

James W. Johnson
Chief of Police

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"INTEGRITY...FAIRNESS...SERVICE"

SPECIAL ORDER #2012-03

DATE: October 16, 2012

TO: All Police Department Personnel. To be Announced at Roll Call and a Copy Posted on the Bulletin Board for 30 Days.

RE: Hand-Held Metal Detectors.

EFFECTIVE: Immediately.

BACKGROUND: In recent years weapons violations have occurred within Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS), on their property, and in their transport vehicles. In an effort to locate, recover, and prevent weapons from entering the safe haven of BCPS, the Baltimore County Police Department has purchased hand-held metal detectors to be utilized by the School Resource Officers (SROs).

PURPOSE: This Special Order establishes procedures for the Department to follow for the use of hand-held metal detectors.

RELATIONSHIP TO DEPARTMENTAL VALUES: This Special Order supports the Department's commitment to **SERVICE** by establishing Department policy for the use of hand-held metal detectors by SROs.

POLICY: It is the policy of this Department to allow SROs to utilize the hand-held metal detectors in situations to prevent injury to students, faculty, and staff members in BCPS. The intention is to locate and recover weapons carried on a person or concealed in his/her property through the use of technology. **Hand-held metal detectors will be restricted to sworn Department members who have been properly trained in its usage.**

PROCEDURES

- Only sworn Department members who are properly trained in the use of the hand-held metal detector may carry and utilize this tool. The hand-held metal detector provides law enforcement personnel with an additional method of identifying and locating weapons. Nothing in this policy is intended to imply that the use of a hand-held metal detector is meant to replace a properly completed frisk or search.
- Officers will test the hand-held metal detector at the beginning of their tour of duty to ensure it is operating properly.
- Individuals will not be randomly screened using the hand-held metal detector.
- Individuals will only be screened using the hand-held metal detector when the officer possesses reasonable, articulable suspicion that the individual possesses a weapon, or to aid in conducting a search incident to an arrest.

NOTE: This requirement also applies to situations in which a school administrator requests a member to conduct a scan.

SPECIAL ORDER # 2012-03, Hand-Held Metal Detectors (Continuation)

- When justification to use a hand-held metal detector is present, an officer may scan any student, visitor, or staff member.
EXCEPTION: A scan will not be conducted on an individual who objects due to a medical condition (e.g., pacemaker, pregnancy, etc.).
- The hand-held metal detector may be used on school property, in connection with any school event (e.g., sporting event, field trip, dance, etc.), or in relation to the movement of students to or from a school facility or event (e.g., school vehicle, bus stop, etc.).
- A school administrator will be present prior to an officer conducting a scan.
EXCEPTION: Emergency situations.
- Prior to the scan, the officer should ask the individual to remove any metal items from the area to be scanned, when feasible.
- When an officer conducts a frisk of an individual and is not able to determine the cause of the hand-held metal detector's activation, no search will be conducted. The officer will refer the matter to a school administrator for resolution.
- When not in the possession of a trained officer, the hand-held metal detector will be secured in a manner that prevents theft, tampering, and unauthorized use.
- Officers will maintain a log of hand-held metal detector use. The officers will also note the number of times the hand-held metal detector was used in their monthly SRO report submissions.

MATERIALS AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT UNIT (M&FMU)

- Assigns hand-held metal detectors to all SROs.
- Is responsible for obtaining service or replacement of non-functioning hand-held metal detectors.

COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL RESOURCES SECTION (C&SRS)

- Provides M&FMU with a list of all SROs.
- Coordinates training for sworn Department members who are issued hand-held metal detectors.

IMPLEMENTATION: This Special Order will be distributed electronically to all Department members. Shift/unit supervisors will be responsible for the posting and referencing of this Special Order.

By order of,

James W. Johnson
Chief of Police