I. BACKGROUND

Police departments are paramilitary organizations whose operations are dependent upon command and control. Certainty and clarity about who has the authority to direct the members of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is necessary at all times. The purpose of this order is to delineate the command succession to Acting Chief of Police.

II. POLICY

The policy of the MPD is to ensure that continuity of command exists under all circumstances.

III. DEFINITIONS

When used in this directive, the following terms shall have the meaning designated:

1. Order of succession – the sequence in which individuals succeed one another for the position of Acting Chief of Police. Unless specified by title, order of succession is determined by seniority on the MPD within rank and grade.

IV. REGULATIONS

A. The order of succession to Acting Chief of Police in the event of death, serious injury, or any event causing the Chief of Police to be unable to perform the duties of his or her office shall be the following:
1. Patrol chiefs, in order of succession;
2. Assistant Chief, Investigative Services Bureau;
3. Assistant Chief, Internal Affairs Bureau;
4. Remaining assistant chiefs in order of succession;
5. Commanders in order of succession; and
6. Inspectors in order of succession.

B. The Acting Chief of Police shall have the authority of the Chief of Police and the responsibility for making necessary decisions and issuing appropriate orders for the MPD and to its members.

C. The Acting Chief of Police shall keep the delegated authority until the Chief of Police returns to duty. If the Chief of Police is unable to return to duty, the Acting Chief of Police shall keep the delegated authority until the Mayor appoints an acting or permanent Chief of Police.

Peter Newsham  
Chief of Police

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