



MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

480 – MILITARY COURTESY AND HONOR GUARD, AND ESCORTS

GENERAL ORDER: 2021-XX
ISSUED: June 17, 2021

EFFECTIVE: June 17, 2021

REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:
Inspector Willie Murphy
DATE: May 22, 2021

ACTION: Amends General Order 2014-62 (November 18, 2011)

WILEAG STANDARD(S): 6.2.10

ROLL CALL VERSION

Contains only changes to current policy.
For complete version of SOP, see SharePoint.

480.0205 POLICY

480.0510 NATIONAL COLORS

480.1015 MILITARY COURTESY

480.20 DEPARTMENTAL FUNERAL HONORS

A. FUNERAL CLASSIFICATIONS

1. Departmental funeral honors, as determined by the Chief of Police or designee, shall be afforded to any active or retired department members according to the following:
 - a. Class "A I" funeral - When death occurs while on duty.
 - b. Class "B II" funeral - When death occurs off duty or while in retirement.
 3. ~~Class "C" funeral - When death occurs while in retirement.~~

Note: Military honors generally take precedence over departmental honors. Should military honors be requested, department honors shall not cause a duplication of details or services (e.g., rifle squad, bugler).

B. CEREMONIES CLASS "I" FUNERAL

Departmental honors shall be provided by the department honor guard and shall consist of the following ceremonies:

1. Color Guard consisting of:
 - a. U.S. flag.
 - b. State flag.
 - c. City flag.

- d. Department flag (optional).
- e. Two riflepersons.
2. Bugler(s)
3. Police rifle squad consisting of:
 - a. One (1) police sergeant.
 - b. Three (3) to seven (7) police officers.
4. Ceremonial detail staffing consisting of:
 - a. Captain of police (1).
 - b. Police lieutenants (1).
 - c. Police sergeants (4).
 - d. Police officers (20).
5. Pall bearers
6. Casket guard
7. Flag
8. Draped badges (black band)
9. Motorcade
10. Additional honors and ceremonies as determined by and at the direction of the Chief of Police may be afforded the deceased member.

C. CLASS "II" FUNERAL

Departmental honors shall be provided by the department honor guard and shall consist of the following ceremonies:

1. Pall bearers (if requested)
2. Casket guard
3. Flag (if requested)
4. Additional honors and ceremonies as determined by, and at the direction of the Chief of Police may be afforded the deceased member.

- ~~1. Color Guard consisting of:
 - ~~a. U.S. flag.~~
 - ~~b. State flag.~~
 - ~~c. City flag.~~
 - ~~d. Department flag (optional).~~
 - ~~e. Two riflepersons (class A only).~~~~
- ~~2. Bugler(s)~~
- ~~3. Police rifle squad consisting of:
 - ~~a. One (1) police sergeant.~~
 - ~~b. Seven (7) police officers.~~~~
- ~~4. Ceremonial detail — as described in paragraph C of this section~~
- ~~5. Pall bearers~~
- ~~6. Casket guard~~
- ~~7. Flag — as appropriate to deceased member's military service~~
- ~~8. Draped badges (black band)~~
- ~~9. Motorcade~~

~~C. FUNERAL HONORS AND DETAIL DEFINED~~

- ~~1. Class "A" Funeral
 - ~~a. Ceremonies 1 - 9 as described in paragraph B of this section.~~
 - ~~b. Ceremonial detail — staffing.
 - ~~1. Captain of police (1).~~
 - ~~2. Police lieutenants (1).~~
 - ~~3. Police sergeants (4).~~
 - ~~4. Police officers (20).~~~~
 - ~~c. Motorcade (as designated).~~~~

~~2. Class "B" Funeral~~

~~a. Ceremonies #5, 6, 7, and 9 as described in paragraph B of this section.~~

~~b. Motorcade (as needed).~~

~~3. Class "C" Funeral~~

~~a. One officer present during the period the deceased member lies in state.~~

~~b. One squad unit to accompany the funeral procession to the cemetery.~~

~~4. Additional honors and ceremonies as determined by, and at the direction of the Chief of Police, may be afforded the deceased member.~~

F. RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMAND – ACTIVE MEMBER

3. In the case of the death of any police member above the rank of police lieutenant, section ~~G (4)~~ **B** shall be implemented by the respective assistant chief of police with the approval of the Chief of Police.

G. HONOR GUARD

The Milwaukee Police Department Honor Guard shall participate in those funerals of active or retired police members when such participation is requested by the family of the deceased, and which meets the criteria of SOP 480.40 485.25 (Traffic Related Duties). In addition, the honor guard may assume other duties at the direction of the Chief of Police.

480.25 ASSISTANCE TO DECEASED MEMBER'S FAMILY - COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY

A. Supervisors sometimes have the duty to assist the survivor of a deceased member with filing the necessary death benefit claims. In order to simplify that task, the following procedures are suggested:

~~10. For additional information, see section III of the honor guard manual.~~

480.30 VEHICLE ESCORTS (WILEAG 6.2.10)

A. TYPES OF ESCORTS

~~1. Emergency Escorts~~

~~a. Due to the considerable dangers involved, escort of civilian vehicles in emergencies is to be undertaken only if no viable alternatives exist.~~

~~b. In most situations, patients should be attended to and transported by trained EMS/medical personnel in an ambulance.~~

- ~~c. If an emergency escort is provided, safety of others on the roadways, the patient, and officers are paramount and should be conducted with due regard.
(WILEAG 6.2.10.2)~~

~~2. Non-Emergency Escort~~

- ~~a. The department may conduct non-emergency escorts.~~
- ~~b. Non-emergency escorts may include the use of police vehicles for the purpose of escorting the following:~~
- ~~1. Oversized vehicles.~~
 - ~~2. Parades.~~
 - ~~3. Dignitaries.~~
 - ~~4. Celebrities.~~
 - ~~5. Funerals.~~
 - ~~6. Special events.~~
 - ~~7. Hazardous materials.~~

~~B. ESCORT AUTHORITY~~

~~Department members are granted the authority to conduct escorts under Wis. Stat. § 346.215 – Police Escorts and Right-of-Way Related to Escorted Vehicles:~~

- ~~1. Officers shall use due regard and obey all traffic laws at all times during an escort.~~
- ~~2. The operator of an authorized emergency vehicle conducting an escort may proceed past a red stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation if the operator gives visual signal by use of red and blue emergency lights.~~
- ~~3. Operators of emergency vehicles are not required to give an audible signal, but it is suggested.~~
- ~~4. The escort shall be conducted by a minimum of two emergency vehicles, one leading the procession and one at the rear.~~
- ~~5. All emergency and escorted vehicles shall yield the right-of-way upon approach of an authorized emergency vehicle giving an audible signal.~~
- ~~6. All operators of vehicles not involved in the escort shall yield the right-of-way at an intersection to the escort procession, unless authorized to do so by a traffic officer.
(WILEAG 6.2.10.1)~~

C. PROCEDURES

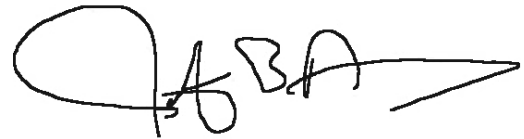
- ~~1. A captain or above or designee shall approve all escorts.~~
- ~~2. Escorts may only be conducted with marked vehicles equipped with emergency lighting equipment and siren.~~
- ~~3. The department shall escort in situations when the requesting party has provided advanced notice and obtained a valid event permit or other exemption as authorized by local ordinance or as authorized by the Chief of Police or designee. The permit/exemption shall be in writing and will include the following:
 - ~~• Date and times of anticipated escort.~~
 - ~~• Approximate number of participants (persons, vehicles, floats).~~
 - ~~• Staging area where the escort is to begin.~~
 - ~~• Designated route of the escort.~~
 - ~~• End location.~~~~
- ~~4. Officer Responsibility During Escorts
 - ~~a. Officers have authority to refuse to start any escort where the officer determines that the escort will pose a hazard to the officer, the participants in the escort, or the public.~~
 - ~~b. In such cases the officer shall immediately notify a supervisor of the decision and inform the sponsor that the escort procession cannot go forward until the supervisor reviews the circumstances.~~
 - ~~c. An officer may withdraw from an escort in cases where they are needed for an emergency call involving a threat of human life, or when authorized by a supervisor.~~

~~In such cases the officer shall consider the safety of the escort procession participants as a factor in determining whether to withdraw, a safe location to withdraw to, and shall withdraw using due regard.~~~~

480.40 REQUESTS FOR FUNERAL ESCORTS

- ~~A. Requests for funeral escorts will not be routinely approved unless the deceased is one of the following:
 - ~~1. An active or retired Milwaukee Police Department member.~~
 - ~~2. An active or retired member of another police department.~~~~

- ~~3. An armed forces member killed in the line of duty.~~
- ~~4. A dignitary (as determined by the work location shift commander).~~
- ~~B. Funeral homes requesting a funeral escort that is subsequently denied shall be advised that they shall conduct their escort in conformity with Wis. Stat. § 346.20, which gives funeral processions the right of way regardless of a police escort.~~
- ~~C. All requests for funeral escorts shall be evaluated by the shift commander of the Specialized Patrol Division prior to approval.~~
- ~~D. The shift commander of the Specialized Patrol Division may give special consideration to requests for funeral escorts from Milwaukee Police Department members.~~
- ~~E. The Milwaukee Police Department's policy is to perform escorts for the above listed persons. No other funeral escorts will be performed unless prior approval is given by the Chief of Police (or designee) who shall have ultimate authority to deny or approve any funeral escort request.~~

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.B.N.' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

JEFFREY B. NORMAN
ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE

JBN:mfk