3-10/310.00 - Preliminary Responsibilities

Deputy-involved shootings are likely the most critical incidents in which Department personnel become involved; therefore, they appropriately warrant an in-depth and objective analysis. A central component in this process is the collection of statements from every identifiable witness. The investigative process must be undertaken promptly and with the highest level of investigatory integrity, while at the same time, honoring the rights and needs of Department members.

The following investigative protocols have been established by the Department in order to ensure these objectives:

Personnel, either involved in, or a witness to, the event, shall not discuss the circumstances of the incident among themselves or with uninvolved persons prior to being interviewed by assigned Departmental investigators.

> **NOTE:** The provisions of this policy regarding witness' statements shall not affect communications required for tactical needs or subsequent suspect apprehension.

Members who were either involved in or witnessed the incident may consult individually with legal counsel or labor representatives telephonically or in person before providing an interview with Departmental investigators. Members who were either involved in or witnessed the incident shall not consult with legal counsel and or labor representatives collectively or in groups (e.g. two or more members consulting at the same time with the same legal counsel/labor representative).

The watch commander and all supervisors shall take reasonable steps to ensure that the provisions of this policy are followed. Whenever practical, watch commanders or their designee shall attempt to have involved personnel and witness personnel gather in the company of a supervisor until they have provided a statement to Departmental investigators. This practice shall in no way interfere with the member's individual access to legal/labor counsel, spiritual counsel, or otherwise impede access or availability to family members.