I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide members of the Harford County Sheriff's Office with guidelines for situations of civil disturbances and mass arrest.

II. POLICY

Through an organized and coordinated program, the Harford County Sheriff's Office shall respond to civil disturbances in such a manner as to provide the maximum possible safety and security to the citizens of Harford County. The Agency will utilize the procedures in this policy to manage large gatherings in an attempt to prevent such gatherings from becoming unruly or unlawful. The Agency will also utilize this policy as a guideline to safely manage, defuse, or control unruly crowds and illegal gatherings.
Harford County Sheriff’s Office
Policy #MAN2800: Civil Disturbances and Mass Arrest

2800.1 REQUEST FOR MANPOWER
2800.1.1 Once an incident has been confirmed, the on-duty shift supervisor shall respond to the scene to determine if sufficient manpower is available to handle the situation and determine if additional manpower is required.
2800.1.2 If manpower is insufficient, the on-duty shift supervisor shall request additional assistance in the following stages:
2800.1.2.1 On-duty Agency members assigned to other divisions.
2800.1.2.2 On-duty Maryland State Police units.
2800.1.2.3 Special Operations Personnel;
2800.1.2.4 Off-duty Agency Law Enforcement Officers.
2800.1.2.5 Local Municipal Agencies (i.e., Aberdeen Police Department, Bel Air Police Department, Havre de Grace Police Department);
2800.1.2.6 Mutual aid agreements (i.e., Baltimore County Police Department)
2800.1.2.7 If the civil disturbance is of sufficient magnitude, the Governor of the State of Maryland may authorize the use of military personnel and/or institute martial law.

2800.2 COMMAND POST
2800.3.1 The on-scene supervisor shall select a command post site from which units shall be deployed.
2800.3.2 The on-scene supervisor shall designate an Agency member who will be responsible for chronologically documenting incidents.
2800.3.3 The Command Post site shall provide ample space (e.g., school parking lot, parks and recreation complex, etc.) to accommodate the following:
2800.2.3.1 Mobile Command/Communications Vehicle(s) (MCCV).
2800.2.3.2 Adequate parking for emergency vehicles and incident operations.

2800.3 NOTIFICATIONS
2800.3.1 In the event of a civil disturbance, notifications and call-outs shall be made in the following order:
2800.3.1.1 Patrol Operations Division Commanders;
2800.3.1.2 Police Services Bureau Commander;
2800.3.1.3 Criminal Investigation Division Commander;
2800.3.1.4 Special Operations Division Commander;
2800.3.1.5 Sheriff;
2800.3.1.6 Chief Deputy;
2800.3.1.7 Warden;
2800.3.1.8 Correctional Services Bureau Commander;
2800.3.1.9 Special Investigations Division Commander;
2800.3.1.10 Administrative Services Division Commander;
2800.3.1.11 Shift Supervisor (Detention Center);
2800.3.1.12 Public Information Officer;
2800.3.1.13 Emergency Operations Center;
2800.3.1.14 Services and Support Bureau Commander;
2800.3.1.15 Court Services Division Commander;
2800.3.1.16 Appropriate members of County Government.
2800.4 PATROL DIVISION
2800.4.1 Shall continue to respond to calls for service requiring immediate action.
2800.4.2 Current duty assignments may be temporarily suspended to accommodate adequate staffing to resolve the civil disturbance.
2800.4.3 On-coming Shift Supervisor shall respond to the respective Precinct to deploy members for patrol responsibilities.
2800.4.4 On-coming Shift Supervisor shall provide proper staffing for the duration of the civil disturbance and for a twenty-four (24) hour transitional period at the conclusion of the incident.

2800.5 SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION
2800.5.1 The Special Investigations Division Commander shall assign an Intelligence Officer to the incident.
2800.5.2 Members assigned as the Intelligence Officer shall document the civil disturbance utilizing methods to include but not limited to a videotaping.

2800.6 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
2800.6.1 Shall assist with supplies, vehicles, and equipment as requested.

2800.7 DETENTION CENTER
2800.7.1 Shall prepare to receive a large influx of arrestee(s) and implement HCDC 8-401: Mass Arrest Contingency Plan.
2800.7.2 Correctional officers shall provide additional security at the processing sites.
2800.7.3 Transportation Unit shall assist in transporting arrestee(s) as required.

2800.8 PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
2800.8.1 The Operations Commander, or designee, in conjunction with the Public Information Officer, shall select a location for the media staging area.
2800.8.2 The staging area shall be safe, but suitable for coverage of the incident, and allow for reporting current and updated information.
2800.8.3 Only the following shall release information to the media:
2800.8.3.1 Public Information Officer.
2800.8.3.2 Sheriff or his/her designee.

