio” on the bottom right-hand corner of the Arrestee Booking Information sticker.

Transport personnel will:

1. Deliver the arrestee and associated documentation to the field-based booking station.

Booking Station Procedure

Booking station personnel will:

1. Receive arrestees.

2. Photograph arrestees (front and back, head to toe) to include the Arrestee Booking Information stickers and upload all photos to Axon under arrest event number.

3. Collect and review Booking Information Sheets for completeness and individualized PC.

4. Resolve documentation deficiencies as necessary, including by contacting the command post, arresting officers, or supervisors for information necessary to the articulation of individualized PC for the arrests.

5. Using Booking Information Sheets and other information collected, prepare all associated booking paperwork, including the Declaration of Arrest Reports.

6. Maintain the Booking Station Log (LVMPD 1089) at the booking station.

Booking station supervisor will:

1. Ensure the transport teams are briefed on the booking process and have all appropriate paperwork (e.g., Booking Information Sheets, Booking Station Logs).

2. Review each arrest for individualized PC within 60 minutes of arrest, when feasible.

    a. If PC is not properly documented, the supervisor may authorize release with issuance of a Contact Card (red card). If PC documentation is sufficient, the arrestee will be processed for booking.

3. Communicate with jail liaison to have booking station personnel resolve any issues with arrests.

4. Within 24 hours of the end of event, provide Booking Information Sheets and Booking Station Logs to the Public Records Unit (PRU) manager to assist with identification of associated BWC recordings.

Booking Documentation

Scribe will:

1. Track arrest activity, including the initiation of arrest operations and general arrest numbers as provided by booking station personnel.

Fusion Watch will:

1. Upload any footage with evidentiary value and/or that can be used to assist with an investigation into Evidence.com and tag it with the corresponding arrest event number.

Jail liaison will:

1. If assigned to Las Vegas City Jail, obtain a copy of all arrest paperwork and facilitate entry into OnBase.

PRU will:

1. Receive booking documentation.

2. Redact all officer phone numbers on Booking Information Sheet.

3. Upload redacted copies of Booking Information Sheet to OnBase under the arrest event number.

4. Use booking documentation to identify and associate relevant department footage (e.g., BWC, Fusion Watch, drones if deployed, etc.) to the arrest event numbers.

5. Support timely responses to prosecutorial inquiries related to protest events by using Booking Station Logs and arrest documentation to locate relevant department footage.

3.535.10 Use of Force During a Protest

The department strictly manages use of force during protests. LVMPD's Use of Force policy (LVMPD 3.110, *Use of Force*) and its reporting procedures do not change during periods of protest. Uses of force occurring during enforcement actions will be documented and the IC notified as soon as practical.

Officers should generate separate event numbers from the overall protest event for reporting a use of force. If force is used during an arrest, officers will use the same event number for the arrest and the use of force.

3.535.11 Pepper Ball Deployment (SWAT and HSST Use Only)

Aerosol Irritant
Kinetic Energy Projectile

Pepper balls are intermediate-force tools authorized for use by SWAT and HSST during protest or crowd-management operations, in accordance with LVMPD 3.110, *Use of Force*. Deployment requires justification based on the totality of the circumstances for each discharge and must not be indiscriminate or based on protected speech, viewpoint, or mere presence at a protest.

The IC will be notified as soon as practical following deployment.

A separate event number will be generated for each use of force involving pepper ball deployment; however, when multiple applications of force against several subjects or a hostile crowd occur within close proximity and time, SWAT will create a new event number, following standard reporting procedures.

Pepper ball use is categorized under two distinct deployment methods: aerosol irritant (area denial) and kinetic energy projectile (targeted use). Each deployment method requires separate justification and articulation.

1. Aerosol irritant (area denial)

   Pepper balls, deployed as an aerosol irritant, aim to stop unlawful actions and de-escalate physical confrontations between police and demonstrators. Following dispersal orders, aerosol deployment can aid in dispersing individuals who pose a threat to officers or others, are actively looting, ransacking or destroying property, or are attempting to seize property, thereby endangering public safety.

   Aerosol irritants will only be deployed at the IC's direction, except when immediate life-safety concerns arise. Before deployment, the IC or designee will ensure that sufficient avenues of egress are available for crowd departure and that those who could be exposed to the airborne irritant are clearly informed of such routes. Deployment will cease once compliance is achieved and individuals are moving toward the designated egress routes.

