



# GENERAL ORDER

DATE OF ISSUE

5 February 1970

EFFECTIVE DATE

6 February 1970

NO.

70-1

SUBJECT

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

DISTRI-  
BUTION

C

AMENDS

REFERENCE

RESCINDS

General Order 65-4

**RESCINDED**  
by G.O. 75-19

## I. PURPOSE

This order:

- A. continues in effect the exempt position of District Commander.
- B. defines the authority, responsibilities, and duties of district commanders.

## II. AUTHORITY

District commanders:

- A. will exercise, within their districts, the authority of the Chief of the Patrol Division with the limitation that all their acts and decisions are subject to review by deputy chiefs of the Patrol Division.
- B. are directly responsible to the Chief of the Patrol Division.

## III. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The district commander will:


- A. support the philosophy that the community is entitled to the highest level of police service the Department can provide and will lead, direct, and command the patrol force in his district to that end.
- B. recognize that the patrol officer is the basic enforcement unit of the Department and will hold such officers responsible for crime, vice, and traffic conditions within their assigned beats.
- C. administer his district so that the greatest possible utilization of personnel and equipment is directed toward the basic police functions of aggressive preventive patrol and prompt and efficient response to calls for police service. He will recognize that his is an operations command, and his major effort will be directed toward keeping police officers engaged in aggressive preventive patrol for the purposes of prevention of crime and apprehension of offenders.
- D. administer his district so that it forms a key component in an effective law enforcement machine. He will recognize that the specialized units of the Department are established to assist him in his task, and he will call upon them for any assistance he requires. He will also ensure that members of his command cooperate in every way possible with personnel of specialized units who are working in his district, whether at his request or on their own initiative.
- E. recognize that supervision, through the chain of command, is the means by which he will achieve the optimum in effective operations.
- F. implement, at the district level, the policies and procedures adopted by the Chicago Police Department.

## IV. SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities of the district commander will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Ensuring that Department policies and procedures, as described in Department, Bureau of Field Services, and Patrol Division directives, are being complied with by all members of his command.
- B. Inspecting his district on a continuing basis to ensure that operations are effective and efficient. He will, at all times, be informed of police problems in his district and will constantly seek solutions to these problems.
- C. Requiring prompt response to calls for police service, effective and efficient performance, and immediate return to available status.
- D. Requiring proper use, care, and maintenance of vehicles, other equipment, and facilities.

- E. Requiring clean and neat appearance of personnel, vehicles, other equipment, and quarters.
- F. Bearing direct responsibility for crime and traffic conditions in his district.
- G. Bearing direct responsibility for gambling, prostitution, narcotics, and liquor law violations in his district.
- H. Utilizing the entire resources of the Department, to the extent that they are available (Vice Control Division, Youth Division, Task Force, Detective Division, Internal Inspections Division, etc.), to make his district operations as efficient as possible.
- I. Utilizing available manpower to fill assignments according to the schedule of priorities provided by the Chief of the Patrol Division.
- J. Ensuring that roll call periods are utilized to the maximum for training and inspecting personnel and acquainting personnel with local problems, district accomplishments or failures, and with Department policies as described in appropriate orders.
- K. Reviewing performance of district personnel, as reflected in reports of preliminary investigations and arrests, and promptly correcting any deficiencies noted.
- L. Actively and positively participating with community groups in programs designed for the betterment of the Department and the community. He will be alert to community reactions to police operations and will keep the Chief of the Patrol Division informed of such reactions.
- M. Cooperating with the press and other news media in compliance with Department policy.
- N. Recognizing talents in subordinates and utilizing these talents effectively.
- O. Promptly recognizing and commending outstanding acts performed by members of his command and being equally prompt to recognize and correct instances of misconduct or inattention to duty.
- P. Reporting to the Chief of the Patrol Division on training needs and making recommendations for improvement in Department procedures.
- Q. Being responsible for such other duties and requirements as are provided in the Rules and Regulations of the Department and directives received from higher authority.

  
Superintendent of Police