2800.9 MUTUAL AID & CONTRIBUTING JURISDICTIONS
2800.9.1 If mutual aid is requested, the contributing jurisdictions shall retain direct supervision over their personnel.
2800.9.2 Deployment of the contributing jurisdictions' personnel shall be at the direction of the Operations Commander.
2800.9.3 If available, the contributing jurisdictions shall assign a supervisor to the Command Post.

2800.10 VIOLENT DISTURBANCE
2800.10.1 If a civil disturbance is determined to be violent by the Operations Commander, inner perimeter Agency members and arrest teams shall be issued protective helmets and gas masks, and shall be equipped with a baton.
2800.10.2 The inner perimeter and arrest teams shall be comprised of Agency members, unless additional personnel are required.
2800.10.3 Assisting agencies shall provide manpower for the outer perimeter, unless ordered otherwise.
2800.10.4 Deployment and use of tactical equipment shall be at the discretion of the Operations Commander.
2800.10.5 All Agency members shall utilize appropriate levels of force in compliance with the Agency’s use of force policy to resolve the violent civil disturbance.

2800.11 NON-VIOLENT CIVIL DISTURBANCE
2800.11.1 Agency members responding to a non-violent civil disturbance shall respond in proper uniform according to assigned duties (i.e., Tactical uniform, etc.).
2800.11.2 All personnel shall act in accordance with appropriate levels of force to resolve the non-violent civil disturbance.

2800.12 CHEMICAL AGENTS
2800.12.1 Deployment of chemical agents shall only be authorized by the Operations Commander with prior approval from one (1) of the following:
2800.12.1.1 Sheriff.
2800.12.1.2 Chief Deputy.
2800.12.1.3 Senior member of Command Team present at incident.
2800.12.2 If chemical agents are authorized, the following factors must be considered prior to deployment of the agent:
2800.12.2.1 Wind direction;
2800.12.2.2 Escape routes;
2800.12.2.3 Contamination potential of inner and outer perimeters;
2800.12.2.4 Contamination potential of non-participating civilians.
2800.12.3 If chemical agents are deployed, an avenue of escape must be available for prompt decontamination.
2800.12.4 Medical personnel (i.e., EMT’s, ambulance, etc.) and supplies shall be available at the scene of the civil disturbance prior to deployment of any chemical agent.
2800.12.5 Members are prohibited from the deployment of a chemical for a non-violent civil disturbance under any circumstance.

2800.13 ISOLATION OF THE INCIDENT
2800.13.1 The Operations Commander has the responsibility to determine the outer and inner perimeter.

2800.14 STEPS FOR RESOLVING THE CIVIL DISTURBANCE
2800.14.1 The Operations Commander shall be responsible for initiating verbal dialogue in an attempt to establish communications and to negotiate a passive resolution.
2800.14.2 If a passive resolution cannot be accomplished, physical arrest shall then be accomplished as follows:

Physical arrest with passive resistance
2800.14.3 Members working in two (2) person arrest teams shall proceed inside the inner perimeter and arrest subjects.
2800.14.4 If subjects refuse to walk, two (2) arrest teams (four members) shall utilize a hand litter to transport each arrestee(s).
2800.14.5 When practical, one (1) member shall act as arresting officer for all arrestee(s).

Physical arrest with active resistance
2800.14.6 Members wearing protective headgear and working in two (2) person arrest teams shall proceed inside the inner perimeter and effect arrests.
2800.14.7 Arrest teams shall identify disturbance leaders and make these subjects the target of initial arrests.

2800.14.7.1 If efforts to arrest disturbance leaders and agitators are successful and those subjects are removed from the scene of the disturbance, the Operations Commander or designee shall attempt verbal dialogue in an effort to terminate the disturbance.

2800.14.8 A reserve of members shall be prepared to respond to the civil disturbance to assist arrest teams in case the members' safety is endangered.

2800.14.9 If the disturbance is not terminated, members shall make arrests on visible criminal violations until the disturbance is resolved.

2800.15 CANINE TEAMS

2800.15.1 Canine teams shall be available at all incidents for use as directed by the Operations Commander.

2800.15.2 If canine teams are deployed, a visible and logical escape route shall be available for fleeing participants.

2800.16 MASS ARREST

2800.16.1 If the Operations Commander determines that there is going to be mass arrests, he/she shall choose a holding site (i.e., parking area, indoor gymnasium in foul weather, etc.) as soon as practical.

2800.16.2 The Sheriff's Office Transportation Unit shall respond to assist in transporting subjects as required.

2800.16.3 If the number of arrestee(s) exceeds the capabilities of the Sheriff's Office Transportation Unit vehicles, Harford County Transportation Service shall be contacted for assistance.

2800.17 POST OCCURRENCE DUTIES

2800.17.1 The Operations Commander shall gradually reduce operations as soon as practical after the disturbance has been resolved.

2800.18 AFTER ACTION REPORTING

2800.18.1 The Operations Commander shall designate a member to complete the initial incident report SO-001.