



Captain Dennis Geary
Commander

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Lieutenant Sean Healy
Sergeant Daniel Valente
Supervisor

Field Interview and Stop and Frisk Review

Officers should review General Order #425, Stop & Frisk and General Order #426, Field Interview and Intelligence Reports.

An important crime prevention and information-gathering tactic is the establishment, by legitimate means of verbal contact or observation by an enforcement officer with selected pedestrians and motorists. The resulting field interview or observation (FIO) records are of great value to investigators in developing leads and establishing crime patterns. The FIOs document the information collected during threshold inquiries, or the information collected during the questioning of a suspect. The Intelligence Report (IR) records the information reported to a police officer from average citizens concerning a person or persons involved in criminal activity. The IR is also used for reporting criminal activity observed or suspected by a complainant.

An officer with reasonable suspicion of criminal activity based upon specific and articulable facts may stop and briefly detain a person on foot or in a vehicle to determine if a crime has, is, or was about to be committed. A mere hunch or unfounded suspicion is not adequate to conduct the stop. Once a suspect is stopped the suspect may be frisked for weapons if the officer reasonably believes he or she may be dealing with an armed and dangerous individual. Probable cause is not required to conduct a brief stop or frisk. Officers may not stop, detain, search or arrest any individual based solely upon the individual's race, national origin, ethnicity, religion, age, gender or sexual orientation unless they are seeking a specific suspect(s) believed to be involved in a specific unlawful incident.

As soon as possible, **after every stop**, a police officer shall submit a written Field Interview or Field Intelligence report. The report must include the identity of the

individual detained and all of the facts surrounding the stop. Reports must be submitted whether or not a frisk was performed and whether or not weapons or contraband is found.

The Field Interview Report shall be used to report and record the results of observations, police information received, facts obtained, and action taken by an officer during his tour of duty.

Reporting officers shall:

Complete Field Interview and/or Intelligence Reports in the QED computer system, concerning any suspicious person(s) including any person(s) stopped for a threshold inquiry or any field stop of a known offender when observations of an intelligence related nature are made (i.e. information which deals directly with an ongoing crime investigation or trend, or which could have direct bearing on a future incident).