

GENERAL ORDER



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Title		
Uniform, Equipment, and Appearance Standards		
Topic	Series	Number
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I. PURPOSE

It is the policy of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) that all members represent the department professionally. This order establishes procedures for the issuance, wear, care, and maintenance of uniforms and equipment. These standards are provided for all sworn members and uniformed civilian members.

II. PROCEDURES

A. Appearance Standards

1. All members shall maintain a clean and neat appearance in accordance with the standards set forth in this order. Members may groom themselves according to their own personal preference, provided that such grooming conforms to the standards for, and does not interfere with or detract from, the proper wearing of uniforms or equipment, or otherwise conflict with appearance standards.
2. Members shall not wear any article of clothing while on duty or while in uniform that is visible to the public containing language of a social, economic, or political nature that might be considered as an advocacy statement, or that might create controversy.
3. Hair Standards
 - a. Hair shall be neat, clean, and trimmed to present a groomed appearance.

- b. Hair shall be worn at a length that will permit required headgear to fit securely on the head and in conformity with this order.
- c. When in uniform, members shall arrange their hair so that it does not extend below the mid-point of the shirt collar.
- d. Cornrows, braids, or dreadlocks may be worn as long as they don't interfere with the proper wearing of required headgear, conform to the above length, and are neat in appearance. Wigs or hairpieces may be worn if they conform to the standards for natural hair.
- e. Hair shall be groomed so that, when the member wears headgear, the hair does not fall below the eyebrows or bunch out to the front, side, or rear of the headgear.
- f. Hair color shall consist of only natural hair colors. Extreme or fad type artificial hair colors (e.g., purple, pink, green) are prohibited. Extreme or fad style haircuts and styles (e.g., mohawks, tracks, designs, sculptures cut into the hair, decorations, ducktails, ponytails, or pigtails) are prohibited unless the member is working undercover or has received approval from the chief of police through the member's chain of command.
- g. Members who choose to wear sideburns shall ensure that they are neatly trimmed, do not extend more than three-quarters of an inch beyond the lower edge of the ear, end with a clean-shaven horizontal line, and if flared, are no wider than one and one-half inches at the bottom.
- h. Items used to hold hair in place shall be of a plain design, of a natural color that blends with the hair, and concealed as much as possible. No decoration (e.g., bows, ribbons, decorative clips) shall be worn in the hair.

4. Facial Hair Standards

Well-trimmed mustaches, beards, and goatees are permitted. A well-trimmed mustache shall not extend more than one-quarter of an inch below or beyond the line of an individual's upper lip. Handlebar mustaches are prohibited. A well-trimmed beard or goatee shall not exceed one-quarter of an inch in length.

5. Makeup and Cosmetics Standards

- a. Makeup, if worn, shall be subdued and natural looking. Cosmetics shall be applied so that colors blend with natural skin tone and enhance natural features. Exaggerated or faddish cosmetic styles are prohibited.
- b. Fingernails shall be kept clean. Fingernails shall not extend more than one-quarter of an inch beyond the fingertip.

- c. If fingernail polish is worn, only light color, skin color, or clear polish shall be used. While on duty, members shall not have any object affixed to their fingernails.

6. Eyewear Standards

- a. Conservative design prescription eyeglasses may be worn. Eyeglasses or sunglasses that are faddish in style or color, or have lenses or frames with initials or other adornments, shall not be worn (faddish colors are those such as, but not limited to, bright, iridescent, or fluorescent yellow, orange, red).
- b. Sunglasses may be of green, gray, brown, or other conservative tint, and shall have undecorated frames. Mirrored and opaque sunglasses are prohibited for on duty use. Sunglasses shall be removed indoors.

7. Jewelry Standards

- a. Pins, insignias, and buttons, which are not specifically issued by the department or authorized by [Title 6A](#) of the [District of Columbia Municipal Regulations \(DCMR\)](#) or this order, shall not be worn or attached to any portion of the uniform so that they are, or may become, visible to the public.
- b. Members in uniform:

Jewelry
(1) May wear small, plain button earrings of gold, silver, diamond, or pearl not to exceed one-half inch in diameter.
(2) Shall not wear loop, ring, or dangle earrings.
(3) Shall not wear more than two earrings per ear.
(4) Shall not wear any visible body piercings, except earrings in their ears, while in uniform or on-duty. Officials may grant an exception for members working in a casual clothes or undercover assignment.
(5) Shall not wear more than one bracelet (not to exceed one inch in width) per arm.
(6) Shall not wear more than one necklace or neck chain (not to exceed one-quarter of an inch in width). Attachments such as pendants, charms, and medallions shall be covered.
(7) Shall not wear more than two rings per hand. Wedding and engagement ring combinations are considered one ring.

8. Tattoo Standards

Tattoos shall be covered when in uniform whenever possible. Tattoos that cannot be covered shall not contain language or characterizations that are derogatory or offensive to any social, economic, or ethnic group.

B. Uniform Standards

- 1. All sworn members shall wear the uniform of the day, unless assigned to an element authorized to wear plainclothes or casual clothes.

