



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDERS

SOP 1-28 (Formerly 4-3)

Effective: 09/08/2023 Review: 09/08/2024 Replaces: 05/09/2022

1-28 DOWNTOWN UNIT (DTU)

Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):

A. Related SOP(s)

[1-21 Bicycle Patrol \(Formerly 4-14\)](#)
[2-19 Response to Behavioral Health Issues](#)
[2-79 Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion \(LEAD\) Program](#)

B. Form(s)

[PD 1501 APD Resource Card](#)

C. Other Resource(s)

None

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

None

1-28-1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a specialized unit that addresses issues in the Downtown Public Safety District through community-oriented policing.

1-28-2 Policy

It is the policy of the Albuquerque Police Department (Department) to establish a specialized unit that will address quality of life issues through enforcement and outreach in the Downtown Public Safety District. Downtown Unit (DTU) works with the community and business partners by providing high-visibility patrol by foot, car, bike, or other means throughout the Downtown Public Safety District.

N/A 1-28-3 Definitions

A. Community-Oriented Policing

A proactive relationship between the Department and the community of Albuquerque with the goal of lowering crime, building trust, and improving the quality of life.

B. Downtown Public Safety District

The area is defined on the east by Broadway Boulevard, on the north by Lomas Boulevard NW, on the south by Lead Avenue SW, and on the west by 12th Street NW



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(see map below). The Downtown Public Safety District includes Washington Middle School.

C. Outreach

Department efforts to connect community members with services.

6 1-28-4 **Rules and Responsibilities**

A. Downtown Unit (DTU) Sergeant

1. The DTU Sergeant shall:

- a. Be selected after successfully testing for the position;
- b. Directly report to the DTU Lieutenant; and
- c. Assign DTU sworn personnel to the Downtown Public Safety District to conduct outreach.

B. Downtown Unit (DTU) Sworn Personnel

1. DTU sworn personnel assigned to the Downtown Public Safety District shall:

- a. Respond to calls for service and conduct proactive enforcement within the designated boundaries;
- b. Conduct and engage in community and business outreach;
- c. Actively engage in community-oriented policing through frequent contact with business owners, patrons and other stakeholders in their area of responsibilities in the Downtown Public Safety District;
 - i. DTU sworn personnel shall address issues that come to their attention during daily patrol in a manner consistent with community-policing philosophy and shall consider a broad range of responses to the various issues presented.

N/A

1. When criminal activity is involved, DTU sworn personnel shall consider enforcement as well as jail diversion (refer to SOP Response to Behavioral Health Issues and SOP Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program for sanction classifications and additional duties).
2. For non-criminal, civil, or legal disputes, DTU sworn personnel may refer the parties to community mediation.
3. Whenever appropriate, DTU sworn personnel should make service provider referrals for individuals who are experiencing homelessness, or for individuals who may need assistance with substance abuse or mental health issues.

N/A

- d. To effectively respond to issues frequently encountered in the downtown area, including individuals experiencing homelessness, people with substance abuse issues, or mental health concerns, DTU sworn personnel should:
 - i. Familiarize themselves with resources and outreach programs available in the community;



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- ii. Provide the APD Resource Card when appropriate;
 - iii. Contact service providers directly on behalf of the individual; or
 - iv. Transport the individual to a service provider when requested or agreed to by the individual.
 - e. Be bike-certified before conducting any bicycle patrols, consistent with SOP Bicycle Patrol;
 - i. It is optional for DTU sworn personnel to wear the bike uniform, in lieu of the duty uniform. The designated DTU patch is optional for both uniforms. Uniform modifications may be approved by the chain of command.
 - f. Report to the DTU Sergeant; and
 - g. Consult with the DTU Sergeant about any issues they cannot resolve and/or issues that may require additional resources.
2. Unless authorized by their supervisor, DTU sworn personnel shall not be dispatched to routine calls for service outside of their assigned area.
 - a. DTU sworn personnel may be required to respond outside of their assigned area at the discretion of the chain of command.
3. At the direction of the chain of command, DTU sworn personnel may be required to attend meetings that are hosted by community stakeholders and business partners within the Downtown Public Safety District.
4. At the direction of the chain of command, DTU sworn personnel may be required to attend special events to include adjusting their work schedule within their area command. Such special events may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Civil disturbances, consistent with Response to First Amendment Assemblies and Demonstrations and to Unplanned Incidents;
 - b. Demonstrations, consistent with Response to First Amendment Assemblies and Demonstrations and to Unplanned Incidents;
 - i. For planned events, DTU sworn personnel may be required to adjust duty schedules in accordance with department policy and contract bargaining agreement (CBA).
 - c. Special events on Civic Plaza;
 - d. Community-oriented events in the Downtown Public Safety District; and
 - e. Providing traffic control/perimeter assistance or bike patrol for events, such as large gatherings and demonstrations in the Downtown Public Safety District.
5. At the discretion of the DTU Sergeant, DTU sworn personnel may participate with other organizations in the outreach to individuals who are experiencing homelessness. When participating, DTU sworn personnel will be in the prescribed uniform and travel in their Department-issued vehicles to the outreach location.



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