I. BACKGROUND

The purpose of this order is to establish the policies and procedures governing the Bait Car Program as it relates to bait car deployment, response, resulting arrests and reporting.

II. POLICY

The policy of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is to employ effective methods to combat auto thefts, interrupt auto thefts in progress, and apprehend those responsible for stealing cars while promoting public safety and safeguarding members of the Metropolitan Police Department from injury.

III. DEFINITIONS

When used in this directive, the following terms shall have the meanings designated:
4. Bait Car Coordinator – The Office of the Superintendent of Detectives (OSD) Centralized Auto Theft Section member who is responsible for acting as a liaison with the District Focus Mission Team lieutenant concerning all matters related to bait cars.

5. Centralized Auto Theft Section (CATS) – The element within the Superintendent of Detectives Division that coordinates with and assists District Auto Theft Units with the maintenance and deployment of all vehicles in the Bait Car Program.

6. Command staff- Sworn personnel the rank of Inspector or above and their civilian equivalents.

10. Command Information Center (CIC) – The MPD central location in which the Bait Car Command Computer is physically located and from which all bait car operations are managed.

IV. RULES

V. REGULATIONS
VI. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

A. Responsibilities of Members Conducting Bait Car Activations

1. Members assigned to conduct a bait car activation shall:

   c. Complete a PD Form 777 (Bait Vehicle Deployment Sheet) for each bait car being deployed [See Attachment A.] as follows:

      (1) Fill in every section completely;

      (2) Record the name of the member who activated the bait car; and

      (3) Fax a copy to the CIC.
9. Bait Car Police Reports
   a. All arrests shall be documented on a PD Form 252 (Supplemental Report) and accompanied by a PD Form 251 (Event Report) and PD Form 163 (Prosecution Report) closing the case.
   b. The reporting person shall be the unit member preparing the report.

10. Recovery of a Bait Car by an Outside Jurisdiction
    a. Every effort shall be made to protect the confidentiality of the Bait Car Program.
    b. Members of the MPD Forensic Science Services Division shall respond and recover all items of evidence.
    c. The bait car shall be moved to a secure location for processing, outside of public view whenever possible.
    d. The bait car shall be returned to the District of Columbia immediately after the outside jurisdiction has completed its part of the investigation.
    e. If an arrest has been made by the outside jurisdiction in connection with the bait car activation, a CATS/Focus Mission Team member shall:
(1) Respond to the outside jurisdiction and assist with the paperwork;

(2) Obtain copies of all arrest paperwork from the jurisdiction involved; and

(3) Upon his/her return to the District of Columbia:

(a) Immediately prepare an affidavit in support of an arrest warrant for the suspect(s) arrested by the outside jurisdiction [See General Order 702.01 (Arrest and Bench Warrants)];

(b) Present the affidavit on the next court day for issuance. In the event a juvenile has been arrested, the custody order shall be presented to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and juvenile custody procedures shall be followed, on the next court day. [See General Order 305.1(Handling Juveniles) and General Order 702.2 (Juvenile Custody Orders)]; and

(c) Once an arrest warrant or custody order has been obtained, notify the jurisdiction that is holding the suspect that a valid arrest warrant/custody order is on file.
D. Supervisor Responsibilities

1. Prior to each bait car deployment, the supervisor of the unit deploying the bait car shall:

   a. Notify the:

      (1) Watch Commander at each deployment district;

      (2) CIC Watch Commander;

      (3) OUC Supervisor; and

   b. Ensure a Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) record is generated for the deployment of the bait car which indicates the location and description of the bait car.

2. Following each bait car deployment, the supervisor of the unit deploying the bait car shall:

   a. Conduct an after-action critique to identify any involved problem area that should be addressed and/or discussed with the Bait Car Coordinator; and

   b. Forward the critique through his/her chain of command to the Supervisor CATS.

VII. CROSS REFERENCES
VIII. ATTACHMENTS

Cathy L. Lanier
Chief of Police