- a. Sworn members assigned to units authorized to wear plainclothes shall dress in business attire (i.e., court-ready attire pursuant to this order). Certain members assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division (CID), Internal Affairs Division (IAD), Youth and Family Services Division (YFSD), and Executive Protection Unit (EPU) are authorized to wear plainclothes attire. Members assigned to other elements shall not wear plainclothes attire unless authorized by the chief of police through the member's chain of command.
 - b. Only sworn members assigned to the Office of Intelligence, Violent Crime Impact Team, Violence Reduction Unit, Robbery Suppression Unit, Electronic Surveillance Unit, Criminal Intelligence Unit, Technical Services Unit, Human Trafficking Unit, Narcotics Enforcement Unit members working undercover, and members working in a task force are authorized to wear casual clothes attire. Members assigned to other elements shall not wear casual clothes unless authorized by the chief of police through the member's chain of command.
2. Sworn and civilian members regularly assigned to duty in uniform shall wear such uniform only when on active duty, going to and from their duty stations, court, or other post of duty. Uniform types are delineated in Attachment A (Uniform Guidelines Chart).
3. Members shall not wear or use any part of the uniform or equipment except as permitted by the provisions of this order, [6A DCMR](#), or as required in the performance of their duties.
4. Members shall maintain their uniforms and equipment in serviceable condition. Officials shall ensure that members wear the proper uniform and equipment and maintain a proper appearance based on the requirements set forth in this order.
5. Members shall at all times maintain at least one complete change of uniform in their assigned locker at their organizational element.
6. Sworn members regularly wearing uniforms shall wear the class B uniform while engaged in outside employment, unless the wearing of business attire is approved as provided in [GO-PER-201.17 \(Outside Employment\)](#).
7. Members shall wear only official MPD patches and patch depictions approved by the chief of police. Specialized assignment patches shall only be worn when approved by the chief of police through the unit's chain of command. Approved patches include: field training officer, Air Support Unit, Domestic Security Operations, Harbor Patrol Unit, Motorcycle Unit, Canine Patrol Unit, Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit, Bomb Squad, and Emergency Response Team.
8. Blouse

- a. The non-tapered blouse shall be worn over the issued administrative holster for dress occasions and those occasions prescribed by the chief of police or his or her designee.
 - b. The tapered blouse with belt hooks shall only be worn by members assigned to Special Operations Division (SOD) and the Ceremonial Honor Guard.
 - c. Members attending the funeral of another member shall wear the appropriate uniform or court attire regardless of the circumstances of death. If a member is on duty, he or she may pay their respects in the uniform of the day.
9. Shirts and Undershirts
- a. Ties shall not be worn with the short sleeve uniform shirt.
 - b. Long-sleeved shirt cuffs shall be worn fully extended and buttoned with the exception of police recruits and civilians wearing the battle dress uniform (BDU). Short sleeves shall be worn fully extended without rolls or folds to shorten the original length with the reflective stripe displayed. Blue shirts shall be worn with department patches on both shoulders. White shirts shall be worn with a department patch on one shoulder.
 - c. All buttons, except the top button when not worn with the tie or turtleneck, shall be fastened.
 - d. When wearing a short-sleeved shirt equipped with a visibility stripe, members shall ensure that the visibility stripe is displayed.
 - e. White or navy undershirts may be worn with any uniform provided that no lettering or designs appear through the uniform shirt and the sleeves of the undershirt not extend past the sleeves of the short sleeve shirt. Members wearing white uniform shirts shall only wear a white undershirt.
 - f. Purchased at members' expense, members the rank of sergeant and below are authorized to wear navy turtlenecks that:
 - (1) Are worn under the long sleeve navy uniform shirt without a tie. Turtlenecks are not permitted under the white shirt or blouse. White turtlenecks are not permitted.
 - (2) May be worn under the authorized military-style sweater without a long sleeve shirt.
 - (3) Shall not display writing or logos on the collar or neck band, with the exception of the letters "MPD" in silver embroidered block lettering no larger than one inch in height.

10. Trousers

- a. Uniformed members shall wear the department-issued uniform trousers. Members ranked sergeant and below are also authorized to wear department-approved summer trousers [i.e., Blauer style 8666 (dark navy)], purchased at their own expense.
- b. While standing at attention, trousers shall be of sufficient length so that a slight break in the crease line is caused by the bottom edge of the trouser meeting the top of the shoe.

11. Footwear

- a. Uniformed members shall wear opaque, navy or black socks, and not wear patterned socks or stockings.
- b. When in uniform, plain black shoes shall be worn. Shoes may be of the high-top design or military-style boots. Buckle or loafer type shoes shall not be worn.
- c. Brand name labels or design logos shall not be visible below the hem of the pants.
- d. Shoe soles may not exceed three-quarters of an inch in thickness and must be black in color.
- e. Heels shall not be more than one and one-half inches high, be at least one-quarter of an inch thicker than the sole, and be clearly distinguishable from the sole.
- f. Shoes shall be kept clean, in good repair, and shined to a luster.
- g. Members assigned to street duty may, during periods of cold or inclement weather, wear black, insulated, water-repellent shoes or boots with a plain design that are not capable of being shined to a luster.
- h. Tennis shoes are prohibited except for mountain bike officers in accordance with [GO-OPS-301.09 \(Police Bikes\)](#).

12. Sweaters

Members are authorized to purchase and wear a navy military-style sweater with no zippers according to the below chart.

