

CHARLOTTESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Note: This directive is for internal use only and does not enlarge an officer’s liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by the Charlottesville Police Department and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

Type of Directive: GENERAL ORDER	Number: 02-02
RESPONSE TO OFFICER-INVOLVED CRITICAL INCIDENTS	Date: September 10, 2019
VLEPSC Number: Non-Standard	Manual Number: 522.10
	Effective Date: Sept. 10, 2019
Authorization: Chief R.M. Brackney <i>Rm Brackney</i>	Follow-up Date: As Needed

I. POLICY

Sworn officers of the Charlottesville Police Department have been endowed with special powers for the enforcement of the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the City of Charlottesville. In exercising this authority, they are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that promotes the welfare and safety of the citizens of Charlottesville. In reviewing officer-involved critical incidents, it is presumed that the officers involved have acted in the best interests of the community and in accordance with the professional and ethical standards and policies of the Department.

II. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this policy to provide guidelines for department personnel for handling and investigating officer involved critical incidents. The goals to be served by these guidelines are to minimize the chances that involved officers will develop or suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, while at the same time providing for prompt and thorough investigation and review of events comprising the incident.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. Critical Incident: An incident involving a police officer engaged in the performance of official duties (either as an actor or a victim), and in which the death or serious bodily injury of any person has occurred.
- B. Officer Involved (or “Involved Officer”): Any police officer involved in a critical incident, either as an actor or a victim.
- C. First Assisting Officer: The first non-involved officer to arrive at the scene of an officer-involved critical incident. This will include an officer who witnessed an incident, but who did not discharge a weapon or otherwise engage in any actions comprising the incident, and who is not injured or otherwise a victim thereof.

- D. On-Site Supervisor: The first supervisor to arrive at the scene of an officer-involved critical incident. Usually this will be the on-duty patrol supervisor.

A limited number of the enclosed City of Charlottesville Police Department General Orders have been redacted. The redactions ensure that that Police Department's operational and tactical responses are withheld for community and Officer Safety (e.g., bank alarm response, response to an active threat, and Tactical Operations).