Arrest Approval Policy

365.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE
The authority to affect the arrest of an individual and thereby effectively suspend civil liberties is a significant responsibility. It is therefore the policy of the Pasadena Police Department that a supervisor review and approve arrests by officers to: ensure that the civil rights of individuals are being protected, that the City of Pasadena, the Pasadena Police Department, and arresting officer are not unduly subjected to liability and that the arrest is appropriate given the totality of circumstances.

365.2 ARRESTS BY OFFICERS
(a) When an officer has taken a person into custody, he/she shall request that a field supervisor respond to his/her location so that the supervisor can be briefed as to the circumstances of the arrest. Corporals are authorized to approve misdemeanor arrests. The supervisor shall either approve the arrest or suggest an alternative course of action.

(b) While it is highly desirable that arrest review and approval be conducted at the arrest location, supervisors retain discretion, based upon operational needs, to review and approve the arrest of an individual via radio or telephone. In doing so, the involved supervisor must objectively evaluate the reasonableness of exercising this option and maintain the same degree of responsibility for their decision.

(c) Officers are always encouraged to seek the advice and approval of a supervisor when circumstances cause the prudence of an arrest to be questioned. It is recognized, however, that there are specific situations where requiring an arrest approval would not be in the best interest of the Department. The following circumstances shall generally be excluded from the mandatory requirement that arrests be approved by a supervisor:

1. Warrant arrests for misdemeanors or felonies where there is reasonable belief that the arrestee is the individual listed in the warrant. A Sergeant shall be called for arrest approval whenever use of force against the arrestee has been used.

2. Arrests made on open cases where a case number has previously been issued. The arrest should be based on the totality of the circumstances. The charge, date of occurrence, etc. should be considered.

3. Arrests for sections 23152/23153 of the Vehicle Code where the officer has formed the opinion that a driver is under the influence through observed driving, field sobriety tests and/or objective observations.

4. Arrests for violations of the Vehicle Code when the arrestee is cited and released in the field.

5. Arrests for violations of the Pasadena Municipal Code when the arrestee is cited and released in the field.