

COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Subject: ORGANIZED CRIME, DRUG, AND VICE CONTROL

Date of Issue: 01-01-1999

Number of Pages: 4

Policy No. I110

Review Date: 06-01-2007

Distribution: Departmental

Revision Date: 02-29-2012

I. Purpose

To establish guidelines and procedures for the investigation of organized crime, drug and vice activities.

II. Statement of Policy

It shall be the policy of the Covington Police Department to be committed to the suppression of organized crime, drug and vice activities within the corporate limits of the City of Covington.

III. Organized Crime, Drug and Vice Functions

A. The Criminal Investigative Division shall have the responsibility for investigating and controlling organized crime, drug and vice control activities. These activities include:

1. Illegal sale of alcohol and tobacco.
2. Illegal sale of controlled substances.
3. Gambling operations.
4. Prostitution/ pornography.
5. Loan sharking.
6. Corruption of public officials.
7. Extortion/ bribery.
8. Theft/fencing rings.
9. Illegal sale of firearms.
10. Drug sales and transportation.
11. Manufacturing of drugs

- B. The Commander of Criminal Investigation Division shall have the overall responsibility for coordinating all organized crime, drug and vice investigations. The Commander of SIU has the day-to-day responsibility for coordinating all organized crime, drug and vice investigations.

IV. Organized Crime, Drug and Vice Complaints

- A. Whenever a complaint concerning organized crime, drug or vice activities is received from a citizen or another agency, an initial report will be taken, if possible, by a uniformed officer and forwarded to the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) Commander. This does not exclude the fact that complaints could go directly to SIU. The SIU Commander may notify the Chief of Police and/or CID Commander depending on the nature of the information and what the response may be. If a report is not taken, summary information will be recorded and forwarded to the SIU Commander for follow-up.
- B. All complaints concerning organized crime, drug and vice activities will be maintained on file by the SIU Commander.
- C. Complaints will be investigated based on the following criteria:
 - 1. Validity of information.
 - 2. Nature of problem.
 - 3. Availability of lead information.
 - 4. Availability of departmental resources.
 - 5. Operational problems that may exist.

V. Background Investigations

- A. An investigation of the background of individuals who are suspected of organized crime, drug or vice activity may be conducted. Also, see [SOP.1100 - Criminal Intelligence.doc](#). The following guidelines are established to aid the investigator in conducting the investigation.
 - 1. Identify the purpose of the investigation.
 - a. Suspect.
 - b. Illegal activities alleged to be involved.
 - 2. Potential sources of information.
 - a. Associates.
 - b. Criminal history files.
 - c. Stakeouts.
 - d. Other law enforcement agencies.
 - 3. Use of information.

- a. Compile and analyze information.
 - b. Evaluate information.
 - c. Determine best alternative.
 - d. Continue or discontinue the investigation.
- B. The CID Captain or SIU Commander will maintain all information collected on individuals during a criminal investigation in a locked file. Information will be distributed only to other agencies on a needs based upon approval by the Captain of CID or the Chief of Police. Records will be purged as needed.

VI. Coordination with Other Agencies

When organized crime or vice investigations overlap into other jurisdictions or they are such complexity beyond the capability of this department's resources, the Investigative Division will notify the appropriate agency and coordinate the investigation.

This agency is a member of the Georgia State Intelligence Network, and as such, will participate in the exchange of intelligence information.

VII. Organized Crime, Drug and Vice Raids

All raids or executions of search warrants must be coordinated and authorized by the Captain of Criminal Investigative Division and/or the Chief of Police.

The Criminal Investigative Division Captain shall have the authority and responsibility for coordinating all raids and search warrants.

VIII. Strategy

- A. The following procedures and operations will be conducted prior to any raid.
1. Preparation of plans for the quickest/safest way for securing/entering target area.
 2. Assignment of specific tasks/locations to officers.
 - a. Front door entry.
 - b. Rear door entry.
 - c. Search party.
 - d. Recorder of evidence.
 - e. Securing of target area.
 - f. Transport team.
 3. Special equipment will be utilized according to necessity and circumstances of the raid. Protective bulletproof vests will be worn.
 4. Communication will be on a separate police frequency and will be monitored by the 911 Center.

- B. After a raid has begun, support services may be notified when necessary by the Captain of Criminal Investigation Division or the Chief of Police. Support services include:
1. Fire Department.
 2. Emergency Medical Services.
 3. Swat team.
 4. Public utilities.
- C. Arrest of suspects during a raid will be made according to established policies and applicable state laws.
- D. Force will be tolerated only in accordance with established policies and procedures of this department.

This SOP supersedes any SOP previously issued.

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

Stacey L. Cotton

Stacey L. Cotton
Chief of Police