Policing Demonstrations, Protests, and Civil Unrest

Legal and Liability Issues, Dealing with the Media, Department Policies, Procedures, Training, and Protestor Rights

February 10, 2020 ILEAS Training Center * 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Course objectives:

This one-day course provides law enforcement with the knowledge and best practices needed when facing the threat of a demonstration in the community. During a demonstration, whether large or small, the role of a law enforcement officer is to ensure the public's safety, protect lives and property, and also protect the First Amendment rights of all persons involved in the event.

Public demonstrations have increased in frequency as a result of high profile incidents involving the police. Although most are peaceful, the chance of a threat to officer safety is imminent and law enforcement agencies have an obligation to prepare for a proper response for crowd management, regardless of the type of demonstration.

This program is unique in the fact that it takes a practical approach to legal principles impacting law enforcement's role in demonstrations and provides guidelines without hindering officer or public safety.

Upon completion, participants will gain knowledge in the following areas:

- Historical perspectives of civil unrest.
- Diverse types of groups and behaviors seen at demonstrations.
- Challenges faced when dealing with unruly crowds.
- Acceptable tactics for law enforcement to use against both unruly and passive groups.
- First Amendment rights of protestors.
- Fourth Amendment rights.
- Best practices in acceptable use of force standards.
- Communication across all boundaries.
- Policy and training development.

About the instructor:

Jack Ryan is an attorney in Rhode Island, a graduate Juris Doctorate, Cum Laude of Suffolk University Law School and has 20 years of law enforcement experience with the Providence, RI Police Department. His law degree and experience as a police officer give him a unique perspective of public safety legal and liability issues. Jack is a former adjunct faculty member at Salve Regina University and currently lectures throughout the United States. He has authored several legal publications, as well as policies and procedures that have been adopted by over 1,000 law enforcement and corrections agencies across the country.

CONTACT ILEAS FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Michele Watson - 217-328-3800 / mwatson@ileas.org