Shirt Type	Sweater Type	Guidelines
White with a tie	V-neck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department patch on both shoulders • Name plate, badge, and rank insignia displayed
Navy without a tie	Crew neck	

13. Jackets

All jackets and coats shall display the department issued or authorized name tag, badge, patches, and unit collar insignia.

a. Raid Jackets

- (1) Members may wear raid jackets only when they are authorized to wear plain clothes or casual clothes pursuant to this order and are engaged in serving or executing a search warrant in accordance with [GO-OPS-308.13 \(Casual Clothes Units\)](#), [GO-PER-201.01 \(Non-Uniformed Assignments\)](#).
- (2) The raid jacket shall be a standard navy and shall only contain the words "Metropolitan Police Department," "MPD," or "MPDC." Members may also add the formal abbreviation of the wearer's assigned division/unit (e.g., "CID," "VRU," or "JTTF." The official MPD logo or the image of an MPD badge may be displayed on the left chest. No other insignia or lettering shall be displayed on the raid jacket.
- (3) Raid jackets shall be purchased at members' expense and appear clean and professional at all times.

b. Visibility Vests and Gore-Tex High Visibility Jackets

- (1) Members shall not modify the interior liner of the Gore-Tex high visibility jacket.
- (2) Members shall not wear the interior liner of the Gore-Tex high visibility jacket as an outer garment.
- (3) Members shall wear the visibility vest or Gore-Tex high visibility jacket when performing any traffic control duty in a road way (per United States Department of Transportation), working a reimbursable detail (e.g., club overtime), and when assigned to a nightlife area.
- (4) Members on high visibility crime patrol may be required to wear the visibility vest or Gore-Tex high visibility jacket during periods of inclement weather at the discretion of their commanding official.
- (5) Members working in a mountain bike assignment may wear the department-issued high visibility mountain bike jacket.

14. Specialized Uniforms

- a. Members shall not wear a specialized uniform unless serving in one of the assignments listed in Attachment A or as otherwise approved by the chief of police through the member's chain of command.

- b. Only police recruits and civilian members serving in one of the assignments listed in Attachment A are authorized to wear BDUs, unless approved by the chief of police through the member's chain of command.
 - c. While wearing BDUs, members shall wear their ID badge and name tag, and carry their identification.
 - d. BDUs shall be neat and well-maintained. Members shall ensure that their issued BDUs do not display anything that makes the member appear to be a sworn police officer (e.g., sworn badges, Gore-Tex jackets).
15. 8-Point Hat
- a. The 8-point hat shall be worn for ceremonial occasions and special assignments when directed by the chief of police.
 - b. The 8-point hat shall fit squarely on the head so that the top is flat and not tipped back or to the side. The front brim shall be on the forehead approximately one and one-half inches above the eyebrows. Grommets shall not be shortened in circumference or removed from the uniform hat.
16. Helmet
- a. Members whose duties require the wearing of a helmet during extended details or for prolonged periods of time may remove their helmet for brief periods to relieve discomfort.
 - b. Members may wear a black or navy skull cap or bandana under the helmet that shall be removed when the helmet is removed.
17. Baseball Cap
- a. Members the rank of sergeant and below wearing the class B uniform are authorized to wear a standard navy baseball style cap unless otherwise prohibited by the chief of police (e.g., presidential inauguration or other public events where the 8-point hat shall be worn).
 - b. The cap shall only display the 2x2 inch miniature MPD patch or badge on the front of the hat. No other insignia or lettering shall be displayed on the cap.
 - c. Baseball caps shall be worn facing forward on the head and not tipped back or to the side. The front brim shall be on the forehead approximately one and one-half inches above the eyebrows.
 - d. The cap shall be purchased at the member's expense and appear clean and professional at all times.

18. Trooper-Style Hat

The trooper-style winter uniform hat, with the department's seal on the front, may be worn during periods of cold weather, unless otherwise prohibited by the chief of police (e.g., presidential inauguration or other public events where the 8-point hat shall be worn).

19. Skull Cap

- a. Members may wear a black or navy skull cap during periods of cold weather, unless otherwise prohibited by the chief of police (e.g., presidential inauguration or other public events where the 8-point hat shall be worn).
- b. The cap shall only display the 2x2 inch miniature patch on the front of the hat. No other insignia or lettering shall be displayed on the cap.
- c. When wearing this cap, members shall ensure that the patch is centered on the front of the head with the edge of the cap not worn lower than the eyebrows of the member. The cap may cover the ears.
- d. The cap shall be purchased at the member's expense and appear clean and professional at all times.

20. Gloves

Black gloves are permitted during on-duty work on the streets. Gloves containing lead, sand, or other weighted materials are prohibited. White gloves are permitted during Honor Guard duties only.

21. Name Tags

- a. Members shall wear only department-issued or authorized name tags which shall be visibly worn on the uniform, centered on the right in the space provided for that purpose.
- b. When worn on the shirt or the outer vest, name tags shall be worn in the tab above the right breast pocket provided for that purpose. The Velcro strip reading "POLICE" in white letters shall be worn above the name tag on the outer vest. Detectives grade I and sergeants may wear gold lettering.
- c. Sergeants and below may wear Velcro name tags when wearing the class B uniform. Velcro name tags shall be four inches by one inch in size with white lettering embroidered on a midnight navy background as pictured below. Detectives grade I and sergeants may wear gold lettering. Names shall appear according to the specifications depicted in the following chart.

