

# GENERAL ORDER



## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Title		
Code of Conduct		
Topic	Series	Number
PER	201	26
Effective Date		
June 12, 2024		
<b>Replaces:</b> GO-PER-201.26 (Duties, Responsibilities and Conduct of Members of the Department), Effective Date April 5, 2011		
<b>Related to:</b> GO-OMA-101.09 (Duties and Responsibilities of Sworn Officials)		
<b>Rescinds:</b> Listed in Part VI. Rescission		

I.	Purpose	Page	1
II.	Policy	Page	1
III.	Unbiased Policing	Page	2
IV.	Rules for Conduct	Page	2
V.	Additional Sworn and Reserve Corps Rules for Conduct	Page	10
VI.	Rescission	Page	16

### I. PURPOSE

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) expects all members to maintain the highest standards of conduct at all times, both on duty and off duty. Due to the very nature of police work, it is understood that no set policies, procedures, and regulations can be adopted to cover all circumstances. In emergencies or situations not addressed within this order, all members are expected to exercise sound judgment, within the confines of the law. Violations of District of Columbia policies, MPD policies, and the laws of the District of Columbia or the United States of America may result in disciplinary or personnel action. The purpose of this directive is to establish the responsibilities and standards of conduct for all sworn and civilian members of the department.

### II. POLICY

It is the policy of MPD to ensure that the performance of its members is characterized by lawful police actions that are carried out in an exemplary fashion. The positive public image, which MPD strives to develop within its community, is dependent upon adherence to high standards of personal conduct. Department members wield considerable power over the public in order to provide services. The department's enforcement responsibilities and activities result in MPD members being an extremely visible form of government representing the District of Columbia. Police powers are carefully balanced and circumscribed by federal and District laws, and ultimately, by the [United States Constitution](#). Police powers to arrest, seize property, and lawfully interfere with the lives of members of the community must be accomplished with public trust. We regard this trust as vital to our success and we must protect this confidence through exemplary performance at all times.

Department members shall not commit any acts or omit any acts that constitute a violation of District of Columbia policies, MPD policies, and/or the laws of the District of Columbia or the United States of America, whether stated within this order or elsewhere. Members investigating alleged violations of this order and/or the law shall act in

accordance with [GO-PER-120.20 \(Administrative Investigations\)](#). Disciplinary action shall only be authorized by the chief of police or his or her designee in accordance with [GO-PER-120.21 \(Sworn Employee Discipline\)](#) (for sworn employees) and the [District of Columbia Personnel Manual](#) (for civilian employees).

### III. UNBIASED POLICING

In accordance with [Title VI of the Civil Rights Act](#) and [DC Official Code § 2-1401](#), MPD is committed to the unbiased treatment of all persons in enforcing the law and providing services. Biased policing is the practice of a law enforcement officer singling out or treating differently any person on the sole basis of race, color, religion, national origin, limited English proficiency, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, sealed eviction record, status as a victim of an intrafamily offense, place of residence or business, and status as a victim or family member of a victim of domestic violence, a sexual offense, or stalking, and homeless status. More specifically, this applies when the practice is the determining factor in deciding how to respond to requests for assistance or otherwise to provide services, or in selecting which individuals to subject to routine investigative activities, or in deciding upon the scope and substance of law enforcement activity.

Members engaging in law enforcement and public service are prohibited from biased policing of any type. MPD officials shall ensure that members conduct all programs and activities in a nondiscriminatory manner. Biased policing does not include reliance on such characteristics in combination with other identifying factors when the law enforcement member is seeking to apprehend a specific suspect and any of the above characteristics is part of the description of the suspect.

MPD has a [Public Notice of Compliance with the Title VI Program Rights](#) that requires members to uphold and assure full compliance with the non-discrimination requirements of [Title VI](#) and related nondiscrimination authorities.

### IV. RULES FOR CONDUCT

1. **AUTHORITY OF ORDERS/INSUBORDINATION** – Members shall promptly obey all lawful orders issued to them by supervisors of a higher rank. Unjustified bypassing of rank in the chain of command or the non-exigent circumvention of the chain of command may constitute insubordination.
2. **LAWFUL ORDERS** – Any order in keeping with the performance of any duty prescribed by law and by these rules and regulations, or for the preservation of good order, efficient and proper discipline, and which does not conflict with standing laws and rules shall be construed as lawful. Officials shall not knowingly or willfully issue any order in violation of a law, rule or order of the United States, District of Columbia, or MPD. Members shall not obey any order which they know, or should know, would require them to commit any illegal act. If in doubt as to the legality of an order, the member shall request the issuing official to clarify the order or confer with higher authority. Members shall not be disciplined for questioning the lawfulness of an order.

3. **CONFLICTING ORDERS** – Members who are given an otherwise proper order that is in conflict with a previous order, rule, regulation or directive, shall respectfully inform the official issuing the order of the conflict. If the official issuing the order does not alter or retract the conflicting order, the order shall stand. Under these circumstances, the responsibility for the conflict shall rest upon the issuing official. Members shall obey the conflicting order and shall not be held responsible for disobedience of the order, rule, regulation, or directive previously issued.
4. **UNBECOMING CONDUCT** – Members shall conduct their private and professional lives in such a manner as to avoid bringing discredit upon themselves, MPD, or the District of Columbia. Members shall maintain a level of conduct in their personal and business affairs which is consistent with the highest standards of the law enforcement profession.
5. **CONFORMANCE TO LAWS AND DEPARTMENT POLICIES**
  - a. Members shall obey all laws of the United States and of any state and local jurisdiction in which the members are present. All members shall be subject to additional criminal history and driver history checks during the year as long as they are employed by MPD.
  - b. Members shall communicate to an official any violation of this order, any other department order, and any infraction of which would bring discredit to the department.
  - c. Department members who are arrested, charged with traffic infractions (excluding parking violations or NOIs issued to their vehicle as a civil citation), have their driver's license revoked or suspended, and/or learn that they may be the defendant in any criminal action, shall report such action to the member's bureau head, through appropriate channels, without delay.
  - d. All members who are authorized to use department vehicles shall maintain a valid driver's license in the jurisdiction in which they reside.
6. **ACTIVE BYSTANDERSHIP AND DUTY TO INFORM**
  - a. Members, regardless of rank or position, are required to intervene to prevent another member from conduct that would clearly cause serious, illegal, and unnecessary harm to others or would clearly violate law or policy. Intervention is required where the bystander is witness to and has a reasonable opportunity to prevent or mitigate harm caused by policy or legal violations, or mistakes, and where intervening can be accomplished without jeopardizing the member, bystanders, or others. In all cases, a member's duty to intervene shall be evaluated based on the facts known to the member at the time of the incident.
  - b. Members shall promptly communicate to an official, before the end of the member's shift, any information regarding tips on crimes or criminal activity, or any other relevant law enforcement information, which may

- come into their possession.
- c. Failure to voluntarily report misconduct conduct as described in this order shall be an offense subject to discipline if sustained.
  - d. Any member who has reason to believe that reporting misconduct to an element official may compromise the investigation may report the information to IAB directly.
- 7. REPORTING FOR DUTY – Members shall report for duty properly dressed and equipped pursuant to [GO-PER-110.11 \(Uniform, Equipment, and Appearance Standards\)](#).
  - 8. ATTENDANCE – Members shall arrive to work prepared to assume their duties as soon as their assigned shift begins. All members absent from duty shall be placed in an official leave status as prescribed by [GO-PER-206.01 \(Time and Attendance\)](#) and other related orders.
  - 9. ATTENTIVENESS TO DUTY – While on duty, members shall not engage in any activities or personal business which would cause them to neglect or be inattentive to duty. Members shall respond without delay to all calls for police assistance from community members or other department members. Emergency calls shall take precedence; however, all calls shall be answered as soon as possible consistent with normal safety precautions and in observance of all vehicle laws.
  - 10. LEAVING DUTY POST – Members shall not leave their assigned duty posts, except when authorized by proper authority. Sworn members shall ensure that the Office of Unified Communications (OUC) is advised of their change of location.
  - 11. SLEEPING ON DUTY – Members shall remain awake while on duty. If unable to do so, a member shall so report to their official, who shall determine the proper course of action.
  - 12. SEXUAL MISCONDUCT
    - a. Engaging in sexual activity while on duty is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, physical, verbal, and non-verbal acts of a sexual nature with other members, arrestees, or members of the public.
    - b. Members shall not use their official position to coerce, persuade, force, or initiate sexual contact or engage in on-duty or off-duty sexual activity using department or DC government or facilities or property (e.g., vehicles).
    - c. Members shall immediately report observed instances of sexual misconduct by department members to an official.
  - 13. USE OF DEPARTMENT VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT – Members shall use department vehicles and equipment only for their intended purpose, and shall not abuse, damage, or handle department vehicles and

