

# DALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## I. Policy

It is the policy of the Dalton Police Department that Officers provide escort assistance to the extent that such assistance does not create an undue hardship in responding to calls for service and does not jeopardize the safety of the Officers or members of the community.

## II. Types of Police Escorts

### A. Escort of Privately-owned Vehicles in Medical Emergencies

1. Escorting privately-owned vehicles under emergency circumstances is an extremely dangerous practice and shall not be permitted in Department vehicles. In medical emergencies, the patient should be transported by ambulance, whenever possible. When, in the Officer's judgment, the medical emergency is such that waiting on an ambulance would result in loss of life, the Officer is authorized to, and shall, transport the injured or sick party to the Hamilton Medical Center emergency room in his / her police vehicle.
2. Privately-owned vehicles traveling under emergency conditions should be stopped and the destination and nature of the emergency determined. Officers shall advise the Whitfield County 911 Center of the emergency so that appropriate agencies and facilities can be notified. Again, if the emergency is such that waiting on an appropriate agency to respond would likely result in a loss of life, the Officer is authorized to, and shall, transport the person suffering from a medical emergency to the appropriate destination in his / her police vehicle.

### B. Business Deposit Escorts

1. The use of on-duty Officers as escorts in making business deposits **is prohibited without prior approval of the Chief of Police.** ~~must be approved by the Watch Commander. Requests for such services should be made through the Whitfield County 911 Center and forwarded to the Watch Commander. General use of Officers in making business deposits is~~

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~~discouraged.~~

- ~~2. Factors that shall be considered in reviewing requests for business deposit escorts include the amount of money involved, frequency of requests, location and incident history, current manpower level, etc.~~

C. Funeral Escorts

1. The use of police escorts during funerals creates a positive image of the police while at the same time assists in the orderly flow of traffic.
2. Supervisors shall be responsible for evaluating and approving requests for funeral escorts and assigning personnel accordingly. Information should be obtained concerning the location, time of departure, and destination.
3. Officers that assist with funerals at intersections may exit their vehicle and, when traffic has been stopped, may stand at attention with their hat in their right hand covering their heart as a sign of respect to the deceased and the funeral procession. Officers should remain in this position until time to reenter their police vehicle.

D. Escorting Public Officials and Dignitaries

Public officials of high office may be provided police escorts within the corporate limits of the City of Dalton with approval from the Patrol Division Commander.

E. Escorting House Movers / Oversized Vehicles

1. The Patrol Division Operations Supervisor shall be responsible for evaluating and approving the proposed route after considering the safety concerns.
2. The Whitfield County 911 Center shall be advised of the proposed route prior to the assignment and then notified upon completion.

F. Parades and Non-funeral Processions occurring on City Roadways

1. All parades, processions, First Amendment events, etc. require the event organizer to submit an application in accordance with City Ordinance 10-103.
  - a. First Amendment events require an application be submitted at least five (5) days in advance of the requested date.
  - b. All other recurring, annual, or one-time events require an application be submitted at least 60 days in advance of the requested date.
2. The Patrol Operations Supervisor shall conduct an investigation / evaluation of the application in accordance with City Ordinance 114-6 (Parade Permit) and City Ordinance 10-105 (Special Events).

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3. The approval process of the application shall take into consideration:
  - a. The availability of Department personnel to staff the event
  - b. A route that provides the highest level of safety for participants, spectators, and Officers and has the least impact on the free-flow of traffic
4. The Patrol Operations Supervisor shall be responsible for the approval process for annual, recurring, or one-time events.
5. The Chief of Police shall be responsible for the approval process First Amendment events.
6. Advance notice of the event shall be provided to the public via press release and / or social media.
7. A marked police vehicle shall be assigned to lead parades and another shall be assigned to follow at the rear of the parade. The lead vehicle shall be responsible for maintaining an appropriate pace and for following the approved parade route. The vehicle at the rear of the parade shall be responsible for ensuring that spectators and vehicular traffic do not infringe upon elements of the parade.

G. Non-custodial escorts

Officers may be requested to conduct non-custodial escorts to shelters, hospitals, residences, etc. Once the Officer determines the escort does not jeopardize the safety of the Officer or create an undue hardship in responding to calls for service, the Officer shall notify the Whitfield County 911 Center and advise of the escort.

1. If a male Officer is escorting a female, the Officer shall call in the vehicle's mileage to the Whitfield County 911 Center at the beginning and at the end of the escort.
2. If a female Officer is escorting a male, the Officer shall call in the vehicle's mileage to the Whitfield County 911 Center at the beginning and at the end of the escort.
3. If any Officer transports a juvenile, the Officer shall call in the vehicle's mileage to the Whitfield County 911 Center at the beginning and at the end of the escort.

H. Other Escorts

The Department shall, from time-to-time, engage in escorts not covered above. An example is an escort of school buses from the high school in connection with sporting and other events. These escorts shall be approved by the Patrol Division Commander or his / her designee. The decision to approve shall be based on the function involved, the need (from a traffic standpoint), the time involved, and the availability of personnel.

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*This policy supersedes any previous policies issued.*

**BY ORDER OF**

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**CHIEF OF POLICE**

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