MIDNIGHT NAVY

Specification	Example
Last names with five letters or fewer include first initial and middle initial	G.W. Bush
Common last names (e.g., Johnson, Washington, Brown, Jones, Smith) include the first and middle initial	L.B. Johnson
Less common last names include only the first initial	R. Reagan

22. Insignia

- a. Sergeants and above shall wear gold MPD collar pins and officers shall wear silver MPD collar pins when **not** equipped with the outer vest carrier. Detectives grade I may wear gold collar pins when not equipped with the outer vest carrier.



- (1) When wearing a long sleeve shirt with tie, members shall ensure that pins run parallel to the collar.
 - (2) When not wearing a tie, members shall ensure that pins run perpendicular to the collar.
 - (3) Members are exempt from wearing pins when equipped with the outer vest carrier. Members opting to wear pins when equipped with an outer vest carrier shall ensure that pins are worn inside the vest.
- b. Members below the rank of lieutenant shall wear rank insignia, if any, on both sleeves of the uniform. Members of the rank of lieutenant and above shall wear rank insignia on both shoulder epaulets of the uniform.
 - c. Members may wear the insignia indicating the year of appointment immediately below, and attached to, the name plate.

- d. Members may wear the foreign language designation pin and the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) pin positioned below the outermost corner of the name tag.
- e. Members shall receive approval from the chief of police through the member's chain of command prior to wearing any other pins or insignia.

23. Ribbons

- a. A single ribbon shall be worn one-fourth inch above and centered over the name plate. Multiple ribbons shall be positioned end-to-end on the same horizontal line as the first ribbon. No more than three ribbons shall be worn in any given row.
- b. Additional rows shall be positioned one-eighth inch above the previous row. Whenever there are fewer than three ribbons in any given row, they shall be centered over the name plate or previous row of ribbons.
- c. Members may purchase commercially manufactured ribbon bars to hold their issued ribbons. The ribbon bar shall be designed to accommodate the precise number of ribbons the member has been issued and is authorized to wear.
- d. Sergeants and officers shall only wear ribbons when wearing the class A dress uniform. Ribbons shall not be worn on the outer vest or class B uniform shirt.
- e. Service and campaign ribbons awarded by the United States Armed Forces shall be worn above the member's badge, in the same manner and order of precedence as directed by military authority. United States Armed Forces specialty qualifications pins (e.g., Combat Infantry Badge, Special Warfare Pin, Ranger, Pilot Wings, Jump Wings, Surface Warfare Officer, or Diver) may be worn directly above the military ribbons. Members with qualification pins or insignia other than those listed, may submit a memorandum to the Awards Committee requesting permission to display the insignia.

24. Medals

- a. Sworn members attired in full dress uniform who are attending special functions (e.g., parades, funerals) may elect to wear medals in lieu of ribbons.
- b. A single medal shall be worn one-fourth inch below and centered over the name plate. Multiple medals shall be positioned end-to-end on the same horizontal line as the first medal. Not more than three medals shall be worn in a row.

- c. A second row of medals shall be positioned one inch below the horizontal line and between the medals of the first row starting at the wearer's right. When a third row of medals becomes necessary, the first medal in the third row shall be positioned in a line directly beneath the first medal of the first row.
 - d. Additional rows shall be positioned in a like manner, alternating the configuration from right to left. Whenever there are fewer than three medals in any given row, they shall be centered under the name plate or previous row of medals.
 - e. Sergeants and officers shall only wear medals when wearing the class A dress uniform. Medals shall not be worn on the outer vest or class B uniform shirt.
 - f. Medals and ribbons awarded by other governments, municipalities, or law enforcement agencies, and medals or ribbons awarded to members by a previous law enforcement agency (i.e., lateral hires), may be worn with MPD issued ribbons and medals with prior approval of the Awards Committee. A memorandum evidencing the prior award must accompany the request to wear the ribbon or medal. If approved, the member will be instructed by the Awards Committee on how to wear the award.
25. Court, Hearings, and Administrative Proceedings
- a. When wearing a uniform, members shall wear the uniform of the day or the class A uniform.
 - b. Members appearing in court or hearings shall not wear casual sportswear, shorts, jeans, or tennis shoes.
 - c. Members attending court or hearings in civilian dress shall wear business attire (e.g., dress shirt, necktie drawn to cover the top button of the shirt with the collar fastened, suit or sport coat, slacks, skirt or dress no higher than three inches above the knee with any split or vent in skirt or dress not exceeding three inches, and dress shoes).
 - d. When papering adult cases, attending witness conferences, or handling administrative matters requiring check-in at the Court Liaison Division (CLD), members may appear in conservative casual attire, excluding the following attire:
 - (1) Denim jeans, shorts or cut off pants of any length, torn, ripped, or cut out pants, painter pants, bib overalls, or denim jumpsuits;
 - (2) Tee shirts, sweat shirts or sweat suits, thermal shirts, "muscle shirts," halter, tube, midriff, see-through or fish-net

woven type tops, athletic attire of any type, leggings, spandex pants or skirts;

- (3) Sandals, flip-flop type shoes, tennis shoes of any type; and
- (4) Sundresses or backless dresses.

e. Adverse Action Panels

- (1) Captains and above serving on adverse action panels shall report for such hearings in a class A dress uniform.
- (2) Sworn members appearing before an adverse action hearing or trial board shall report in a class A service uniform.
- (3) Sworn members, not serving as a panel member, assigned to casual or plain clothes duty and civilian members shall report in civilian attire suitable for an appearance in court as prescribed in this order.

