



Wednesday, July 28, 2021

To: Executive Chief M. D. Slinkard

Subject: RMS Disposition Code: (SL) Suspended - Lack of Personnel

Chief, a couple weeks ago I mentioned the RMS disposition code of (SL) *Suspended – Lack of Personnel* that was being used by investigative divisions. I mentioned the optics of how the use of this code may give the public the wrong impression as to how a variety of cases are handled.

To further understand how the divisions are utilizing this code, I first contacted Crime Analysis & Command Center to determine how often the “SL” code is used. The attached report gives a breakdown by division from January 1 through July 11, 2021. Next, I contacted a case management sergeant in Special Victims Division and inquired as to how the disposition code is used in his division. He advised the code is used in accordance with the guidelines described in the *Case Management Terms and Definitions*:

“**Suspended – Lack of Personnel:** all primary and secondary cases that have workable leads but cannot be assigned due to manpower limitations. These cases could be assigned for investigation or non-investigative follow up at a later time.”

I finally contacted _____ in the Office of Planning & Data Governance, who I was advised has historical knowledge on the creation of the SL code. She provided the below information:

“In 2016, I worked on an initiative with _____ in which we attempted to standardize the way in which we collected data on case assignments and clearances. We created the ‘Suspended Lack of Personnel’ code to capture the number of cases with workable leads we were unable to assign due to workforce shortages. With the use of that data, our intent was to justify additional investigators and provide estimates on the number of cleared offenses required to improve operational clearance rates.”

She also stated that in addition to the guidance provide in the *Case Management Terms and Definitions*, RMS codes are used based on division policy. Some divisions/units will never use the SL code. For example, a lieutenant in SVD’s Crimes Against Children Unit advised all cases with workable leads will be assigned.

This Blue Note is an informational summary of a potential issue that may or may not be of concern. A viable argument not to change the *current* code title is to highlight the importance and need for more officers.