

City of Ypsilanti Police Department



General Order: 3-3
Title: Professional Ethics

Date Issued:
Rescinds: 04-13-15

Effective Date:

.01 Purpose:

To assist Department employees, both sworn and civilian, to conduct themselves in a professional manner and to set forth special ethical requirements for sworn officers of the City of Ypsilanti Police Department

.02 Policy:

The complex nature of the law enforcement profession makes the agency's success dependent upon the individual character of each employee. Each employee's character determines the character of the Department. By combining personal integrity and commitment to duty Department members will maintain ethical standards that will ensure the equitable treatment of all citizens and that will reflect positively upon the Department and the community.

.03 Untruthfulness:

Employees shall not willfully or knowingly depart from the truth, in giving testimony or in connection with any official duties. Upon order of a superior, employees shall truthfully answer all questions, specifically directed and narrowly related to the scope of employment and operations of the Department, that may be asked of them.

Honesty and truthfulness are symbolic of the public faith and trust. Deliberate falsification of any report or document, perjury or lying shall not be tolerated and is grounds for immediate dismissal from the Department.

.04 False Reporting:

Members of the Department shall not knowingly make false official reports, or knowingly enter or cause to be entered in any departmental book, record, or electronic

recording any inaccurate, false or improper information.

.05 Information on Operations:

Employees shall not release, to anyone, information that may delay an arrest, aid a person to escape, destroy evidence, remove stolen or embezzled goods, or that may, in any way, hinder the effective performance of police responsibilities.

.06 Appropriating Property:

Personnel shall not willfully or knowingly appropriate any personal, found, evidential or Department property for their own use.

.07 Interference:

Personnel shall not interfere with cases being handled by other personnel of the Department unless, ordered to do so by a supervisor or the employee believes beyond a reasonable doubt that failure to take immediate action would result in a manifest injustice.

Personnel shall not undertake an investigation or other official action that is not part of their assigned duties, without obtaining permission from their superior, unless the exigency of the situation requires immediate police action.

.08 Treatment of Offenders:

To offend a police employee's personal feelings is not a crime. A citizen will not be mistreated physically or psychologically, nor will the processes of booking and charging be delayed, or otherwise altered, as a means of punishing an offender or gaining revenge.

.09 Enforcement of All Criminal and Traffic Laws:

Although the primary responsibility of enforcing certain traffic and criminal laws is delegated to particular subdivisions of the Department, all officers are responsible for taking prompt and proper police action concerning violations that come to their attention.

.10 Constitutional Rights:

No person has the constitutional right to violate the law, nor can any person be deprived of their constitutional rights for committing or being suspected of committing a crime. Determining the constitutionality of a statute is the duty of the courts, not of the officer who properly seeks to enforce the law, as it exists. The Department shall enforce any federal, state or local ordinance. An officer who lawfully acts in this capacity is within the scope of their authority and does not deprive persons of their civil liberties. Officers will, within the scope of their authority, make reasonable inquiries, conduct

investigations, and arrest on probable cause.

.11 Equality of Enforcement:

The element of even-handedness is implicit in the uniform application and enforcement of the law. The amount of force, or method employed to secure compliance with the law, is governed by the particular circumstances of individual situations. Similar circumstances require similar treatment in all areas of the City, as well as for all groups and individuals. Department personnel, therefore, will provide equal service to every person in the community. Under no circumstances will discriminatory attitudes, or procedures, be allowed to influence the impartial enforcement of any law or the treatment of any person. It is the responsibility of each police employee, sworn or civilian, to insure that their actions and behavior, in this respect, are beyond reproach.

.12 Malfeasance:

Members shall not commit any act that is positively unlawful; do an act that is wholly wrongful, or which they had contracted not to do.

.13 Misfeasance:

Members shall not engage in the improper performance of some act, which the employee may lawfully do. Misfeasance is the doing of a lawful act in an unlawful or improper manner, so there is an infringement on the rights of others.

.14 Nonfeasance:

An employee shall not commit the act of nonfeasance by the nonperformance or omission of some act, which ought to be performed as part of their duty.

.15 Laziness:

Members have a responsibility to give a fair days work for a fair days pay. Failure to carry out one's basic duties and responsibilities constitutes misconduct.

.16 Professional Development:

Police employees will be responsible for their own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve their level of knowledge and competence.

Through study and experience, police officers/employees can acquire the high level of knowledge and competence that is essential for the efficient and effective performance of duty. The acquisition of knowledge is a never ending process of personal and

professional development that should be pursued constantly.

.17 Performance Standards:

Members shall maintain a level competency that will enable them to conform to established work standards and expectations for their rank, grade or position. Members shall endeavor to perform their duties in the most efficient and effective manner possible so as to provide the highest level of public service.

.18 Gratuities:

Officers and employees shall not accept directly or indirectly any gifts, gratuities, fees, loans, rewards or any other things of value arising from or offered because of police employment or activities connected with their police employment.

.19 Solicitation for Personal Gain:

Members of the Department shall not request the aid of any person outside of the Department to have them transferred, or restored to an assignment, or promoted. This section does not preclude proper union or legal representation.

.20 Cooperation With Investigations Required:

Members of the Department must cooperate in internal investigations of alleged misconduct, illegal activity or policy violations. Failure to answer questions or submit to proper investigative techniques shall constitute insubordination.

.21 Duty to Report Violations:

Members have the duty of reporting misconduct and violations of policy, procedures and orders through the chain of command.

By Order of,

Anthony DeGiusti
Chief of Police

