

STETSON UNIVERSITY

Public Safety

Chapter 25

Civil Protest

Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to establish guidelines that will be followed during Civil Protest situations.

Discussion

The Department of Public Safety is required to provide the University with a certain level of service regardless of conditions or other emergencies. It is necessary to plan an appropriate response in order to ensure that certain levels of service are maintained. Administrative and operational issues must be addressed in advance to ensure that services can be delivered in an efficient manner.

Policy

It shall be the policy of the Department of Public Safety, in cooperation with university officials, that during civil protest, all efforts would be made to ensure the safety of the university campus community and to enable the required day-to-day operations of the university. Public Safety shall review and update all policies and procedures related to this chapter on an annual basis to achieve maximum efficiency and operability.

Procedure

25.1 Civil Protest

A civil protest on campus will usually take the form of an organized demonstration or display of disagreement with an idea or course of action. It should be noted that in many cases campus protests such as marches, meetings, picketing and rallies will be peaceful and non-obstructive. A protest should not be disrupted unless exigent circumstances exist such as a safety or security concern for members of our campus community or property. Some examples are listed below.

- Obstructing access to offices, buildings, or other university facility
- Threat of physical harm to persons or damage to university facilities
- Willful demonstrations within the interior of any university building or structure, except as specifically authorized and subject to reasonable conditions imposed to protect the rights and safety of other persons and to prevent damage to property.

- Unauthorized entry into or occupation of any university room, building, or area of the campus, including such entry or occupation at any unauthorized time, or any unauthorized or improper use of any university property, equipment, or facility building or structure, except as specifically authorized and subject to reasonable conditions imposed to protect the rights and safety of other persons and to prevent damage to property.

Note: Time permitting, any decision regarding the ability to exercise free speech on the university campus should only be interrupted if conditions become dangerous or the University Policy Team determines the event must be concluded. If the group and/or individuals coordinating the protest are known, attempts to contact and meet prior to the event are recommended. During this meeting, information shall be discussed to ensure protestors have minimal impact on the daily operations of the University. If the meeting is not feasible all social media postings obtained prior to the event will be forwarded to the Director of Public Safety for review.

Immediate Action and Decision Maker(s)

If any of the above conditions exist, the Department of Public Safety should be notified and will be responsible for contacting and informing the Vice President of Campus Life and Student Success. In addition, the Campus on call staff will be notified of the event and will assist with understanding and managing the demonstration based on their personal knowledge of campus issues. Depending on the nature of the protest, the appropriate procedures listed below will be followed:

Peaceful, Non-Obstructive Protest

- Peaceful protests should not be interrupted. Protestors should not be obstructed or provoked and efforts should be made to conduct university business as normally as possible.
- If the protest continues past business hours and protestors refuse to leave, the Vice President of Campus Life and Student Success and the Director of Public Safety will arrange to monitor the situation during non-business hours, unless a determination is made to treat the refusal to disperse as a violation of university policy and a disruptive protest.

Non-Violent, Disruptive Protest

If a protest blocks access to university facilities or interferes with the operation of the University:

- The Vice President of Campus Life and Student Success or their designee will be notified of the situation. A decision will then be made as to allow the event to continue or have it dispersed.
- If it is determined the event is not allowed, the Vice President of Campus Life and Student Success will turn over the control to the Director of Public Safety to disperse the protestors in a reasonable manner.

In the event, that a protest blocks access to university facilities or interferes with the operation of the University:

The Vice President for Campus Life and Student Success or their designee will go to the area and ask the protestors to leave or to discontinue the disruptive activities. If the protestors persist in disruptive activity, the following statement will be read first by a selected University administrator as circumstances permit:

“I am _____, speaking on behalf of Stetson University. The University’s Code of conduct prohibit the following: [read one or all the potential violations depending on the nature of the disruption]

- 1. Disruption or obstruction of University or authorized non-university activities on or off campus.***
- 2. Inciting others to participate in the disruption of University activities.***
- 3. Demonstrations inside University buildings except as specifically authorized.***

Individuals present violating these rules may be subject to disciplinary action, up to expulsion from the University and may also be subject to arrest for criminal trespass, pursuant to Florida Statute 810

If the protestors persist in disruptive behavior after the above administrative message is read, the following statement shall be read as circumstances permit:

“The University has requested that law enforcement clear this area. The University’s administration will now withdraw from this area to permit law enforcement to do so.”

