

BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

LOUD PARTIES, EXCESSIVE NOISE, AND CRIMINAL TRESPASS COMPLAINTS

Reviewed by: Lieutenants	Effective Date: August 23, 1988
Authorized by: Chief Dan Donath	Revision Date: October 4, 2019

PURPOSE

The purpose of this SOP is to establish the manner in which we will respond to calls of loud parties, excessive noise and trespass complaints. This procedure will indicate for both the responding police officer(s) and the public what is expected at the scene of such a call.

PROCEDURE

Officer(s) should use discretion and make every attempt to protect the identity of the complainant.

After receiving the initial loud party or noise complaint, the call will be dispatched to an officer(s) for response. Upon arrival at the scene, the responding officer(s) should be observant for any violations of the law and for verifying the complaint. The officer(s) receiving the initial call will be responsible for:

1. locating someone in authority at the scene;
2. advising him/her of the complaint; and
3. requesting the person(s) cooperate in reducing the noise or other problems.

Depending on the circumstances, the officer(s) may issue an ordinance violation or warn the violating party that a subsequent response could result in the issuance of an ordinance violation.

During this initial encounter, the responding officer(s) will obtain the name and address of the person he/she has spoken to and will relay this information to dispatch, along with a brief description of the conditions there and the action he/she took. Dispatch personnel will then log the information from the officer at the scene indicating the activities observed and the action taken. If the call is for criminal trespass to property and there was no arrest but a subject was barred from returning, the responding officer shall relay the pertinent information to Dispatch to log for future reference.

The McLean County State's Attorney's office will not file Disorderly Conduct charges for noise complaints, deferring such issues to local ordinances. Bloomington Legal Department will pursue prosecution for extreme causes of loud parties and excessive noise under the City's Disorderly Conduct ordinance (Chapter 28, Sec. 5, (a) (1)).

If the call is for criminal trespass to property, responding officer(s) shall verify the complaint and either make an arrest or warn the violating party that a subsequent response could result in his/her arrest.

Upon receiving a subsequent complaint to the same location for the same or similar problem, the responding officer(s) shall be advised by Dispatch that a previous call was received and what action was taken by the responding officer(s). When the responding officer(s) arrive and verify the location of a loud party, they shall take appropriate steps to contact the individual responsible for the party and request that the party be dispersed. The shift supervisor shall be notified of all subsequent calls to problem addresses and of the action taken on call-backs. He/she should be prepared to provide adequate manpower to see that these problems can be dealt with properly.

The name and address of persons who will testify in any court proceedings in regard to the original or subsequent calls should be obtained. Officers may issue ordinance violations for the appropriate offenses, provided a civilian witness is willing to testify at a later court proceeding. When necessary, Officers will generate a police report documenting the incident, circumstances, and any enforcement action taken.