

GENERAL ORDER

PORT WASHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT:	EMPLOYEE ROLE	NUMBER:	1.2.1
		ISSUED:	3/31/09
SCOPE:	All Sworn Personnel	EFFECTIVE:	3/31/09
DISTRIBUTION:	General Orders Manual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RESCINDS	A-2-80 1.3
		<input type="checkbox"/> AMENDS	
REFERENCE:		WILEAG 5th EDITION STANDARDS: 1.2.1, 1.2.2	

INDEX AS: Code of Ethics
 Law Enforcement Code of Ethics
 Oath of Office
 Canon of Police Ethics

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Order is to establish the requirement that all personnel, prior to assuming sworn status, take an oath of office to enforce the law, uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin, and to abide by the code of ethics adopted by the Port Washington Police Department.

This Order consists of the following numbered sections:

- I. OATH OF OFFICE
- II. LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

I. OATH OF OFFICE

- A. All personnel hired as law enforcement officers with the Port Washington Police Department will, prior to assuming duty, be administered the Oath of Office by the City Administrator and/or City Clerk.

OATH OF OFFICE

“I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will uphold, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America; the State of Wisconsin; and the ordinances of the City of Port Washington; that I will diligently strive to serve with the highest standards of professional ethics and personal integrity, and I will honorably uphold departmental values and perform the duties of the Office of Police Officer in and for the City of Port Washington, so help me God.”

II. THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

- A. The Law Enforcement Code of Ethics will serve as the basic standard of principle and professional behavior for officers of the Port Washington Police Department.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

“As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property, to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder, and to respect the constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice.

“I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all, maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint, and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

“I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities, or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

“I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession . . . law enforcement.”

CANONS OF POLICE ETHICS

Article I

Primary Responsibility of Job

The primary responsibility of the police service and of the individual officer is the protection of the people of the United States through the upholding of their laws; chief among these is the Constitution of the United States and its amendments. The law enforcement officer always represents the whole of the community and its legally expressed will and is never the arm of any political party or clique.

Article II
Limitations of Authority

The first duty of a law enforcement officer, as upholder of the law, is to know its bounds upon him in enforcing it. Because he represents the legal will of the community, be it local, state, or federal, he must be aware of the limitations and proscriptions which the people, through law, have placed upon him. He must recognize the genius of the American system of government which gives absolute power to no man, groups of men, or institution; and he must insure that he, as a prime defender of that system, does not pervert its character.

Article III
Duty to be Familiar with the Law, with One's Responsibilities, and Responsibilities of Other Public Officials

The law enforcement officer shall, assiduously apply himself to the study of the principles of the laws which he is sworn to uphold. He will make certain of his responsibilities in the particulars of their enforcement, seeking aid from his superiors in matters of technicality or principle when these are not clear to him; he will make special effort to fully understand his relationship to other public officials, including other law enforcement agencies, particularly on matters of jurisdiction, both geographically and substantively.

Article IV
Utilization of Proper Means to Gain Proper Ends

The law enforcement officer shall be mindful of his responsibility to pay strict heed to the selection of means in discharging duties of his office. Violations of law or disregard for public safety and property on the part of an officer are intrinsically wrong; they are self-defeating in that they instill in the public mind a like disposition. The employment of illegal means, no matter how worthy the end, is certain to encourage disrespect for the law and its officers. If the law is to be honored it must first be honored by those who enforce it.

Article V
Cooperation with Public Officials in the Discharge of their Authorized Duties

The law enforcement officer shall cooperate fully with other public officials in the discharge of authorized duties, regardless of party affiliation or personal prejudice. He shall be meticulous, however, in assuring himself of the propriety, under the law, of such actions and shall guard against the use of his office or person, whether knowingly or unknowingly, in any improper or illegal action. In any situation open to question, he shall seek authority from his superior officer, giving him a full report of the proposed service or action.

Article VI
Private Conduct

The law enforcement officer shall be mindful of his special identification by the public as an upholder of the law. Laxity of conduct or manner in private life, expressing either disrespect for the law or seeking to gain special privilege, cannot but reflect upon the police officer and the police service. The community and the service require that the law enforcement officer lead the life of a decent and honorable man. Following the career of a policeman gives no man special prerequisites. It does give the satisfaction and pride of following and furthering an unbroken tradition of safeguarding the American Republic. The officer who reflects upon this tradition will not degrade it. Rather, he will so conduct his private life that the public will regard him as an example of stability, fidelity, and morality.

Article VII
Conduct Toward the Public

The law enforcement officer, mindful of his responsibility to the whole community, shall deal with individuals of the community in a manner calculated to instill respect for its laws and its police service. The law enforcement officer shall conduct his official life in a manner that will inspire confidence and trust. Thus, he will be neither over-bearing nor subservient, as no individual citizen has an obligation to stand in awe of him nor a right to command him. The officer will give service where he can and require compliance with the law. He will do neither from personal preference or prejudice, but rather as a duly appointed officer of the law discharging his sworn obligation.

Article VIII
Conduct in Arresting and Dealing with Law Violators

The law enforcement officer shall use his powers of arrest strictly in accordance with the law and with due regard to the rights of the citizen concerned. His office gives him no right to prosecute the violator nor to mete out punishment for the offense. He shall at all times have a clear appreciation of his responsibilities and limitations regarding detention of the violator; he shall conduct himself in such a manner as will minimize the possibility of having to use force. To this end, he shall cultivate a dedication to the service of the people and the equitable upholding of their laws whether in the handling of law violators or in dealing with the law-abiding.

Article IX
Gifts and Favors

The law enforcement officer, representing government, bears the heavy responsibility of maintaining through his own conduct the honor and integrity of all government institutions. He shall, therefore, guard against placing himself in a position in which any person can expect special consideration or in which the public can reasonably assume that special consideration is being given. Thus, he should be firm in refusing gifts,

favours, or gratuities, large or small, which can be interpreted by the public mind as capable of influencing his judgment in the discharge of his duties.

Article X
Presentation of Evidence

The law enforcement officer shall be concerned equally in the prosecution of the wrongdoer and the defense of the innocent. He shall ascertain what constitutes evidence and shall present such evidence impartially and without malice. In so doing, he will ignore social, political, and all other distinctions among the persons involved, strengthening the tradition of the reliability and integrity of an officer's word.

The law enforcement officer shall take special pains to increase his perception and skill of observation, mindful that in many situations his is the sole impartial testimony to the facts of the case.

Article XI
Attitude toward Profession

The law enforcement officer shall regard the discharge of his duties as a public trust and recognize his responsibility as a public servant. By diligent study and sincere attention to self-improvement, he shall strive to make the best possible application of science to the solution of crime and, in the field of human relationships, strive for effective leadership and public influence in matters affecting public safety. He shall appreciate the importance and responsibility of his office, hold police work to be an honorable profession rendering valuable service to his community and his country.

APPROVED:

DATE:



4/2/19

Chief Kevin Hingiss

Reviewed 4/2/19
Revised 6/10/16
Revised 10/30/12