



# MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

### 485 – TRAFFIC RELATED DUTIES

**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 2014-130 (November 11, 2014)

**WILEAG STANDARD(S):** 6.2.9, 6.2.12, 6.2.13

#### ROLL CALL VERSION

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

#### 485.20 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)

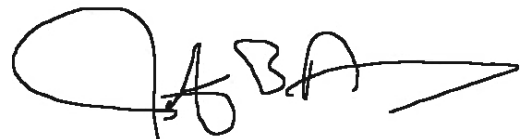
**C. PROCEDURES**

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.

#### **480.25 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.



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ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE