4 / 711.05 POLICY

It is the policy of the Department to utilize approved methods of Eyewitness Identification in accordance with Federal and State laws and guidelines.

4 / 711.10 PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to document the types and procedures of the different authorized forms of Eyewitness Identifications.

4 / 711.15 DEFINITIONS

Eyewitness Identification Type of evidence by which one who has seen the event testifies as to the person or persons involved from his/her own memory of the event.

Lineup A police identification procedure by which the suspect in a crime is exhibited before the victim or witness to determine if the suspect committed the offense.

4 / 711.20 PROCEDURES

A. Utilizing Eyewitness Identifications

1. When utilizing Eyewitness Identification officers shall:
   a. Avoid actions that would be unduly suggestive during the process
   b. Document both identification and non-identification results, including witnesses’ words to how certain or uncertain they were on an incident report
   c. Conduct them in a professional and structured manner to clear the innocent, as well as, identify suspects

B. FORMS OF EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION

1. One-on-One Identification
   a. Determine if witness will reasonably be able to identify the suspect.
   b. Determine the witness’ description of the suspect prior to conducting “One-on-One”.
   c. Document a description of the suspect, time and location of one-on-one.
   d. Transport witness to location of the suspect.
   e. Separate witnesses and instruct them to avoid discussing details of the incident.
   f. Do not conduct the “One-on-One” when the suspect is in a patrol vehicle, handcuffed, or physically restrained by officers, unless required by safety concerns.
   g. Do not take the suspect to the witness’s residence unless it is the scene of the crime.
   h. Caution the witness that the individual about to be seen may or may not be the suspect.
   i. Document results on the incident report.

2. Photo Arrays
   a. Group photos by format (color, black & white, Polaroid, 35mm, digital, or video).
   b. Select uniform photos based on race, age, sex, & physical characteristics.
   c. Ensure positive identifying information exists on individuals portrayed.
d. Ensure photos are reasonably contemporary and arrest number is covered.
e. Ensure only one photo of each individual and suspect (total of 6 photos).
f. If multiple photos of the suspect exist, select a photo that most closely resembles the appearance of the suspect at the time of the incident.
g. The photo array should be preserved, as evidence, in the original presentation order and original condition.
h. Document presentation order and results in writing.

3. Composite Images
   a. Select a procedure (artist, computer-generated images).
   b. Avoid showing witness any photos prior to development of composite.
   c. Minimize distractions.
   d. Separate witnesses.
   e. Determine with witness if composite is a reasonable representation of the suspect.

4. Line-ups
   a. The Department does not normally utilize line-ups.

4 / 711.25 LEGISLATION AND REFERENCES

Maryland Code, Public Safety, Title 3 Law Enforcement
City of Laurel Police Department Criminal Investigations Manual
Blacks Law Dictionary, Fifth Edition
CALEA Standards 42.2.11, 42.2.12

4 / 711.30 ANNEX

None