26. Honoring the United States Colors, Flag, and National Anthem

- a. When in full uniform, to include uniform hat, render a hand salute during the presentation of the nation's colors, the playing of the National Anthem, and the raising or lowering of the United States flag. Members shall stand at attention and render the right-hand salute with the index finger of the right hand touching the brim of their hat, elbow at a 45-degree angle. The salute shall:
 - (1) Commence once the colors are presented (visible to the member) and continue until the colors are secured in place, or in the event of a parade, the salute shall commence when the colors are six paces from the member and be held until the colors are six paces past the member.
 - (2) Commence at the first note of the National Anthem and continue until the final note is played.
 - (3). Commence once the flag begins its ascent/decent and continue until the flag is secured in place or secured by the bearer.
- b. Members in uniform without the uniform hat or members in civilian attire without a hat shall stand at attention and place their right hand over the heart.
- c. When in civilian attire with a hat, stand at attention, remove the hat and place their right hand over their heart.

C. Equipment Standards

1. Body Armor
 - a. Members shall wear only department-issued and authorized body armor.
 - b. Members shall ensure that only department-authorized body armor is worn on the outer vest carrier unless approved by the chief of police.
 - (1) The department-authorized outer vest attachments shall be used to store the portable radio and flashlight. When wearing a jacket, members may store the portable radio on the duty belt.
 - (2) The department-authorized outer vest pouch shall be positioned on the side of the member's service weapon and kept closed.
 - c. Body armor shall be worn and cared for according to the manufacturer's specifications, as directed on the body armor.
 - d. Mandatory Wear
 - (1) Members the rank of sergeant and below, while in uniform, and assigned to patrol duties or the station, shall wear body armor using the outer vest carrier.
 - (2) Captains and lieutenants, while in uniform and actively engaged in street patrol or other high-risk activities, shall wear body armor. Lieutenants and above are authorized to wear the outer vest carrier.
 - (3) Members assigned to casual clothes or plainclothes duty, while participating in warrant execution, turn-ups, or any other high-risk assignment, shall wear body armor.
 - (4) Uniformed members assigned to administrative duties shall not be required to wear body armor. Station personnel are **not** considered administrative personnel and are required to be fully equipped and wear body armor.
 - (5) Body armor may be required for any assignment that the commanding official of an element deems appropriate.
 - e. Members shall wear only department-approved patches on the outer vest carrier. Department-approved outer vest patches include: field training officer, Domestic Security Operations, Harbor Patrol Unit, Motorcycle Unit, Canine Patrol Unit, Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit, Bomb Squad, and Emergency Response Team.
 - f. Members shall not wear the tactical vest carrier unless approved by

the chief of police through the member's chain of command.

- g. The Equipment and Supplies Branch (ESB) shall ensure that body armor is replaced in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.

2. Duty Belt

- a. When either the short or long sleeve shirt is worn as part of the uniform of the day, the duty belt shall be worn in such a manner as to completely cover the waistband area and inner belt. Only the department-issued duty belt is authorized for use.
- b. Members shall ensure that equipment is properly ordered on the duty belt according to their dominant hand. The duty belt shall contain:
 - (1) On the member's dominant side: department-issued or authorized handcuffs and holster with department-issued service weapon; and
 - (2) On the member's non-dominant side: two magazines, oleoresin capsicum (OC), Armament Systems and Procedures (ASP) baton and holster, portable radio, and department-issued flashlight (unless stored on the outer vest carrier pursuant to this order).
- c. Members shall carry and use only department-issued or authorized handcuffs while on duty. Members may purchase and carry Smith and Wesson, Model 100 M&P slot-lock handcuffs in a nickel or black finish while on-duty.
- d. Members equipped with an electronic control device (ECD) shall mount the ECD on the reaction side of their duty belt (opposite the pistol) in a cross-draw holster or on the reaction side of their outer vest carrier in a cross-draw holster and store the portable radio and flashlight on the duty belt. Members not assigned to uniformed patrol may use other department-approved holsters and carry the ECD consistent with department training.
- e. Canine handlers and tactical ERT members ranked sergeant and below are authorized to use department-issued flashlights mounted to their department-issued firearm.
- f. Plainclothes members shall carry the department-issued miniature OC when it will not interfere with practical police functions. The miniature OC shall be carried with its protective cap in place and clipped to the shirt, blouse or coat pocket.
- g. The class B uniform requires, at members' expense, a black nylon inner belt. Buckles shall not be visible once the duty belt is

attached.

- h. The duty belt shall not be worn with the blouse unless worn by members of the Honor Guard.

3. Holsters

- a. While in uniform, members shall wear the department-issued hip holster issued for carrying their service weapon.
 - (1) Tactical members of the Emergency Response Team ranked sergeant and below are authorized to wear the department-issued thigh holster.
 - (2) Members shall obtain approval from the chief of police through the member's chain of command prior to wearing any non-issued holster while in uniform.
- b. The regulation holster shall be worn so that the butt of the weapon extends to the rear.
- c. On-duty members not in uniform may wear a non-issued holster provided that:
 - (1) The member's commanding officer has authorized the wearing of the holster;
 - (2) The non-issued holster accommodates the type of duty performed;
 - (3) The holster has been approved by the range officer for use with the member's service weapon; and
 - (4) Leg holsters may be worn in lieu of the regular department-issued holster while wearing civilian attire with prior approval of the chief of police through the member's chain of command.

