

# **COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

**Subject: DECOY OPERATIONS**

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## **I. Purpose**

To establish procedures for conducting decoy operations used during the investigation of organized crime and vice activities.

## **II. Responsibility**

The Criminal Investigative Division is responsible for conducting vice and organized crime decoy operations.

## **III. Procedure**

A. Decoy operations will be employed in areas affected by particular crimes such as robbery, assault, or theft. It is important, prior to any decoy operation, to first identify the victims and their characteristics. Such things to consider include:

1. Personal traits, (sex, age, race).
2. Personal habits, (living alone, walking, etc.).
3. Area targeted by crime.
4. Type of crime.

B. In engaging a decoy operation, officers will be disguised to resemble victims and may utilize personal property of victims if permission granted. This includes use of vehicles, residences or any other property that will effectively lure a potential criminal act.

C. Prior to the deployment of any decoy operation, the CID Captain will determine the proper number of back-up personnel needed for the operation. Pre-deployment planning will include:

1. Provision of communications between decoy officers and back-up officers.
2. Identification of decoy officers and their victim profile.

3. Notification of the on duty patrol supervisor of the operation.
- D. The primary purpose of the backup officers is to observe the area for possible suspects and to notify the decoy of the approach of suspects or of any other dangerous activity. Decoy officers shall promptly notify their backup officers of the approach of possible suspects or of the commission of any crime. If possible, backup officers should make the arrest so as to prevent disclosure of the decoy's identity. Although some situations may require some action by the decoy, it is preferred that the decoy officer wait until the arrival of backup officers before revealing his/ her identity to a suspect.
  - E. In all decoy operations, the CID Captain shall provide sufficient manpower to fully supervise the operation and provide safety to officers involved in the operation.
  - F. The CID Captain will maintain close contact with the District Attorney's Office during any decoy operation to ensure complete compliance with legal standards.

***This SOP supersedes any SOP previously issued.***

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

*Stacey L. Cotton*  
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Chief of Police