



Navigating Public Order Challenges: A Manager's Guide to Law, Liability, and Best Practices

Thursday, October 3, 2024
9:00 am.- 11:30 a.m.
webinar
[Register here](#)

September 11, 2024

Dear Members,

Attorney Eric R. Atstupenas, General Counsel for the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, instructor for, and member of Municipal Police Institute Executive Board will address this topical issue:

Learning Objectives:

- Gain an understanding of national trends in public order events and protestor tactics.
- Understand potential liability for municipalities and law enforcement under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
- Review relevant court cases to guide local responses to public order situations.
- Explore best practices in crowd management, balancing public safety with constitutional rights.

Course Outline:

I. Introduction to Public Order Events

- Scope and significance of public order events in recent years
- Types of events: Protests, demonstrations, riots, civil unrest
- Examples from nationwide incidents

II. Trends in Protestor Tactics

- Evolving tactics: Blockades, occupation of public spaces, social media coordination
- Specific strategies seen in Massachusetts and nationwide
- Impact of tactics on public safety and law enforcement response

III. Liability Under 42 U.S.C. § 1983

- Overview of 42 U.S.C. § 1983: Holding government officials accountable for civil rights violations
- Municipal liability: Failure to train, supervise, or properly manage public order events
- Qualified immunity for law enforcement

IV. Case Studies of Interest

- Key cases from across the country to guide law enforcement response
- Lessons learned: How courts are shaping best practices for law enforcement
- Discussion: Application of these rulings in Massachusetts

V. Law Enforcement Best Practices for Public Order Management

- Key principles: De-escalation, use of less-lethal tactics, communication with protest leaders
- The role of Managers in guiding law enforcement and ensuring lawful conduct
- Coordination with state and federal partners
- Best practices for handling media, public relations, and community engagement during events

VI. Conclusion & Open Discussion

- Summary of key takeaways
- Q&A session: Managers ask questions or discuss specific concerns related to their municipalities



Presenter

Eric Atstuppenas currently serves as the General Counsel for the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association. He is licensed to practice law in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

Coming from a law enforcement family, Eric has a deep-rooted passion for advancing the law enforcement profession and supporting those who serve within it. Throughout his career, he has dedicated himself to mastering the areas of law that impact law enforcement professionals. Eric holds several key roles within the field: he is the Chair of the IACP Legal Officers Section Board, a member of the IACP Committee on

Human and Civil Rights, an associate member of the Central Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Municipal Police Institute, Inc., a nonprofit organization focused on providing training to law enforcement in Massachusetts. He has also contributed as an editorial advisor for the IACP's Police Chief magazine.

Eric is a published author of various law enforcement training materials and has contributed articles to Police Chief magazine, a leading publication by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. He has delivered training to law enforcement executives on a wide range of topics relevant to the profession and has been a featured speaker at conferences nationwide. Additionally, Eric collaborates extensively with Eric Daigle, Esq., of Daigle Law Group, LLC, as a law enforcement consultant and trainer.

Attendance at this training qualifies the MIIA member for .5% rewards credit under the Public Officials, School Board or Law Enforcement Category



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