   Pepper ball rounds used for aerosol deployment will be aimed at the ground or a low-lying fixed surface to disperse OC powder, avoiding direct hits on individuals. Whenever feasible, aerosol irritants should be deployed upwind, carefully positioned to reduce unintended exposure. Officers will monitor the effects of OC dispersal on nearby subjects.

   After aerosol irritants are deployed to disperse a crowd, any further use of force must adhere to LVMPD 3.110, *Use of Force*, and will be articulated independently from the dispersal action.

2. Kinetic energy projectile (targeted use)

   Pepper ball rounds, used as kinetic energy projectiles, are a targeted intermediate-force option. Their deployment is authorized only in accordance with LVMPD 3.110, *Use of Force*, generally applicable to use of projectile weapons.

   Pepper ball rounds are prohibited against passively resistant individuals, non-threatening persons attempting to disperse, or indiscriminately into a crowd. Deployment against isolated individuals is also prohibited unless there is assaultive conduct or an immediate threat to public safety. Mere presence in an area previously declared an unlawful assembly, without additional articulable factors, does not justify pepper ball use.

   Officers will not intentionally target the head, face, neck, spine, groin, pelvis, or chest unless an immediate threat of physical harm or death exists and a higher level of force is justified, with each discharge requiring individual articulation. The preferred target area for the pepper ball is the area below the waist, including the buttocks, front of the legs, thighs, or sides of the legs.

The scribe will document any uses of force by officers during a protest.

3.535.12 Field Force Extrications

When demonstrators resist removal by connecting themselves to fixed objects, officers will initially use de-escalation efforts (e.g., verbal persuasion, warnings, and dispersal orders) as alternatives to extrication or reasonable uses of force. When subjects refuse to unlock themselves from protester devices, they will be advised they are under arrest and given an additional chance to comply before force is used to remove the devices.

For field force extrications, it is the responsibility of the IC to request HSST to respond. The HSST supervisor will give tactical options for extrication of locked protester(s).

Dispatch will:

1. Dispatch a patrol supervisor and the area lieutenant (or watch commander in their absence) to the scene after officers confirm locked protesters are present.

2. Notify the HSST supervisor to respond when requested by the IC and advise the IC via radio once the notifications have been made. If HSST is off duty, notify the Special Operations Bureau captain, who will determine a response.

3. Provide a dedicated radio channel for the incident when requested by the IC.

4. Make additional notifications as needed and requested by the IC (e.g., Office of Public Information, medical, fire department, Fusion Watch).

Officer will:

1. Confirm protesters are locked in devices.

2. Make contact with the locked protesters, gather information (protester's cause, organizer/spokesperson) and relay to Dispatch.

3. Contact Special Investigations Section (SIS) if the protest is determined to be related to an organized labor union.

4. Assess unlawful acts and evaluate police response.

    a. Determine criminal offenses (e.g., person in a roadway or trespassing).

IC will:

1. Establish the ICS.

2. Arrive at scene, determine if a criminal offense has occurred, and assess the need to have protesters immediately removed from the area.

    a. Request the locked protesters to release themselves and disperse. If they refuse, issue the dispersal order.

    b. If protesters still refuse to release and disperse, request the HSST through Dispatch.

3. Direct officers to create and maintain a buffer zone, ensuring inbound foot and vehicle traffic is diverted.

4. Designate an arrest team to take custodial arrest and complete booking of protesters once released from their devices by HSST (consider notification to DSD if multiple arrests).

HSST will:

1. Proceed directly to the scene and make contact with the IC.

2. Upon conferring with the IC, safely extricate locked protesters as directed by HSST supervisor.

3. Document any action taken by HSST and submit to the IC.

3.535.13 Use of Drones for Protest Events

During protests, civil disobedience, or riots, small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS) operations must adhere to all laws and department policies (see LVMPD 6.545, *Small Unmanned Aircraft System*). Deployment is authorized only for active and articulable threats to public safety, 911 calls, imminent violence or criminal activity, or when essential for non-investigative public safety operations that cannot be effectively addressed otherwise. Use based on generalized fear or speculation is not authorized.

Drones can assist with traffic safety, crowd management, emergency response coordination, and response to criminal acts when aerial support is crucial for public safety. However, their use is prohibited in areas demanding heightened constitutional safeguards (e.g., schools, places of worship, etc.) unless there is an immediate threat or direct call for service.

Drones will not be used to surveil, identify, or gather data on individuals or groups engaged in lawful, peaceful, or constitutionally protected activities. They will not be used to deter, disrupt, or inhibit protected speech, assembly, or association. (8/21, 8/26) ■