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LAURENS COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

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SOP# I-060  
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SUBJECT: ORGANIZED CRIME AND VICE CONTROL

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INDEX AS: ORGANIZED CRIME AND VICE CONTROL

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EFFECTIVE DATE: 2/15/2006 REVISED DATE:  
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I. POLICY:

The Laurens County Law Enforcement Center, as a law enforcement unit, is committed to the suppression of organized crime and vice activities within its jurisdictional limits. It is the responsibility of every officer to aid in the suppression, and support enforcement of laws against organized crime and vice activities.

II. ORGANIZED CRIME AND VICE CONTROL FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY:

- A. The function of the Laurens County Law Enforcement Center shall consist of identifying, investigating and filing charges against participants in organized crime and vice activities. To collect data and maintain intelligence files on criminals involved in organized crime and vice activities. To maintain close liaison and exchange information with other Agencies involved in similar activities for the successful prosecution of violators of all federal, state and local statutes.
- B. This Department shall have the responsibility of investigating and gathering intelligence on organized crime and vice activities. These activities include, but are not limited to:
  - 1. Illegal use and sale of controlled substances and dangerous drugs.
- C. The Captain Investigator shall have the responsibility for coordinating and over-seeing all organized crime and vice investigations.

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III. ORGANIZED CRIME AND VICE CONTROL COMPONENTS:

The Laurens County Law Enforcement Center will work in conjunction with all other Agencies in dealing with all narcotics violations.

1. Illegal possession;
2. Use and sale of controlled substances and dangerous drugs.
3. Illegal sale of firearms.

IV. SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS:

- A. All organized stakeouts and surveillance must be approved by the Captain of Investigations.
- B. Organized stakeouts and surveillance may only be conducted when reliable information pertaining to a possible commission or a crime, or when collected information indicates that a crime may possibly be committed at a specific location.
- C. Surveillance shall be conducted in a manner so as not to endanger lives or property and so as not to infringe upon a subjects right to privacy.
- D. General Procedures-
  1. Analyze the crime in order to establish any patterns and/or M.O. of the crime to allow for an effective operation.
  2. Develop information and description of offender (s) including habits, associates, vehicles or other.
  3. All officers involved in stakeouts or surveillance should be familiar with neighborhood and/or target area.
  4. Unit Supervisor or Officer in Charge will instruct other Officers when an arrest is to be made and the procedures taken for observation techniques.
  5. All expenses must be approved by the Sheriff and/or Major.

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6. Necessary arrangements for communications during surveillance should be made in conjunction with the Central Communications Center.
7. Arrangements should be made for proper personnel, vehicle, and equipment usage.

E. Electronic Surveillance-

1. All electronic surveillance must meet the guidelines of both federal and state statues.
2. All matters pertaining to electronic surveillance must be approved by the Captain of Investigations.
3. All proper court orders must be obtained, filed and/or delivered prior to the placement of intercept devices upon any communications equipment.
4. Intercept equipment shall be connected and operated only by sworn officers or their designated officers. Unauthorized Officers shall not be permitted access to any area utilized by Officers monitoring intercept devices.
5. An intercept log of activity shall be maintained specifying time, date, call number and a synopsis of each call.
6. Intercept equipment shall be monitored at all times during operation.
7. All persons entering the monitoring location shall sign "in" and "out" on a posted log.
8. All tape recordings obtained during electronic surveillance shall be logged properly as evidence, placed in a secure area and transcribed when necessary.
9. Upon termination of the electronic surveillance the intercept equipment shall be immediately disconnected at intercept location and telephone terminal or junction box.
10. Return of electronic surveillance warrant and recordings shall be made within specified time limits to the issuing court/judge. The chain of custody log shall be maintained at all times.

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VI. SEARCH WARRANT RAID PROCEDURES:

- A. All raids and execution of search warrants must be coordinated and authorized by the Captain of Investigations.
- B. Although the gathering of evidence and arrest of any violators is the primary function of such action, safety is the primary concern. Proper preparation will minimize the risk taken by each officer involved.
- C. The Case Officer assigned, with supervisor assistance, will be responsible and the Officer in Charge during the execution of the raid or serving of the search warrant.
- D. Proper and adequate investigation is a must for ensuring a sound and reasonable basis for a raid/search warrant execution. The Officer in Charge is responsible for ensuring that reasonable steps are taken to reduce risk of injury to subjects and officers associated with the raid. Areas of consideration during preparation are:
  - 1. TIME: Establish the most desirable time for execution.
  - 2. Ensure sufficient personnel is available to execute with safety and minimum risk.
  - 3. Determine necessary equipment needs as to type and quantity.
  - 4. Determine the need and types of weapons necessary.
  - 5. Determine the number of vehicles necessary for transportation prior to and after raid execution.
  - 6. Designate the point where detail may safely form and be briefed.
  - 7. The operation plan should be as simple and practical as possible.
- E. A conference, immediately prior to a raid or execution of search warrant, should be held with all participating personnel. During conference the officer in charge should :
  - 1. Identify and/or describe the person to be arrested. Furnish photographs, if available.

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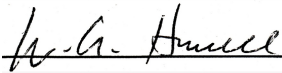
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2. Relate the particulars of the criminal activity involved.
  3. Identify the location to be raided and/or searched through photographs, maps, diagrams and/or other manners available.
  4. Describe the overall plan of execution.
  5. Establish a chain of command and delegate authority making assignments for areas of responsibilities.
  6. Emphasize that members are not to leave assigned areas without authorization.
  7. Define the means of communications among personnel involved in the detail.
- F. The safety of the general public, the safety of members of the raiding party and rights of the subjects should always be areas of concern in preparation of a search or raid operation.
- G. The Officer in Charge should actively participate in the search or raid.
- H. Proper procedures of arrest of suspects will be followed according to established policies and law of arrest.
- I. All policies and procedures of this Department will be adhered to in the use of Force.
- J. Request for medical assistance will be provided.

  
W. A. HARRELL  
SHERIFF

2/15/2006  
EFFECTIVE DATE: