

	GENERAL ORDER	Effective: 10-01-21	# 06-06
	Section: Specialized Functions	Replaces or Modifies: Special Order 2018-01	
	Title: Demonstrations		Issued by: Chief Deputy Mattie Provost

Purpose:

To implement specific policy concerning the topic of demonstrations.

Policy:

The Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office will take all reasonable measures to ensure that non-violent demonstrations that are held in accordance with the law are conducted in a manner that provides reasonable assurance of the protection of all involved (persons and property).

Definition:

Demonstration – a gathering of persons with the intent to express support or non-support of a particular point of view. This includes but is not limited to topics such as civil rights, response to a police action or inaction, protest against a government action, and/or protest against a private entity.

Procedure:

- I. Notification Duty
 - A. If any employee becomes aware of the potential of a demonstration the employee shall report this to supervisory personnel who will relay information through the chain of command to the Chief Deputy.
 - B. The Chief Deputy will assign responsibility to determine details and if necessary appropriate response to any demonstration. Response includes but is not limited to assessing legality and providing security as may be warranted.
- II. Specific Response Items
 - A. The particular justifications for use of force and application of use of force are found in General Order 09-02. As is part of the foundation of appropriate use of force employees are reminded that excessive force is prohibited in all instances including response to demonstrations.
 - B. Peace Officer employees shall with appropriate discretion enforce applicable laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility that is the subject of a demonstration.
- III. Nothing in this General order serves to prevent Peace Office employees from lawful and reasonable actions necessary to enforce laws as they relate to protection of life and property.
- IV. Only the Sheriff or Chief Deputy may authorize exceptions to this General Order.

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