



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
SPECIAL SERVICES BUREAU ORDERS

SOP 6-6

Effective: 08/25/16 Review Due: 08/25/17 Replaces: 08/30/12

**6-6 METROPOLITAN COURT PROTECTION UNIT**

**6-6-1 Purpose**

This policy describes the duties and functions of the Metropolitan Court Protection Unit.

**6-6-2 Policy**

The policy of the Metropolitan Protection Unit is to provide protection to the Judges, employees, and participants of the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Courthouse judicial system against any active or potential security threat.



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**6-6-3 Administration**

- A. The Metropolitan Court Protection Specialist Unit consists of seven (7) full-time state certified sworn law enforcement security officers and are supervised by an APD Sergeant.
- B. Tour of Duty
  - 1. The hours of operation will be determined by the unit lieutenant to best meet the needs of the courthouse.
  - 2. The unit also provides law enforcement coverage during specified times on weekends when court is in session and is considered either overtime, comp time or can be utilized as adjusted regular work time. The functions and responsibilities of law enforcement personnel during the weekend hours remains the same as that of the regular work week.
  - 3. There are also occasions when officers will work off-site during specialty court or any other official court assignments.
- C. The Metropolitan Protection Unit will provide the following law enforcement duties but are not limited to:
  - 1. Arrest, custodial placement or remand of accused, convicted persons within the Metropolitan Courthouse pursuant to the Metropolitan Court's Orders, directives or other valid orders or procedures. Also effect, process, and follow orders of other Courts possessing jurisdiction over such persons. Court "remands" are not considered arrests. Metropolitan officers act only as escorts to individuals "remanded" into custody by the court judiciary.
  - 2. Provision of security and peacekeeping services at the Metropolitan Courthouse and, upon occurrence of certain urgent circumstances, at its nearby parking lot.
  - 3. Roving and monitoring the Metropolitan Courthouse's Judicial Floors at least once every hour as staffing allows.
  - 4. Performance of additional or special duties, as assigned by the Sergeant, or other APD Metropolitan Court supervisor, or in exigent or emergency situations (such as any assault, altercation, apparent battery or any present, or apparent emergency that could affect the health or safety of one, or more persons in Metro Court) by both APD and Metropolitan Court Chief Judge or Court Administrator.
  - 5. At times, officers may find it necessary to transport a prisoner to a detention facility or hospital for treatment. The officer may have to guard the prisoner during their hospital stay prior to transporting the prisoner to a detention facility.



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6. The APD Sergeant or, in his/her absence, appointed officer in charge will assume leadership in any tactical response to critical incidents that involves an active or potential threat to the security and safety of Judges, employees and participants of Metropolitan Courthouse.



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**6-6-4 Operations**

The Metropolitan Court Protection Unit operates in collaboration with Metropolitan Court personnel to include, facilities, equipment and plans/procedures as outlined in the Intergovernmental Agreement among City of Albuquerque, Albuquerque Police Department and Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court.



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**6-6-5 Security Procedures**

A. Identification of MPU and Law Enforcement Officers Carrying Firearms

1. Metropolitan Protection Unit officers are required to carry their department issued firearm when displaying the proper Metropolitan Court Identification/Access Card.
2. It is expected that a law enforcement response team may be needed to enter the Metropolitan Courthouse to augment or respond to a specific threat which requires special training or expertise. These personnel will be identified and provided with the proper Metropolitan Court Identification/Access Card for these types or response.

B. Individuals required to be restrained in the Metropolitan Courthouse

1. Individuals appearing in restraints while in court and are in the custody of Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) personnel are the sole responsibility of MDC.
2. Individuals, not in custody upon entering the court house, but ordered by the court to be detained and in need of restraints are the responsibility of Metropolitan Court Protection Unit officers. Officers will adhere to current APD Standard Operating Procedures when utilizing restraining devices.



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**6-6-6 Court Holding Facility**

- A. The operations of the Metropolitan Court Holding Facility are the responsibility of Metropolitan Court and the Metropolitan Detention Center.
- B. Prior to relinquishing custody of a court ordered detainee to the custody of Metropolitan Detention Center Staff, officers will adhere to current APD Standard Operating Procedures in the searching, detaining and in the documenting of that detainee's personal property.
- C. Once the detainee is released to the custody of Metropolitan Detention Center staff the securing of the detainee's property becomes the responsibility of MDC.