



LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANDREW K. KENNEDY
CHIEF OF POLICE

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GENERAL ORDER – 2020-0005

TO: All Department Personnel
FROM: Chief A. Kevin Kennedy
DATE: July 3, 2020
RE: Reports of Suspicious Persons or Motor Vehicles

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

A function of law enforcement is to respond and investigate activities that may be predictive of a crime about to occur. The majority of such calls are reported by citizens. The reported behavior can be indicative of criminal behavior or about people who may be in need of police service. It is extremely important to keep in mind that people occasionally report a person or vehicle being suspicious merely because they are unfamiliar to a particular area or neighborhood. ***Reports of this nature can be driven by implicit bias and have focused on persons of color and/or persons from various ethnic groups.***

The Department must investigate suspicious behavior and encourages the public to report behavior that they feel is suspicious or indicative of a crime. This being said, we must be careful not to contribute to the cumulative effect on people who have been repeatedly questioned by police for their lawful conduct.

When Dispatch receives a call from a citizen concerning a “suspicious” person or vehicle, the Dispatcher shall ask additional questions to discern what specifically about the person’s behavior or vehicle is suspicious or is criminal in nature. ***Where there is no suspicious or criminal behavior described, the Dispatcher shall contact the Shift Supervisor and advise them of the nature of the call. The Supervisor has the authority to cancel a police response should the reported behavior not be deemed suspicious or criminal in nature.***

By Order,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Kevin Kennedy".

A. Kevin Kennedy
Chief of Police