

DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER 09-04

OFFICE of the CHIEF OF POLICE
RESCINDS/AMENDS: SOP 502.14.02

DATE: April 17, 2009

SHOW-UP IDENTIFICATIONS

I. PURPOSE.

To establish guidelines for the conduct of a on-street “Show-up” identification conducted for the purpose of an eye witness identification of a criminal suspect.

II. DEFINITIONS.

Show-up: The presentation of one suspect to an eyewitness within a short time frame following a crime for purposes of identification of the suspect as the perpetrator of the crime.

III. SHOW-UP PROCEDURES.

A. Reasons Dictating a Show-up.

On-street show-ups will only be conducted under the following conditions:

- A suspect is detained or arrested in reasonable proximity to the crime scene.
- The suspect is detained within a reasonable amount of time following the offense.
- A photo line-up cannot be promptly arranged or is impractical under the prevailing circumstances.

B. Transportation Action

- Each witness shall be individually transported by an officer in a marked or unmarked police vehicle to where the suspect is being detained.
- At the conclusion of the viewing, the different witnesses will be returned to their individual residences.

C. Conducting the on-street show-up.

- Each individual witness will be interviewed separately prior to the show-up. A full and detailed description of the suspect shall be provided by each witness prior to viewing the detainee. Witnesses will not be permitted to collaborate or discuss the pending show-up with each other.
- All witnesses will be instructed that the suspect being detained fits the general description provided by the witnesses; however, the person may not necessarily be the individual who committed the crime.
- Multiple witnesses shall view the suspect independently of one another.
- Measures will be taken by officers to reduce potentially damaging or prejudicial influences that may be drawn by witnesses. This will include:
 - The removal of the suspect from the police vehicle.
 - The concealment of handcuffs from plain view.
 - Placing the suspect in adequate light, facing the street.
- Neither the transporting officer or any officer administering the show-up will attempt to influence the witnesses, provide the identity of the detainee, or the outcome of any prior on-street identification. The transporting officer will attempt to determine the level of confidence in their identification as expressed by each witness (e.g. Positive ID, Tentative ID, Negative ID), but will not provide any feedback to the witness.
- Witnesses will be advised that it would be best not to discuss the show-up after the fact as it may be prejudicial to any court proceeding.

IV. DOCUMENTATION.

Officers conducting a field show-up will document the event and its results in an investigative or supplemental report. The report will specifically address:

- The crime (offense) under investigation.
- The date, time, and location of the show-up.
- The identity of the witnesses and suspect(s).
- The level of confidence expressed by the witnesses in their identification (e.g. Positive ID, Tentative ID, Negative ID).
- The probable cause for any arrest made of suspects involved in the show-up.

BY ORDER OF:

THOMAS J. BYRNE
Chief of Police

TJB:dld