



GREENVILLE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 154

GENERAL ORDERS

CRITICAL INCIDENT COMMUNITY BRIEFINGS

PURPOSE:

In order to increase transparency and foster greater public trust in law enforcement, the following procedures outline how information regarding critical incidents will be disseminated to the citizens of Greenville County. The need to provide context and information regarding critical incidents of public interest, such as officer-involved shootings, warrants a timely and accurate explanation of the conduct that occurred and the action taken by law enforcement in response. These public explanations take the form of a Critical Incident Community Briefing or "CICB".

BRIEFING POLICY:

When reasonable under the circumstances, and barring any exception listed herein, a CICB will be released to the public within 45 days of a critical incident. The CICB shall be made generally available to the public online and consist of relevant video imagery that depicts the actions and events leading up to, and including, the critical incident. Based upon the evidence available at the time of release, the CICB may include additional information or commentary to provide context. This policy applies only to incidents occurring after the effective date set forth below.

CRITICAL INCIDENTS DEFINED:

This policy applies to the following types of incidents:

- Officer involved shootings, regardless of whether a person was hit by gunfire;
- A use of force resulting in death or serious bodily injury requiring hospitalization admittance;
- All deaths while an arrestee/detainee is in the custodial care of the agency, provided there is preliminary evidence of at least one of the following: (1) misconduct; (2) a use of force; or (3) an act committed by an arrestee/detainee that appears intended to cause injury or death; or
- Any other law enforcement encounter where the Sheriff determines release of a CICB is in the public interest.

PRIVACY CONCERNS:

Video will not be released where prohibited by law or court order. Further, consistent with the protections afforded juveniles and the victims/witnesses of certain crimes, video imagery shall be redacted or edited to the extent necessary to ensure that the identity of said

individual(s) is protected. Where the video cannot be sufficiently redacted or edited to protect the person's identity, it will be withheld. In each instance, such redaction may include removing sound or blurring of faces and other images that would specifically identify involved individuals, sensitive locations, or reveal legally protected information. Further, where possible, such redaction or editing shall not compromise the depiction of what occurred during the incident.

DELAYED OR NON-RELEASE OF CICB:

There may be circumstances in which the release of a CICB must be delayed to protect one or more of the following:

- Safety of the involved individuals, including officers, witnesses, bystanders, or other third parties;
- Confidential sources or investigative techniques;
- Integrity of an active investigation (including criminal or administrative);
- Fairness of a prospective civil or criminal legal proceeding; or
- Constitutional rights of an accused.

Additionally, the Sheriff may determine it is in the public interest that a CICB not be provided at all, based upon sensitive or confidential information not available to the general public. Non-disclosure rests solely within the discretion of the Sheriff, or his designee.

In the event that a CICB is delayed or not provided, the public shall be made aware in the form of a press release, which will state the reason for the delay or non-provision.

NOTIFICATION OF INVOLVED PARTIES:

Absent exigent circumstances, reasonable attempts should be made to notify the following individuals or entities at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the release of a CICB:

- Subject(s) involved in the critical incident (as follows):
 - If the subject is represented, then his or her legal counsel;
 - If the subject is a juvenile, then the subject's parents or legal guardian will be notified;
 - If the subject is deceased, then the next of kin; or
 - If the subject is not represented, nor a juvenile, nor deceased, then the subject directly.
- Officers depicted in the CICB and/or significantly involved in the critical incident.
- 13th Circuit Solicitor's Office or Attorney General's Office (as applicable)
- South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

- Other individuals or entities connected to the incident, as deemed appropriate.

**DISSEMINATION OF
THE CICB:**

The final version of the CICB will be published and made available to the general public online via various internet social media platforms (including, but not limited to, YouTube and Facebook).

The CICB will remain publically available online until twelve months after it is originally posted, or until after any underlying criminal case has concluded, whichever is later.

Notably, publication of the CICB does not waive any exemption under S.C. Code § 23-1-240(G)(1) or § 30-4-40, or any other applicable privilege or exemption, that may apply to non-released portions of released materials.



Hobart Lewis, Sheriff