4. Service Weapons

- a. On-duty members shall carry their department-issued service weapon.
- b. While in any building not occupied in whole by the department, members not in full uniform shall carry their service weapon so as to conceal it from view, except while inside offices used exclusively by the department.
- c. Members shall not carry their service weapon into any courtroom, hearing room, or other room during the proceedings in any matter in which they have a personal interest. Members attending Superior

Court on personal matters shall first report to CLD to store their service weapon.

- d. Members shall not carry their service weapon into the Office of the Attorney General Child Support Services Division, when attending to their personal child support cases. Members handling personal child support cases shall first report to CLD to store their service weapon.
 - e. If a member is asked to remove his or her service weapon prior to entering a facility (e.g., DC jail, Saint Elizabeth's Hospital, or the Psychiatric Institute of Washington) the member shall ensure there is a safe place to store the weapon. If a member has any questions regarding the removal of the weapon, he or she shall contact the watch commander for guidance.
 - f. Members shall not carry their service weapon in a paper bag, vehicle compartment, pocketbook or purse, attaché case, or any similar device.
 - g. Members, when off duty in DC, shall carry their badge, identification, and service firearm (or other authorized firearm) except in situations where carrying a weapon may prove unnecessary or imprudent (e.g., when attending religious services, events with in-house armed security, athletic activities, social events with alcoholic beverages, and locations where weapons cannot be secured in accordance with department policy).
 - h. Members, while in an off-duty status and carrying their service weapon in another jurisdiction, shall carry their weapon in an issued or authorized off duty holster at all times, except, when removing it for official use, to clean the weapon, or for the purpose of inspection. In addition, members shall ensure compliance with all applicable rules, regulations and laws of that jurisdiction.
5. Badges and Identification
- a. Sworn members in uniform shall wear their badge and name tag on all uniform outer garments. Members shall not alter or cover the identifying information or otherwise prevent or hinder a member of the public from reading the information.
 - b. Sworn members, while off duty in the District of Columbia, shall:
 - (1) Carry their badge and identification card at all times;
 - (2) When not in uniform, secure their badge so as to conceal it from view; and
 - (3) Carry their police badge in such a manner that it is not visible to the public when in civilian attire, unless a situation

arises requiring members to take police action. In those instances, members:

- (a) May wear their badge on civilian attire to identify themselves as police officers; and
 - (b) Shall conceal the badge from view as soon as the situation requiring police action has been handled.
 - c. Sworn members while on duty shall carry their badge and identification card at all times. This provision shall not apply to members in undercover assignments.
 - d. Whether inside or outside the District of Columbia, members shall not leave their badge or identification card in an automobile or other location that is readily accessible to other individuals.
 - e. While on-duty, sworn members not in uniform and civilian members shall have their department-issued picture identification badge available for presentation.
6. Ballistic and Patrol Shields
- a. Ballistic shields are composed of a material that provides threat level IIIA ballistic protection to members from specified caliber ammunition or edged weapons. The ballistic shield does not stop rifle rounds of any caliber.
 - b. Patrol shields are composed of transparent polycarbonate material that offer limited resistance to blunt objects or projectiles, providing an additional defensive barrier between the member and perceived threat. Patrol shields will not provide adequate protection to members from firearms or edged weapons.
 - c. Only department-approved patrol and ballistic shields shall be used in any enforcement action. The Metropolitan Police Academy (MPA) shall ensure that all patrol and ballistic shield-equipped members complete initial training on the use of the assigned shield before they are certified to carry or deploy a patrol or ballistic shield. Shields shall only be assigned to full-duty members who have been trained in their use.
 - d. Members shall not alter, modify, or repair a patrol or ballistic shield, including but not limited to applying decals or stickers to the shield or adding attachments (e.g., lights, additional handles). All requests for such attachments shall be submitted to the MPD armorer, and if approved, shall be completed by the MPD authorized armorer or technician.
 - e. When not assigned, patrol and ballistic shields shall be stored in a designated storage area at each element. During a member's shift,

when not in use, shields shall be properly stored in a locked vehicle. Shields shall not be stored in vehicles when members are off-duty.

- f. Ballistic shields shall be used as protective, defensive instruments, allowing members to have a measure of protection from gunfire and providing cover prior to using use of force tactics, techniques and defensive weapons to bring an incident or person under control (e.g., to defend themselves or others from gunfire; when confronted by an animal that poses a threat to the member's safety; or to defend themselves or others from an attack where the suspects have armed themselves with edged weapons, blunt objects or other items actively being used to commit an assault). Ballistic shields are not an authorized force option.
- g. Patrol shields shall primarily be used as protective, defensive instruments, allowing members to create adequate distance and cover prior to using other use of force tactics, techniques, and defensive weapons to bring an incident or person under control (e.g., to deflect projectiles that pose a threat to the member's safety; when confronted by a subject who is disorderly or combative and poses a risk to a member's safety; or when confronted by an animal that poses a threat to the member's safety). While patrol shields are primarily protective, defensive instruments, members may have to deploy a shield to bring an active resister engaged in uncooperative and non-compliant behavior under control.
- h. Members shall deploy ballistic and patrol shields according to department training.
 - (1) Members shall not deploy a shield to intimidate or coerce subjects who are not combative or disorderly and do not pose a threat to the member.
 - (2) Shields may be employed in any manner necessary if required to protect the life of a civilian or law enforcement officer subject to the imminent threat of death or serious physical injury, and no other options are feasible. To maximize officer safety, members are discouraged from using ballistic shields until additional officers respond to the scene to assist with providing cover and restraining the subject.
 - (3) When deploying a ballistic shield, members shall request that a supervisor respond to the scene. The supervisor shall assess the conditions and determine whether ERT should be notified.
 - (4) Members shall not use a ballistic shield when they have already deployed a patrol rifle.