To be read by public safety official:

“I am _____, of the Department of Public Safety. I am asking you to leave these premises and disperse. If you do not leave now, you will be in violation of Florida Statute 810, Criminal Trespass and be subject to arrest.”

Violent, Disruptive Protests

If a violent protest in which injury to persons or property occurs or appears imminent, the following will occur:

During Business Hours

- The Director of Stetson Public Safety will be notified immediately and will coordinate mutual aid response with the Deland Police Department. The Director of Public Safety will contact the Vice President for Campus Life and Student Success.
- Public Safety and mutual aid resources will attempt to stabilize the situation with appropriate enforcement action.
- The University President, in consultation with the Vice President of Campus Life and Student Success and the Director of Public Safety, will determine any further actions.

After Business Hours

- The Director of Public Safety will be notified immediately of the disturbance and take the appropriate steps to evaluate the situation requesting mutual aid response if needed.
- The Director of Public Safety, will inform the Vice President for Campus Life and Student Success who will inform the University President.

NOTE: If possible, an attempt will be made to communicate with the protestors to convince them to stop engaging in violent activities in order to avoid further escalation.

Subsequent Procedures/Information

Every effort will be made to identify any individuals involved who are engaged in the violation of university policy and/or state statute. If available, video should be taken of the event to document those in attendance as well as any violations observed, or damage created because of their actions. If video is not available, photographs will be acquired during the event for documentation.

25.1.1 The Director of Public Safety shall be responsible for planning the response to any Civil Protest. Any such plans will be consistent with the existing Emergency Plan for Stetson University.

25.1.2 The Department of Public Safety will follow the adopted Emergency Plan as listed below:

- a. Minor incident (local) - A limited local event that does not affect the overall functional capability of the campus. Planning and response shall be carried out through normal daily protocols involving the Department of Public Safety and local jurisdictional emergency response services (law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical services) in concert with the chair of the EMT.
- b. Moderate or greater incident - An intermediate size event with impact to the campus operational structure sufficient to require all or part of the CEMP activation, Policy Team, EMT and/or EOC activation if warranted.
- c. Severe incident or life safety danger incident - An emergency or disastrous event that significantly threatens to disrupt the operations of the campus. The CEMP, Policy Team, EMT, and EOC are activated.

25.1.3 In cases involving "civil protest" type occurrences on the Stetson campus, the Department of Public Safety shall act as a first responder. The Director shall be in contact with the Vice President of Campus Life and Student Success in order to properly assess the situation and plan an appropriate response. Dependent upon the magnitude and/or severity of the situation, the following guidelines will be adhered to:

- All emergency communications will be handled on the Public Safety channel of the radio system.
- Depending on the location of the protest, a site map/building floor plan will be obtained and delivered to the command post.
- A field command post will be established. The location shall be at the discretion of the Director of Public Safety based upon the nature and magnitude of the disturbance.
- The chain of command shall remain the same as during normal operations.
- Marketing and Communications will coordinate community and media relations activities with Public Safety, the EMT and appropriate civic and law enforcement authorities.
- Liaison with local fire and law enforcement shall be the responsibility of the Director of Public Safety.
- Traffic control, if needed, shall be coordinated with local law enforcement.

- All Public Safety transportation needs will be met with existing divisional vehicles.
- If the incident is of such magnitude that specialized "riot" equipment is required, local Law Enforcement resources, including manpower, will be utilized to address the disturbance.
- At the conclusion of the "event," an investigation will be conducted to determine if there were any causes of aggravating or mitigating circumstances.
- An after-action report will be filed with the Vice President of Campus Life and Student Success. This report will detail the incident, actions taken, and recommendations for dealing with any similar future incidents more effectively.

DIRECTIVES: 25

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 30, 2018

APPROVED:

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Director of Public Safety