



GREENVILLE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 218

GENERAL ORDERS

ORGANIZED CRIME AND VICE CONTROL

PURPOSE:

This directive establishes guidelines in the investigation of organized crime and vice activities, and identifies positions responsible for conducting the investigation of such crimes. While the investigation of organized crime and vice activities may require the use of specialized undercover units, it is the responsibility and duty of all deputies to support enforcement efforts directed toward the suppression of organized crime and vice.

VICE CONTROL:

Vice control is a full-time activity administered through the Vice & Narcotics Unit of Selective Enforcement. The Selective Enforcement Division Commander is responsible for coordinating and supervising vice control and enforcement efforts. Records and reports relating to active vice, drug, and organized crime investigations are securely filed and maintained separately from the central records system.

Responsibilities of vice control include:

1. Illegal sale and distribution of controlled substances.
2. Illegal gambling operations.
3. Illegal sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages.
4. Illegal prostitution and pornography.

VICE CONTROL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES - Annually, Selective Enforcement develops written goals and objectives for vice control in conjunction with the development of Sheriff's Office goals. Goals are realistic, quantifiable, measurable, and disseminated to all deputies within Vice and Narcotics.

ORGANIZED CRIME:

Organized crime is defined as the organization of a group of persons engaging in criminal activity for the purpose of providing a continuing financial profit. The Vice and Narcotics Unit is responsible for investigating the following organized crime activities:

1. Loan sharking.
2. Labor racketeering.
3. Corruption.
4. Extortion.
5. Vice and theft activities that are operated by organized crime.

Selective Enforcement develops written goals and objectives for organized crime suppression in conjunction with the development of

Sheriff's Office goals. Goals are realistic, quantifiable, measurable, and disseminated to all deputies within Vice and Narcotics.

**VICE, NARCOTICS, AND
ORGANIZED CRIME
OPERATIONS:**

All information or complaints relating to vice and organized crime activities are to be referred to Selective Enforcement -Vice and Narcotics. Information and/or complaints can be documented on Lead Sheet forms or in incident reports.

REPORTS AND RECORDS - All reports of organized crime or vice are to be investigated to the fullest extent possible. Records of all substantiated vice and organized crime complaints by citizens are maintained within Vice and Narcotics. Investigations involving vice and organized crime activity are to be conducted in accordance General Order 213.

The considerable amount of undercover work involved in the enforcement of vice and organized crime offenses contributes to the sensitivity of these records. Because of this, records of active vice and organized crime investigations are maintained by Vice and Narcotics, separate from the central records. While active, access to these records is limited to law enforcement personnel with a need-to-know. Informant files are maintained in accordance with General Order 216.

Vice and Narcotics is to maintain a record of vice and organized crime control information given to and received from outside agencies. This record of correspondence and assistance facilitates an effective evaluation of past interagency operations.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE - Division commanders are to ensure a continuous exchange of information on vice and organized crime throughout the Sheriff's Office. Vice and Narcotics is to maintain a cooperative relationship with other organized crime/vice investigative and prosecution units adjacent to Greenville County.

INFORMATION EVALUATION - Upon receipt of information concerning vice or organized crime activities, the Vice and Narcotics supervisor is to determine if an investigation is to be initiated. If an investigation is not warranted, the information is evaluated for Criminal Intelligence Information storage. Evaluating information for investigative purposes is based on the following criteria:

1. Evaluating the accuracy and credibility of initial information.
2. Determining the scope and relative importance of the problem.
3. Determining the criminal nature of the problem.

4. Determining what lead information exists.
5. Determining what investigative techniques might be used.
6. Determining if sufficient resources exist to launch an investigation.

COVERT OPERATIONS - Vice and Narcotics is to maintain resources and capabilities of conducting covert operations for the control of vice and organized crime. Guidelines for planning undercover operations include:

- Identifying and analyzing suspects and their habits, associates, vehicles, methods of operation, or any other pertinent information.
- Making contact with suspects.
- Analyzing neighborhood or target area where deputies will work.
- Supplying deputies with false identities and necessary credentials.
- Maintaining confidentiality of deputies' false identities.
- Supplying deputies with expense funds.
- Supplying deputies with equipment needed for covert operations.
- Establishing a means for routine and emergency communication.
- Determining legal ramifications.
- Providing guidelines for arrests.
- Providing back-up security for deputies.
- Providing for close supervision.

COVERT/UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS PROCEDURES:

1. Uniform Patrol supervisors must be notified of undercover operations and specific locations when arrests and/or problems are anticipated.
2. If an undercover deputy must be unarmed, there is **always** an armed back-up in close proximity or close observation through audio/video surveillance.
3. An undercover deputy is permitted to consume **minimal** amounts of alcohol when it is absolutely necessary to maintain cover. Undercover deputies are not exempt from consumption-based violations of the law, including driving under the influence.
4. Consumption of alcohol prohibits an undercover deputy from making or participating in an arrest.

DECOY OPERATIONS – Selective Enforcement is responsible for coordinating and planning decoy operations. Planning guidelines include:

- Analyzing victims, crimes, and crime locations.
- Disguising deputies to resemble potential victims.
- Determining the number of back-up deputies needed for security and protection.
- Developing procedures for observation and arrest.
- Determining legal ramifications of operation.
- Establishing communications.
- Identification of participating personnel.
- Notifying Uniform Patrol Commander responsible for target area.
- Providing close supervision.

RAIDS - Raids evolving from surveillance, covert or decoy operations are to be planned and coordinated by the Vice and Narcotics Commander and his supervisors. Raids evolving from other than vice and narcotics operations are to be coordinated by either the investigative supervisor or a Uniform Patrol supervisor, depending on the circumstances. In all cases, the following guidelines apply to raid operations:

1. Notification of and authorization from the affected Division Commander.
2. Designation of a single supervisor as responsible for supervising the actual raid.
3. Developing strategy and tactics for approaching, entering, securing, and leaving the target area.
4. Searching for and seizing evidence and/or contraband.
5. Selecting specialized equipment, such as battering rams.
6. Selecting and communicating with specialized support units.
7. Arrest and transportation of suspects.
8. Instructions on use of force.
9. Arranging for standby medical assistance and providing for documentation.

Monthly Reporting - Vice and Narcotics supervisors are to submit, through their division commander, a monthly written report (MIS Activity Report) on the status of vice and organized crime problems to the Sheriff. The report is to include a summary of complaints, investigations, and arrests, seizures of contraband, vehicles, and currency.


Hobart Lewis, Sheriff