

City of Johns Creek Police Department

<i>Subject:</i> Demonstrations and Protests	<i>Number:</i> 02-10	
<i>Reference:</i>	<i>Amends:</i>	
<i>Effective:</i> 04/08	<i>Review Date:</i> Annually	<i># of Pages:</i>

PURPOSE:

Provide guidelines for the proper, safe and efficient handling of demonstrations, protests and labor disputes.

POLICY: (02-10)

When dealing with labor disputes or other demonstrations, it is not the function of the officer to resolve the issues, but rather to protect the rights of the public and the disputants by enforcing the law and maintaining order. Officers will remain neutral in appearance and actions at all times. The officer's main function is to keep the peace between the parties involved.

PROCEDURES:

Responding to a Call (02-10-01)

An officer who discovers or responds to a call involving a demonstration or labor trouble shall ascertain the nature of the trouble or picket lines and inform the Shift Supervisor without any unnecessary delay. The Shift Supervisor is responsible for contacting the Chief's Office and apprising him/her of the circumstances, including:

- A. Number of persons involved
- B. Nature of the incident
- C. Probable intent of the incident

The Shift Supervisor will be responsible for summoning additional help and equipment. He/she will also be responsible for meeting with Union leaders, company representatives, etc., to obtain as much information as possible. This time should also be used to set the ground rules, (i.e., damage to property, obstructing public rights-of-way, interfering with lawful business, rights of others, and provoking incidents).

Remember, strikes are a legitimate exercise of the right to protest which must be protected as long as no unlawful acts take place.

Stabilizing the Scene (02-10-02)



[REDACTED]

Officers will remain impartial, and should not become personally or emotionally involved. Officers should also avoid over-reacting when being subjected to taunts, insults and derision. Fraternalization with strikers or management shall be avoided. Even giving the appearance of fraternization (i.e., accepting gratuities, using the parking lot, using company facilities, etc.) may be perceived as taking a position.

There shall be no unnecessary display of weapons. This may provoke violent reactions.

Rights of Picketers (02-10-03)

Picketers may urge patrons of a business establishment not to patronize the business. However, they may not use force or coercion. Participants in picket lines should be clearly warned against such illegal action before the supervisor takes any action. They should be advised to allow patrons, employees, delivery vehicles, etc., to enter onto the premises, and shall not be allowed to restrict or inhibit ingress or egress from the business. Once the patron or vehicle enters onto the premises, the people picketing should be permitted to resume their line. Those persons on the premises should also be permitted to leave without incident.

[REDACTED]

Arrests During a Strike (02-10-04)

Officers should not hesitate to arrest lawbreakers when their violations justify the action, but should always use discretion. Minor violations should be brought to the attention of the union leader. Arrests for those violations would only take away from the Department's primary objective of peacekeeping. Arrest should be reserved for the following types of activities:

- A. Assaults (including Assaults on police officers)
- B. Destruction of property
- C. Obstruction of rights-of-way (passive arrest)

In every arrest situation, evidence of the crime should be seized. When practical, specific violations, such as destruction of property or obstruction of egress/ingress, should be photographed before and during the arrest procedures.

The person should be promptly removed from the scene to an area where he/she can be identified, photographed and processed. The minimum amount of force necessary to affect the arrest should be used.