

City of Ypsilanti Police Department



General Order: 4-1
Title: Community Relations

Date Issued:
Rescinds: All Previous Memos/Orders

Effective Date:

.01 Purpose:

To establish standards and expectations of conduct regarding the interaction of Department personnel and the community.

.02 Policy:

Police functions and organizations are instruments created by society to preserve order and security. Both society and the police organization benefit from a relationship of mutual understanding and good will. Community relations, insofar as it relates to the police, is the sum total of the attitudes, impressions and opinions of the public in its relationship with the Department. Courtesy, patience and tact are characteristics of a professional and experienced police agency. It shall therefore be a primary duty of every police employee, whether sworn or civilian, to work towards making the agency's relationship with citizens harmonious and productive.

The Ypsilanti Police Department is firmly committed to serving the public efficiently, honestly and professionally. Members should be mindful that we will treat all people with dignity and respect. The guidelines in this General Order represent enduring principles that are binding upon all Department employees.

.03 Courtesy:

All members of the Department shall exhibit polite, dignified and courteous department towards all citizens as well as their fellow co-workers. Insubordination and disrespectful conduct will not be tolerated.

.04 Overbearing, Oppressive or Tyrannical Conduct:

Members of the Department shall not be overbearing, oppressive or tyrannical in their relations with members of the community or co-workers. This order prohibits all clearly

recognizable actions which serve to breed disrespect for the Department and its members. Actions are clearly recognizable if they constitute gross breaches of the public's support, including:

- A- Unreasonable orders given to citizens.
- B- Unreasonable warnings to control conduct not within the scope of the members lawful authority.
- C- Threats to use authority not clearly available to the member at the moment.

These examples are only illustrative and are not intended to be all inclusive.

.05 Insulting, Defamatory or Obscene Language:

Members of the Department shall not use insulting, defamatory or obscene language in the performance of their duties.

.06 Impartiality:

Employees shall respect the rights of all persons and be of service to anyone who may be in danger, distress, or need assistance, regardless of sex, race, age, color, creed, religion, ethnic background or sexual orientation. Employees shall maintain a strictly impartial attitude toward complainants, suspects and violators, and shall not intimidate or harass any person for personal reasons under the color of authority.

.07 Responsiveness:

Department personnel will be responsive to the needs and problems of the community. Responsiveness will be manifested, at all levels of the Department, by a willingness to listen and a genuine concern for the problems of individuals and groups.

.08 Extenuating Circumstances:

The Department Administration recognizes that circumstances could dictate the need to violate sections of this General Order. Situations where language, demeanor or attitude violates this order, but were necessary for officer/citizen safety or to take control of a scene shall not constitute a breach of this order.

By Order of,

Anthony DeGiusti
Chief of Police

