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SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PLANS TO CIVIL DISTURBANCES OR MAJOR INCIDENTS

1. POLICY

- A. All persons in the United States have the right to march, demonstrate, protest, or undertake similar activities protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Freedom of speech, association, assembly, and the right to petition the government are subject only to reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of their expression. The content of the speech or message does not provide the basis for imposing limitations on these rights. These include activities such as the use of vigils, distribution of literature, displaying banners and signs, street theatre, and other forms of expression, as long as they are conducted legally. Additionally, the right of the press to cover these incidents shall not be abridged or curtailed.

- B. The Philadelphia Police Department will strive to effectively manage crowds during demonstrations or civil disturbances to prevent loss of life, injury, or property damage and minimize disruption to persons (and communities) who are uninvolved. Officers encountering such incidents shall adhere to this policy to protect life, property, and the exercise of First Amendment rights.

- C. All marches, demonstrations, protests or similar activities will be handled in accordance with [Directive 8.3, “Demonstrations, Labor Disputes and Civil Disturbances.”](#)

REDACTED – LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

2. DEFINITIONS

- A. Civil Disturbance: A gathering that constitutes a breach of the peace or any assembly of persons where there is a threat of collective violence, destruction of property, or other unlawful acts. Civil disturbances may also be referred to as a riot or unlawful assembly.

REDACTED – LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

3. GENERAL PROCEDURES: RAPID RESPONSE TEAMS (RRTs)

REDACTED LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

4. SCENARIOS FOR RRT DEPLOYMENT

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**5. GENERAL PROCEDURES: EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS (ERTs)
PATROL**

REDACTED – LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

6. SCENARIOS FOR ERT DEPLOYMENT

REDACTED – LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

7. GENERAL PROCEDURES: EMERGENCY RESPONSE GROUPS (ERGs)

REDACTED – LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

