

# Louisville Metro Police Department

Standard Operating Procedures	SOP Number: 12.29
	Effective Date: 06/05/22 Revised Date: 12/19/22
	Accreditation Standards: KACP: 17.4, 19.2
Chapter: Special Response	
Subject: Dispersal Orders	

## 12.29 DISPERSAL ORDERS

### 12.29.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance regarding the issuing of dispersal orders during civil disturbance and crowd management situations (also refer to SOP 12.6).

### 12.29.2 DEFINITIONS

**Civil Disturbance:** An unlawful assembly that constitutes a breach of the peace or any assembly of persons where there is imminent danger of collective violence, destruction of property, or other unlawful acts (refer to Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 525.050) (refer to SOP 12.6).

### 12.29.3 DISPERSAL ORDER FORMAT

The following dispersal order format is included for reference and is to be used by the Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) when preparing to disperse crowds and prior to effecting any arrests related to unlawful mass demonstrations (i.e. civil disturbances/disorderly crowds) (refer to SOP 12.6).

Dispersal order warnings should be given with a bullhorn, a public address (PA) system, or Long-Range Acoustic Device (LRAD), preferably by the Incident Commander (IC), or his/her designee, in a loud and clear manner (KACP 17.4). When feasible, an officer who is staged at a safe vantage point away from the sound amplification device should record the warning on his/her Body-Worn Camera (BWC) and confirm to the officer who is giving the dispersal orders that they were audible and clear. A route of egress must be provided when making the announcement(s) with as much specificity as possible.

The official dispersal order to be utilized is as follows:

- I am (rank/name), a sworn police officer for the Louisville Metro Police Department.
- I hereby declare this activity to be unlawful and command all of those who are assembled here to immediately leave.
- If you do not do so, you may be arrested or subject to other police action.
- If you remain in the area, regardless of your purpose, you will be in violation of Kentucky law.
- The following routes of dispersal are available (describe available direction for exit). You have \_\_\_\_\_ minutes to leave. If you refuse to move, you will be arrested.
- This is your (first/second) warning.
- (ADD TO LAST WARNING ONLY) This is your final warning.

In order to document all dispersal orders, the officer will notify MetroSafe after each warning is given and provide times, locations, the officer's code number, and direction of egress (KACP 19.2I).

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## 12.29.4 DISPERSAL ORDER **WARNING NOTIFICATION** PROCEDURE (KACP 19.2I)

### First warning:

- Provide MetroSafe with the:
  - Time the dispersal order was given.
  - Location.
  - Officer's code number.
  - Direction of egress provided.
  - **Confirmation of first warning.**
- Wait five (5) minutes before reading the second warning.

### Second Warning:

- Provide MetroSafe with the:
  - Time the dispersal order was given.
  - Location.
  - Officer's code number.
  - Direction of egress provided.
  - **Confirmation of second warning.**
- Wait five (5) minutes before reading the third warning.

### Third Warning:

- Provide MetroSafe with the:
  - Time the dispersal order was given.
  - Location.
  - Officer's code number.
  - Direction of egress provided.
  - **Confirmation of third/final warning.**
- Commence making arrests.

When feasible, the five (5)-minute interval between warnings will be utilized. However, based on the severity of the crowd's behavior, the five (5)-minute interval between warnings may be reduced to a one (1)-minute interval, if necessary. More than three (3) warnings may be given or time may be extended when the crowd has displayed clear attempts to comply with orders.

## 12.29.5 IMMEDIATE ENFORCEMENT/ACTION

If, at any point, the IC determines or receives information that grave danger or a risk of serious physical injury to officers or civilians exists, or destruction of property is imminent, the IC must notify MetroSafe of this

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## 12.29.5 IMMEDIATE ENFORCEMENT/ACTION (CONTINUED)

development and commence with necessary immediate enforcement/action(s) to mitigate the danger(s) (KACP 17.4, 19.2).