



**MIDDLETON POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

DATE
December 10, 2012

POLICY
6.2.10

SUBJECT: **Escorts**

REVIEWED
April 9, 2018

Refer to: SS [346.20](#), [346.215](#)
History: 2012; 06/2015
WILEAG (5th Ed.) Standards: 6.2.10.1, 6.2.10.2

Contents

Purpose..... 1

Policy 1

Definitions..... 1

 Police Escort 1

 Vehicle Escort..... 2

Procedure 2

 A. Authorized Police Escorts 2

 B. Vehicle Escorts, Emergency and Non-Emergency: 3

 1. Escort of Emergency Vehicles 3

 2. Escort of Civilian Vehicles in Medical Emergencies 3

 3. Funeral Escorts 3

 4. Bank Escorts 3

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for authorizing and conducting police and vehicle escorts.

Policy

It is the policy of the Middleton Police Department to regulate the use of police vehicles as escort vehicles to those limited circumstances defined in this policy.

Definitions

Police Escort

The authorized act of escorting a vehicle or procession of vehicles where a minimum of two police vehicles are being used. One police vehicle must be in the lead and another following the escorted vehicle(s). Each police vehicle must be giving a visual signal in accordance with state law.

Vehicle Escort

The act of leading a vehicle or procession of vehicles by a single police vehicle with or without using visual signals.

Procedure

A. Authorized Police Escorts:

1. In most instances Authorized Police Escorts shall be prearranged and preplanned. Requests should be directed to the Operations Captain or Shift Commander and may be considered for:
 - a. Dignitaries
 - b. Oversized vehicles
 - c. Hazardous or unusual cargo
 - d. Parades
 - e. Rides and runs
 - f. School related events
 - g. Special events
2. When approved, Authorized Police Escorts shall:
 - a. Have a minimum of two police vehicles, one leading and one trailing the escorted vehicle(s).
 - b. Give a visual signal as defined by s. [346.03 \(3\)](#).
 - c. Yield the right-of-way to authorized emergency vehicles giving both a visual and audible signal.
 - d. Operate with due regard under the circumstances for the safety of all persons.
3. Authorized Police Escorts may proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign after slowing down as necessary for safe operation.
4. Motorists are required to yield the right-of-way to an Authorized Police Escort and are prohibited from driving in between the procession.
5. Approval for an Authorized Police Escort should be based on the following criteria:
 - a. Security considerations such as when a dignitary, diplomat, or demonstration involving sensitive issues is involved.
 - b. Potential for disruption of traffic or danger to pedestrians if an escort is provided.
 - c. Size of vehicles involved, route of travel, time of day and anticipated traffic conditions including the possibility of changing the route or time frame to avoid such conditions and the need for an escort.
 - d. The possible use or adequacy of private escort vehicles.
 - e. Any other factors that would indicate the need for a police escort or assistance.

B. Vehicle Escorts, Emergency and Non-Emergency:

1. ***Escort of Emergency Vehicles*** is discouraged. Officers may stop traffic at intersections or otherwise control the movement of traffic to assist the passage of an emergency vehicle. Escorts of emergency vehicles are restricted to such units when their emergency equipment is not working properly or if the operator needs directions. This provision does not preclude the following of an ambulance transporting a prisoner.
2. ***Escort of Civilian Vehicles in Medical Emergencies:***
 - a. Escorting civilian vehicles under emergency circumstances is an extremely dangerous practice and is not authorized.
 - b. Officers who encounter situations where medical transport is needed shall immediately render first aid, as appropriate, and summon medical assistance and transport. If the operator of a civilian vehicle refuses to wait for medical transport and prompt medical assistance is needed, the officer may lead the civilian vehicle to the nearest medical facility, but shall not use emergency equipment, shall obey all traffic regulations and shall take the most direct route.
 - c. Officers should not transport seriously injured or ill persons to a medical facility for treatment in department vehicles, unless no ambulances are available.
3. ***Funeral Escorts:***
 - a. Officers may assist funeral processions by providing traffic control when not otherwise engaged in police activity.
 - b. Officers may lead a funeral procession, but shall obey all traffic laws when doing so. Leading a funeral procession is not considered an “Authorized Police Escort” as Wisconsin Statue [346.20](#) regulates this activity.
 - c. The Operations Captain or Shift Commander may approve a large funeral procession as an “Authorized Police Escort” (for example a procession for law enforcement personnel or dignitary).
4. ***Bank Escorts:***
 - a. Money escorts will be performed based on staff availability.
 - b. Dispatch shall assign one officer to perform such an escort.