



# PATROL GUIDE

Section: Command Operations		Procedure No: 212-49
<b>INCIDENTS INVOLVING MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES</b>		
DATE EFFECTIVE: 02/09/22	LAST REVISION: I.O. 12	PAGE: 1 of 3

**PURPOSE** To cooperate with media representatives by not interfering or allowing others to interfere with media personnel acting in their news gathering capacity.

**NOTE** *A member of the press with proper credentials may not be excluded from an area where the general public has access.*

**PROCEDURE** Whenever a member of the service (uniformed or civilian) becomes involved in an incident or confrontation with media personnel or media personnel are assaulted, harassed or their vehicles/equipment are vandalized/damaged at the scene of news events:

**UNIFORMED MEMBER OF THE SERVICE**

1. Determine if any threat to safety of media representatives exists and take appropriate action.
2. Request response of a supervisory officer.
3. Take enforcement action, as necessary.
  - a. Comply with P.G. 208-03, "Arrests – General Processing," as appropriate.

**SUPERVISORY MEMBER**

4. Cooperate with and assist media representatives and provide safe access to the scene, if possible.
5. Conduct immediate investigation if member of the media is assaulted, harassed or their vehicle/equipment is vandalized/damaged.
6. Attempt to obtain third party witnesses if confrontation with members of the service or others.
7. Request all parties, including witnesses, if possible, to report to precinct of occurrence for further investigation, when necessary.
8. Notify the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Public Information without delay.

**NOTE** *The Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Public Information, is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for consultation and/or response to incidents involving the media. Members of the service are required to immediately notify the Deputy Commissioner, Public Information of any incident involving the media, regardless of the outcome of that incident.*

**DESK OFFICER**

9. Notify:
  - a. Commanding officer/duty captain
  - b. Lieutenant platoon commander
  - c. Operations Unit.

**LIEUTENANT PLATOON COMMANDER**

10. Respond to command, if in the field, and under the supervision of the commanding officer/duty captain, conduct investigation of incident.

**NOTE** *The commanding officer/duty captain will perform the duties of the lieutenant platoon commander, if the platoon commander is unavailable.*

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**LIEUTENANT  
PLATOON  
COMMANDER  
(continued)**

11. Prepare report on **Typed Letterhead** containing details of incident and results of investigation and forward to:
  - a. Chief of Patrol/bureau chief concerned
  - b. Borough commander concerned
  - c. Commanding Officer, Public Information Division
  - d. Command file.

**NOTE**

*The Office of Deputy Commissioner - Public Information will maintain a central repository of all reports received of incidents involving news media representatives.*

12. Forward supplementary report, if necessary.

**COMMANDING  
OFFICER/  
DUTY  
CAPTAIN**

13. Respond to command and supervise the investigation and preparation of the report by the lieutenant platoon commander.

**ADDITIONAL  
DATA**

*The Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME) is available to confirm the validity of press credentials. Members of the service needing to verify press credentials may contact the Operations Unit for the MOME phone number and any other relevant contact information.*

*Members of the service will not interfere with the video taping or the photographing of incidents in public places. Intentional interference such as blocking or obstructing cameras or harassing the photographer constitutes censorship. Working Press Cards clearly state the bearer "is entitled to cross police and fire lines." This right will be honored and access will not be denied. However, this does not include access to interior crime scenes or areas frozen for security reasons.*

*Members of the service will no longer be permitted to seize a press credential under any circumstances, except when seized in the normal course of an arrest and held for safekeeping like other types of non-evidentiary, non-investigatory personal property.*

*In order to cooperate more fully with members of the news media and provide them with access to cover newsworthy events, the following guidelines will be adhered to unless safety interests or proper performance of police duties require otherwise:*

- a. *To the extent it is feasible to do so, the media's access to demonstrations on private property will not be impeded by the Department.*
- b. *The media will be given access as close to the activity as possible, with a clear line of sight and within hearing range of the incident.*
- c. *When incidents spill over or occur on private property, members of the media will not be arrested for criminal trespass, unless an owner or representative expressly indicates that the press is not to be permitted to enter or remain on the property.*
- d. *If the ranking officer at the incident determines that press access must be restricted in certain circumstances (i.e., in order for the Department to carry out its law enforcement functions), he retains the discretion to do so.*

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**RELATED PROCEDURES**      *Information Concerning Official Business of Department (P.G. 212-76)*  
*Release of Information to News Media (P.G. 212-77)*

**FORMS AND REPORTS**      *Typed Letterhead*



**NYCPD**