


JOPLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT	9-03 STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE
SUBJECT: Organized Crime and Vice	REVIEW DATE: Annually - September
EFFECTIVE DATE: March 17th, 2008	ACTION DATE:
AMENDS/SUPERSEDES: 9-03 Sept. 1st, 2006	AMEND DATE: March 17th, 2008
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I. POLICY

Organized crime is criminal activity that is conducted on a large scale and is normally networked or organized throughout multiple jurisdictions and may frequently operate across state lines. "Vice," related crimes are offenses that primarily deal with illegal services sought by some elements of the community that are also considered to be in violation of public morals or decency. Examples of vice type crimes include prostitution, pornography, illegal drugs, and gambling. Although the Investigations Bureau is primarily responsible for organized crime and vice investigations, it is the responsibility of every member of the Joplin Police Department to combat this illegal activity.

II. PURPOSE

These guidelines establish the Joplin Police Department's organized crime and vice investigative functions and provide specific procedures directly governing that activity.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Objectives of the Organized Crime and Vice Control Function

The Department is committed to using the resources necessary to insure that an effective effort is made to suppress or deter organized crime and vice activity in the community. The general goals and objectives are:

1. Establish an effective network to gather information through the use of informants, department employees, other agencies and public contacts, to detect organized crime and vice activity within the community.
2. Coordinate vice activity investigations with members of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Agency (ATF), the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), and with other agencies when appropriate.
3. Successfully prosecute any instances of organized crime or vice activities in Joplin.
4. Purchase or maintain access to advanced or sophisticated investigative electronic equipment that will support organized crime and vice investigations in the field.
5. Provide training to investigative personnel in the investigation and prosecution of organized crime.
6. Establish an attitude within the community that the police department will aggressively pursue organized crime and vice activity.

B. Organized Crime and Vice Control Component

Responsibility for organized crime and vice control is vested in the Investigations Bureau. The Investigations Bureau Commander is responsible for delegating and managing organized crime and vice control activities.

C. Responsibilities

1. Coordinate investigations with the narcotics investigators concerning the sale and use of controllable drugs.
2. Investigation of illegal gambling.
3. Investigation of prostitution and pornography offenses.
4. Investigation of felony firearms violations.
5. Investigation of corruption, extortion, or bribery.
6. Develop and maintain intelligence information relating to organized crime and vice activities.
7. Act as a liaison to, and assist as is practical, other law enforcement agencies.
8. Maintain and care for investigative equipment used in the investigation of organized crime and vice offenses.
9. Provide necessary information to department members.

D. Procedures for Organized Crime and Vice Investigations

1. The first phase in initiating a case is the receipt of information. Information regarding organized crime, narcotics, and vice shall be forwarded to the Investigations Bureau Commander or their designee. (43.1.1 A)
2. After information has been obtained, the officer receiving the information will complete an initial report or memorandum. The officer should verify as much of the information as possible.
3. Once the report has been received by the Investigations Bureau Commander, a determination will be made if it should be assigned for investigation. If it involves drug activity it may be forwarded to the narcotics investigators. Copies of all reports will be maintained in the intelligence file. (43.1.1 B) If an investigation is warranted, the Chief of Police will be notified. (43.1.1 D)
4. Criteria for initiating an investigation:
 - a. Is the information obtained believed to be valid?
 - b. Type of criminal activity involved in the complaint.
 - c. The extent of danger posed to the investigator and the community.
 - d. What information currently exists about the activity or persons involved?

- e. What investigative techniques, resources, and personnel will be required.
 - f. What operational problems might exist or arise during the operation.
 - g. Is the activity confined to Joplin or does the activity extend to other jurisdictions.
5. If information is forwarded to this Department from an outside agency, the Bureau Supervisor and/or Commander will assign an investigator to conduct an investigation. The investigator will submit findings to the Bureau Supervisor in the form of a memorandum or police report depending on the results of the investigation. In the event this agency receives information that impacts another agency, the Bureau Commander or designee will make sure the information gets forwarded to that agency. (43.1.1 C)
 6. Organized crime and vice investigations will not be initiated without the prior approval of the Investigations Bureau Commander. (43.1.1 D)
- E. Organized Crime/Vice Records (43.1.2)

Separate "active" and "unconfirmed" case files for organized crime, narcotics, and vice complaints will be maintained. All records are confidential.

1. Active case files consist of those complaints that have been determined valid or require investigation.
 2. Unconfirmed case files consist of reports, which cannot be validated. The unconfirmed files shall be maintained for future corroboration of information. The files will remain in a secured file located in the Investigations Bureau Commander's office. If the information is later validated, the files will become active and assigned accordingly. Unconfirmed cases will be purged annually at the discretion of the Investigations Bureau Commander. (43.1.1 B)
 3. Active investigation reports will remain in the Investigations Bureau confidential file located in the Investigations Bureau Commander's or their designee's office, until the investigation is concluded. Once complete, it will be transferred to the records unit only upon approval of the Chief of Police.
 4. Unless otherwise approved by the Chief of Police, active confidential case information shall only be made available to members of Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau Commanders.
- F. Coordinating Information
1. Members of the department not assigned to Investigations Bureau may generate information pertaining to organized crime or vice activities. If it pertains to narcotics activities, the department member will complete a report or memo and a copy will be forwarded to the narcotics investigators. If the information involves other organized crime or vice activities, the Bureau Commander shall brief the Chief of Police on available information.
 2. If an organized crime or vice investigation is initiated, a progress report shall be submitted to the Chief of Police at least weekly. (43.1.1 D)
 3. A report or memorandum may be completed as deemed appropriate by patrol officers on subjects suspected of involvement in organized crime or vice activity.

4. The Investigations Bureau Commander shall exchange intelligence information related to organized crime or vice activities with the Bureau Commanders regarding active or pending investigations.
5. The Investigations Bureau supervisors will inform patrol supervisors of any active or pending organized crime or vice operation that may require involvement by uniformed officers, or of circumstances that pose an immediate danger to the community.
6. The on-duty shift supervisor shall be notified of the type of location, number of officers working in an undercover capacity, and arrests to be made, and the completion of the operation.
7. The Investigations Bureau supervisors shall insure that patrol officers are periodically informed of the identity of persons known or believed to be involved in organized crime or vice and the current trends of this type of activity being conducted in the area.

IV. COMPLIANCE

Violations of this policy, or portions thereof, may result in disciplinary action as described in the City of Joplin's Personnel Rules, or the Joplin Police Department's Rules and Regulations and General Orders. Members of the Joplin Police Department, while assigned to or assisting other agencies, shall comply with this policy.

V. APPLICATION

This document constitutes department policy, is for internal use only, and does not enlarge an employee's civil or criminal liability in any way. It shall not be construed as the creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in any evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims insofar as the employee's legal duty as imposed by law. Violations of this policy, if proven, can only inform the basis of a complaint by this department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.