

## Gadsden State Police/Public Safety Department

### Crowd Management and Event Response Policy

#### I. Introduction

- A. This policy is designed to establish guidelines for the Gadsden State Police/Public Safety Department (GSPD) to manage crowds effectively, protect individual rights, and preserve peace during demonstrations and civil disturbances on campus.

#### II. Policy Statement

- A. It is the policy of the GSPD to:
1. Safeguard the constitutional rights of assembly and free speech. The GSPD will strive to conduct operations in a manner that balances the possibility of the intellectual freedom and free expression of the GSCC community while maintaining law, order, and safety of the GSCC community.
  2. Manage crowds efficiently to prevent loss of life, injury, or property damage. Crowd management is intended to meet the aforementioned goals, not to shield individuals on the GSCC campuses from speech protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022. This includes, without limitation, ideas and opinions that others find unwelcome, disagreeable, or offensive.
  3. Minimize disruption to campus activities and individuals not involved in the events. Disruption can come in many forms, including but not limited to:
    - 3.1. Obstruction of vehicular, bicycle, pedestrian, or other traffic;
    - 3.2. Obstruction of entrances or exits to GSCC buildings or driveways or impeding entry or exit from any GSCC building or parking lot or vehicular path;
    - 3.3. Violations of a state, federal, or local law, regulation, or ordinance;
    - 3.4. Threats to passersby or the use of fighting words, which are words that by their mere utterance inflict violence or would tend to incite a reasonable person to violence or other breach of the peace;

- 3.5. Following, badgering, or forcibly detaining individuals;
- 3.6. Interference with scheduled GSCC classes, ceremonies, or events, including memorials, dedications, or classroom activities, whether indoors or outdoors;
- 3.7. Damage to GSCC or private property, including buildings, benches, sidewalks, fixtures, grass, shrubs, trees, flowers, or other landscaping;
- 3.8. Use of sound amplification, including bullhorns, except within reasonable limits that will not disrupt normal GSCC or GSPD operations;
- 3.9. Use of placards, banners, or signs that are dangerous or cause obstructions as described above in sub-sections 3.1 and 3.2;
- 3.10. Engaging in expressive activities in prohibited or restricted areas of the GSCC campuses as defined in Sections II.B. and II.C. of the Alabama Community College System Policy 224.01: Expressive Activities by the Campus Community.
- 3.11. Any other interference with normal GSCC operations beyond a minor, brief, or fleeting non-violent disruption that is isolated or brief in duration; or
- 3.12. Any other conduct or activity not protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 4 of the Alabama Constitution, or other state law.

### III. Definition of Terms

- A. **Civil Disturbance:** A gathering that disrupts peace or involves a threat of violence, property destruction, or other unlawful acts.
- B. **Crowd Control:** Techniques to address civil disturbances, including shows of force and crowd dispersal tactics.
- C. **Crowd Management:** Techniques to manage lawful assemblies and maintain order through proactive measures.

## IV. Procedures

### A. Preparation and Planning

1. Advance Contact: Make efforts to contact event organizers in advance to understand the event's nature, timing, and scale.
2. Information Gathering: Collect details about the event, such as participant numbers, routes, potential opposition, and critical infrastructures affected.
3. Interagency Coordination: Collaborate with other services like fire and EMS and consider mutual aid from local law enforcement if necessary.
4. Resource Allocation: Allocate resources as are available to handle the event.

### B. Management and Organization Principles

1. Incident Command System (ICS): Use ICS to maintain command and control during events, ensuring a unified and coordinated response.
2. Roles and Responsibilities: Designate specific roles such as incident commander, liaison officers, and logistics coordinators.
3. Communication Plan: Maintain regular and clear communication channels among all team members and with event organizers.

### C. General Crowd Response

1. Monitoring: Deploy officers to monitor crowd behavior actively and manage any disruptions or escalations.
2. Identification: Officers should be easily identifiable with badges and name tags visible.
3. Engagement: Officers should maintain neutrality and avoid engaging in debates with protestors.

D. Response to Spontaneous Civil Disturbances

1. Rapid Assessment: Quickly assess the situation to determine the appropriate level of response.
2. Containment: Establish perimeters to contain the disturbance and prevent it from spreading.
3. Arrests: Conduct arrests as necessary, prioritizing and focusing on agitators those engaging in unlawful activities.

E. Use of Force

1. Minimum Force: Employ the minimal level of force necessary to ensure public safety and order.
2. Specialized Equipment: Use less-lethal weapons per the following strict guidelines and only when necessary:
  - 2.1. In the event elevated force is used through the deployment of specialized equipment to enact crowd control, only GSPD officers trained in less-lethal munitions and other less-lethal force options will use the equipment that they are trained on and certified in.
  - 2.2. In the event of the less-lethal maybe deployed GSCC personnel should be aware and practice avoidance whether the potential exists for their use or the actual use occurs, non-law enforcement GSCC personnel should be made aware of what less-lethal options may be used and how to practice avoidance.
  - 2.3. Before less-lethal options are considered for deployment, non-law enforcement Gadsden State CC personnel should leave the area.
3. Accountability: Document all uses of force and conduct post-event reviews with GSPD and GSCC personnel to assess the appropriateness of the response and adaptations to future responses based on lessons learned.

V. Training

- A. Officers, both sworn and non-sworn, should receive regular training on crowd management, use of force, and constitutional rights to ensure readiness, professionalism, and proper response during events involving any form of protests, marches, or gathering of groups of individuals on the Gadsden State Community College campuses or adjoining areas that may impact any of the campuses.

**VI. Conclusion**

- A. GSCC PD handle protest and crowd management with a balanced approach, prioritizing safety, rights protection, and the minimization of disruption to the college community. This policy will be regularly reviewed and updated to adapt to new challenges and incorporate best practices after reviews are conducted post-incident or as necessary when new information, tactics, or techniques are discovered that lead to readiness or response improvement.