- (5) Members shall not, when confronted by a subject armed with a firearm or edged weapon, use a patrol shield as the primary means of cover, unless no other forms of cover will provide a higher level of protection to the member.
 - (6) Members shall not hold a patrol shield at the same time that they are holding their firearm unless exigent circumstances exist (e.g., barricades and warrant entries).
 - i. The deployment of a shield as an additional layer of defense, in of itself, is not a use of force. However, if a shield is deployed offensively or in a manner that results in injury or complaint of pain or injury, the incident shall be reported and investigated pursuant to [GO-RAR-901.07 \(Use of Force\)](#).
 - j. After deploying the ballistic or patrol shield offensively or in a manner that results in injury or complaint of pain or injury, the member's first responsibilities shall be to ensure that the scene is safe, conduct a visual and verbal check of the subject (to include checking vital signs when appropriate) to determine the need for medical care, render first aid if applicable, secure the scene's integrity, and notify a supervisor.
7. Communication Devices
- a. Members assigned to patrol duties shall wear the MPD-issued earpiece, attached to their uniform, while on duty.
 - b. Members are permitted to carry cellular phones. If a cell phone is displayed on the member's duty belt, the cell phone case and holster shall be black.
8. Business Cards
- a. Members shall carry or otherwise have readily available a sufficient number of MPD business cards while on-duty. Members shall provide business cards upon request.
 - b. Members who run out of business cards may request new cards through the "MPD Business Card Order Form" available on the MPD intranet homepage.
 - c. Members shall obtain a sufficient number of blank, fillable business cards for use until their replacement cards are available. District and element commanding officials shall ensure a sufficient number of blank, fillable business cards are available for members who run out of business cards.
 - d. Members may purchase business cards for use on-duty at their own expense.

- (1) Member-purchased business cards must contain the member's rank, badge number, and MPD email address.
- (2) Member-purchased business cards may contain the MPD badge graphic, work address, and telephone number(s).
- (3) Members shall not include information on their business cards other than the information specified in this order (e.g., mottos, quotations, and graphics are not permitted).

9. Field Notebooks

Members shall provide themselves with field notebooks and shall make note of matters coming to their attention within the scope of their duties. Field notebooks shall be carried at all times when on duty. Field notebooks and the contents may be discoverable material, and as such, shall be retained for a period of no less than three years after the field notebook is completed in accordance with [GO-SPT-601.02 \(Preservation of Potentially Discoverable Material\)](#).

10. Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) Kit

Members may wear a department-issued TECC kit positioned on the leg.

11. Fixed Blade or Folding Pocket Knives

- a. Members may carry a fixed blade, folding pocket knife, or multi-tool concealed on their belt or in a trouser pocket for use during rescue operations or in other non-confrontational situations. Blade length shall not exceed three inches with an overall length of nine inches.
- b. Knives shall be concealed with only the clip visible on the belt or pocket. Knives shall not be clipped on the uniform shirt or outer vest cover.
- c. Fixed blades and pocket knives are not authorized force options.

D. Exemptions

1. Members claiming medical reasons for deviation from the uniform, equipment, and appearance standards set forth in this order may request a reasonable accommodation by notifying the department's Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Coordinator according to the procedures set forth in [GO-PER-100.14 \(Compliance with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act\)](#).
2. Members may request religious exemptions (i.e., head covers, clothing, objects, symbols and other items of religious significance) from the chief of police, through the member's chain of command. The chief of police, or his or her designee, shall determine on a case-by-case basis considering any potential safety issues and operational concerns. Existing exemptions for uniformed members can be found in Attachment B. This order will be

updated when new exemptions are approved. Members shall bear all costs associated with procuring and maintaining their article of faith.

E. Loss or Damage

1. All incidents of lost property resulting in damage to items of District Government property shall be reported on the PD Form 43 (Report of Damage to or Loss of Government Property) as soon as possible, but within 24 hours, and given to an official.
2. All performance of duty incidents involving normal duty related use and wear that result in minor damage to uniform clothing, (e.g., rips, tears) shall be reported on the PD Form 43-A (Report and Certification of Performance of Duty Damage to Articles of Uniform). The PD Form 43-A shall be prepared by the reporting member and certified by the on-scene supervisor or investigating official.
3. Members reporting the loss of department property (e.g., badge, pistol, identification card, resulting from a criminal offense) shall prepare an RMS report in addition to the PD Form 43.
4. Where it is shown through investigation that such loss or damage occurred through negligence on the part of the member, he or she may be required to replace the item at his or her own expense.
5. The ESB manager shall review the reports for each loss of and damage to uniforms and equipment and recommend financial responsibility.

F. Inspections

1. Supervisors shall inspect members' uniforms, equipment, and appearance at roll calls.
2. Supervisors shall conduct quarterly uniform and equipment inspections with quarterly driver's license checks using the PD Form 85-B (Uniform Equipment Checklist).

