GENERAL ORDER 10-20
SECTION F-2

TRESPASSING AND PICKETING ON BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF SCHOOL
COMMISSIONERS PROPERTY
Revisions Approved: June 12, 2018

This General Order contains the following numbered sections:

I. Directive
II. Purpose
III. General
IV. Picketing Off of School Property
V. Unlawful Assembly: Breach of the Peace: Disorderly Conduct
VI. Effective Date

I. DIRECTIVE

It is neither the intention nor the desire of the BCSPF to suppress or restrain lawful speech, assembly, religion or any other lawful activity. The department will take reasonably necessary and appropriate actions to protect those lawfully exercising their rights pursuant to the First Amendment. However, members of the BCSPF must take appropriate enforcement action whenever there is a clear and present danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the general public, or a violation of the City Code or State Criminal Code.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to specify guidelines for the BCSPF’s response to, and intervention during, public protests, labor strikes, and other activities involving First Amendment rights on public school grounds and property.

III. GENERAL

School Police Officers frequently are expected to patrol public gatherings of citizens assembled on the street or on other public property for some particular purpose. The School Police Officer’s must not only prevent violence and respond to criminal acts, but must also require the gathering to be dispersed because it is trespassing, while maintaining the constitutional rights of those people gathered.

In accordance with Md. Code Ann., § Educ. 26-102, Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners (BCBSC), City Schools’ Chief Executive Officer, school principal, school
resource officer or any designee of BCBSC may deny access to the buildings or grounds of the school to any person who:

A. Is not a bona fide, currently registered student, or staff or faculty member at the school and who does not have lawful business to pursue at the school; or
B. Is a bona fide, currently registered student at the school and has been suspended or expelled from the school, for the duration of the suspension or expulsion; or
C. Acts in a manner that disrupts or disturbs the normal educational functions of the institution.

Administrative personnel and authorized employees of the school may demand identification and evidence of qualification from any person who desires to use or enter the school. Penalties for trespassing on school property are outlined in statute.

IV. PICKETING OFF OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Picketing is allowed off of school grounds; however, picket lines must proceed in such a manner as to permit persons or vehicles desiring to enter into or upon, or to depart from, public properties to do so freely. Pickets must march a sufficient distance apart to permit individuals to enter and leave public properties without the necessity of bodily-contact with those on picket lines. Persons or vehicles must be permitted to enter and depart without the necessity of forcing their way through because of picket lines. Persons on picket lines will not be permitted to threaten persons entering or leaving public buildings.

V. UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY: BREACH OF THE PEACE: DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Persons participating as picketers will not be permitted to assemble in such a manner that the conduct of the assemblage amounts to lawful assembly, breach of the peace or disorderly conduct. Persons acting in such a manner will be subject to arrest on the appropriate charge and officers shall act in accordance to effectuate a lawful arrest when necessary.
VI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order shall be effective on the date of publication.

I certify that I have read and fully understand this Order.

Signature_________________________________ Date___________________