

TRAINING BULLETIN

A PUBLICATION OF THE SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

DAVID NISLEIT
CHIEF OF POLICE

22-03R

JULY 27, 2022

HQ PRISONER TRANSPORT UNIT PROCEDURES

I. PURPOSE

The Training Bulletin establishes guidelines for the operation of the Prisoner Transport Unit. The Prisoner Transport Unit's primary goal is the safe transportation of prisoners from Police Headquarters (Sally Port) to San Diego County Sheriff's Operated Detention Facilities.

II. SCOPE

This applies to all sworn members of the Department who are operating the Prisoner Transport Unit.

III. PROCEDURES

Effective July 22, 2022, the San Diego Police Department is reinstating a Prisoner Transport Unit (PTU).

The Prisoner Transport Unit will operate out of the Watch Commander's Office and report directly to the on-duty Watch Commander.

- A. Candidates accepted by PTU:
 - 1. Male and female prisoners with no medical complaints
 - 2. Warrant arrests with no use-of-force
- B. Candidates **NOT** accepted by PTU:
 - 1. Prisoners with serious use-of-force (unless medically cleared by a licensed physician)

2. Prisoners with major disability (e.g., wheelchair-bound)
 3. Prisoners with medical history (e.g., heart attack, major surgery, etc.)
 4. Prisoners with high potential for rejection (e.g., 5150, drug usage, etc.)
 5. Prisoners from outside agencies
 6. Juveniles
- C. The safe and orderly transfer of prisoners from the original arresting officer to PTU will occur in the HQ Sallyport. The arresting officer(s) must have a signed declaration and all prisoner property must be inventoried and bagged for jail admittance; all valuables (money and jewelry) must be accounted for and sealed in a clear plastic bag. PTU officers shall make sure all prisoners meet the above criteria before accepting and placing an arrestee in the transport van. Officers shall follow the BWC procedure as outlined in DP 1.49 during all transports.
- D. The transport van shall be searched by PTU officers for weapons, dangerous objects, and contraband at the beginning of each shift and before and after transporting prisoners.
- E. PTU Officers will not routinely handle other police incidents while transporting prisoners unless the incident is of such magnitude that immediate action is required to prevent the loss of life or substantial property damage.
- F. Only sworn San Diego Police personnel who are van trained and certified are permitted to drive the prisoner transport van. Officers assigned to PTU should familiarize themselves with the van upon assignment.
- G. PTU Officers will log-on as PTU9. PTU officers shall make separate journal entries for each transport to include the prisoner's name, DOB, reason for the arrest, the event number associated with the arrest, money taken to the detention facility with the arrestee, and the arresting officer's name and ID.
1. For each individual arrestee, the PTU officers will log a call type as "Routine" in their Officer's Daily Journal (ODJ).
- H. One event number shall be created, by Communications or the PTU, to document all transports.

REVISED

1. This event number will be cross-referenced with each individual's arrest event number.
 2. Once the last arrestee is released from PTU custody and the PTU officers start a new transport, a new event number shall be created.
- I. PTU officers shall follow all other applicable Department Policies and Procedures while assigned PTU duties, which includes DP 6.01 – Handcuffing, Restraining, Searching, and Transporting Procedures.

IV. PRISONER SECURITY

- A. All subjects to be transported shall be searched by PTU officers, before taking custody of the prisoner, each time they come into the transporting unit's custody.
- B. All prisoners shall be secured, by PTU officers, with handcuffs/waist chains. **All restraints shall be applied in accordance with Department Procedure 6.01.**
- C. PTU officers shall ensure seat belts are securely fastened on all prisoners during transport.
- D. During all transports, male and female prisoners will be transported separately.
- E. If a prisoner becomes ill during transport custody, paramedics shall be requested. If the prisoner is to be transported by a medical transport unit, an officer shall escort the prisoner in the ambulance.
- F. If a collision involving the transport unit occurs, Communications will be advised for immediate police response. Notify Communications if there are any injuries and follow existing department procedures.
- G. The PTU officers have the discretion to reject any prisoner for transport if an extreme health or safety risk exists or if a prisoner's behavior becomes too unruly for standard transportation.

V. JAIL REJECTION

- A. In the event a prisoner is rejected by San Diego County Sherriff's Office staff, PTU Officers will first reach out to the original arresting officer(s). It is the responsibility of the original arresting officer(s) to ensure the proper

disposition of the arrestee (i.e., cite and release or seek medical clearance from a licensed physician). PTU Officers are not responsible for obtaining jail clearance.

- B. If the original arresting officer(s) is unavailable or has secured for the shift, a supervisor from the Command will be contacted, and another unit from the same Command will respond to the Sallyport to take over the rejected prisoner.