G. Return

1. All issued items of uniform and equipment shall be returned to the member's element clearance designee in a neat and clean condition within 30 days. Members shall notify the designee his or her element of any lost or missing uniform or equipment items.
2. Upon the death of a member, the element designee shall ensure that a Family Support Team member assists with equipment retrieval.
3. Members who have received specialized uniforms or equipment shall return these items immediately upon being reassigned to a position not requiring their use.

H. Uniform and Equipment Board

1. Uniform and Equipment Board shall include:

Uniform and Equipment Board Membership	
Technical and Analytical Services Bureau assistant chief (chairperson)	
Patrol Services North (PSN) and Patrol Services South (PSN) chief to rotate every sixth months (may be delegated to commanders)	Homeland Security Bureau (HSB) assistant chief (may be delegated to HSB commander)
Technical and Analytical Services Bureau commander	FOP representative

2. The board shall oversee all uniform and equipment matters and monitor the development, testing, and evaluation of new items. The board shall invite NAGE Local R3-05 and other element representatives to provide input and attend meetings for consultation, as needed.
3. The board shall make recommendations on all uniform and equipment matters to the chief of police who shall have final approval of all changes. Upon approval, the decision of the board in all matters relating to fit, style, necessary alterations, and all other factors necessary to provide uniforms in accordance with approved specifications shall be final and conclusive.
4. The board chairperson shall ensure records of the board’s activities and decisions are documented and maintained in accordance with the records retention schedule.

III. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Uniform Guidelines Chart

Attachment B: Uniform Exemptions for Religious Purposes

IV. RESCISSION

Rescinds: EO-21-002 (Electronic Control Device Placement), Effective Date January 7, 2021 EO-21-027 (Rank Insignia), Effective Date December 7, 2021 EO-22-002 (Ballistic Shield Deployment), Effective Date February 16, 2022
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Pamela A. Smith
Chief of Police

Uniform Guidelines

	Lieutenant and above		Sergeant and below		All Ranks			
	Shirt and Blouse	Tie	Shirt and Blouse	Tie or Turtleneck	Jacket	Pants	Headgear	Guidelines
Class A dress uniform	White long sleeve shirt and blouse	Tie	White long sleeve shirt and blouse	Tie	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All-season trousers Sergeants and below may wear summer pants 	8-point hat	Worn on ceremonial occasions or for certain special events and details as designated by the Chief of Police
Class B service uniform	White long or short sleeve shirt	Tie with long sleeve shirt	Blue long or short sleeve shirt	No tie	Gore-Tex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All-season trousers Sergeants and below may wear summer pants 	8-point hat, baseball cap, skull cap, or trooper-style hat	Baseball caps restricted to members the rank of sergeant and below
BDU	Not authorized	Not authorized	Not authorized	Not authorized	Gore-Tex (modified for civilian wear)	BDU trousers	BDU cap, baseball cap, or skull cap	Worn only by police recruits and civilian members in the following assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metropolitan Police Academy Cell Block Evidence Control Division Motor Pool Equipment and Supply Branch Vehicle Maintenance Canine Kennel
Specialized Uniforms								
Approved specialized uniform items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explosive Ordinance Disposal Section (special fabric) Emergency Response Team (special uniform pants and shirt) Harbor Patrol Unit (foot beat, Segway: special uniform shorts) Motors Unit (special uniform pants and boots) Canine Patrol Unit (special uniform pants and shirt) Mountain Bike Officer (special uniform pants and shorts, black footwear, special high visibility jacket, and bike helmet) Metropolitan Police Academy Range (red shirt) Internal Affairs Division Force Investigation Team (polo shirt and jacket) 							

Uniform Exemptions for Religious Purposes

- I. Members of the Sikh faith may wear a turban exclusively, at all times, unless otherwise directed or not permissible due to their assigned duty (e.g., when wearing a riot helmet). In instances where a Sikh member is required to wear a riot helmet, a smaller “under-turban” may be worn under the helmet.
 - A. Members who wear Sikh turbans shall ensure that:
 1. The turban is the same color as the headgear corresponding to MPD uniform requirements.
 2. The turban fits snugly on the head so that the top peak of the turban is facing in the front.
 3. The MPD cap plate/badge is pinned to the Sikh turban, centered on the front of the turban.
 4. Their hair is groomed and secured under their turban.
 - B. Members of the Sikh faith may wear a Kara (i.e., steel bracelet) as long as the Kara does not interfere with the ability of the member to perform police duties.
 - C. Members of the Sikh faith who carry a Kirpan (i.e., religious sword) shall ensure the Kirpan as a blade-length no longer than three inches and is worn in a cloth holster (i.e., “Gatra”) under the uniform shirt.
 - D. Bearded members of the Sikh faith shall groom their beard and mustache in a neat and clean manner and tie their beard in a knot that is tucked and held in place under the chin.
- II. Members of the Muslim faith may wear a hijab exclusively, at all times.
 - A. Members wearing a hijab shall ensure that:
 1. The hijab is the same color as the headgear corresponding to MPD uniform requirements.
 2. The hijab fits snugly on the head. Members who wear a hijab may elect to wear a specifically-modified hijab with clasps that allow it to come off easily.
 3. Headgear is worn on top of the hijab, when required.