
	BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT Response to Suspicious Persons	
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Accreditation Standards (6th Edition) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New • Revised • Amended 		

I. POLICY

The following is meant to clarify our stance on what criteria we will respond to for reports of suspicious person(s). Brandeis University seeks to cultivate in its students not only an appreciation for the great achievements of human beings, but also a disciplined sensibility to the poverty, injustice, and oppression burdening the lives of so many. This includes making Brandeis University an inclusive community welcoming students, faculty, staff, and visitors from myriad backgrounds, races, creeds, ethnicities, colors, sexual orientations, and beliefs to ensure the University remains a place where these varied characteristics and beliefs of humanity can come together and thrive in a safe environment.

II. PROCEDURE

The Brandies University Department of Public Safety will not respond to suspicious person(s) calls based solely upon color, dress, or a feeling a person is “out of place”. Caller(s) should articulate a reason why a person is suspicious; i.e., a person is acting erratically, making threatening gestures or remarks, appears physically ill, or other criteria demonstrating a threat to the caller, another person, property, or the party in question.

Dispatchers should ask specific questions which will elicit information from callers and determine BUPSD response. Officers will only respond to the area in response to these types of calls and only approach the person if they believe the behavior is suspicious.

If the behavior cannot be articulated as being a potential safety concern to themselves or the community, BUPSD personnel will not make contact with this person.

BUPSD officers can reaffirm with the complainant this policy after determining no further police involvement is warranted.

A. General Guidance Points:

1. Dispatch:

Is call based on perceived race, ethnicity, immigration status?

- Additional circumstances or facts
- Attempt to gather specific behaviors
- "Can you describe the behavior?"
- "What about it is suspicious?"
- If no enforcement presence is needed
- Advise caller to call back if something else occurs
- Provide the caller with examples of "suspicious behavior"
- Citizen follow up

2. To Send or Not to Send?

IF caller continues requests:

- Officer dispatched
- Officer should be told the context of the call and that it might be bias based
- Supervisor evaluation and possible follow up
- Treat is as a public education opportunity
- Note our internal policy
- Impacts bias-based calls have on the community

3. Officer Response:

Investigate whether the caller's understanding was accurate:

- Observe and decide
- If based on perceived race, ethnicity, immigration status...
- File report stating so
- Communicate to supervisor for caller follow-up