equipment in a careless manner. All vehicles and equipment issued to members shall be maintained in proper order and remain operationally ready to use at all times.

- a. In accordance with [GO-SPT-301.01 \(Vehicle Operation and Maintenance\)](#), members shall drive defensively and exercise the utmost regard for the safety of the public and themselves, and the protection of property while operating department vehicles. Members shall give their full time and attention to the operation of the vehicle and shall comply with pertinent traffic regulations unless otherwise permitted by department procedures.
  - b. Members shall not operate any MPD-owned or leased mode of transportation (e.g., automobiles, vans, buses, motorcycles, bicycles, boats) either on-duty or off-duty, within eight hours after consuming **any amount** of alcohol, restricted over-the-counter medications, and/or prescription drugs which may induce drowsiness, sleepiness, or dizziness.
14. COMPLAINTS – Members shall be attentive to, and take suitable action on, reports and complaints by members of the public except when circumstances make it necessary for them to report the matter, or refer the complaint to a more suitable member, or another agency. Although a member may attempt to explain an incident or a department policy to a member of the community, the member shall adhere to complaint procedures set forth in [GO-PER-120.25 \(Office of Police Complaints Investigations\)](#).
15. ABUSE OF POSITION – Members shall not use their official position, official identification cards, or badges for personal or financial gain, for obtaining privileges not otherwise available to them except in the performance of duty, or for avoiding consequences of illegal acts. This requirement is not intended and does not prohibit sworn members from identifying themselves as police officers when off-duty and interacting with on-duty law enforcement officers in any jurisdiction for safety or awareness purposes. Members shall not lend their identification cards or badges to another person or deliberately make them available to be photographed or reproduced for improper use without the approval of the chief of police.
16. DONATIONS, GIFTS, GRATUITIES, AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
  - a. Members shall not accept any money, loan, gift, favor, service, or business or professional opportunity that reasonably tends to influence the member in the performance of their official duties or that could discredit the department. Members shall guard against any relationships which may be construed as evidence of favoritism, collusion or a conflict of interest.
  - b. Members shall not solicit or accept donations without the prior, written approval of the chief of police. Members wishing to solicit or accept donations shall submit a request to the Grants and Procurement Branch through the member's chain of command that contains the name of the donor, items or services to be donated, estimated value of the donation,

justification for the donation, and the name and title of the donor. Pursuant to the [Mayor's Memorandum 2015-001 \(Rules of Conduct Governing Donations and Honorary Gifts to the District of Columbia Government\)](#), the Grants and Procurement Branch shall process and submit all department-approved requests to the Executive Office of the Mayor for final approval.

17. ENDORSEMENTS AND REFERRALS – Members shall not recommend or endorse in an official capacity the employment or procurement of a particular product, professional service, or commercial service (e.g., attorney, ambulance service, towing service, bondsman, or mortician). This shall not preclude the Union from referring matters to counsel, including the prepaid legal plan. This does not apply when a relative of the member seeks such advice. In the case of towing service, when such service is necessary and the person needing the service is unable or unwilling to procure it or request assistance, members shall act in accordance with [GO-OPS-303.03 \(Vehicle Towing and Impoundment\)](#).
18. ASSOCIATIONS
  - a. Members shall avoid regular or continuous associations or dealings at places that they know are places under criminal investigation, or that they know have a reputation in the community or the department for felonious activity, except as necessary in the performance of official duties or where unavoidable because of immediate familial relationships.
  - b. Members shall not commence personal relationships with people who they know have been convicted, or arrested multiple times within the previous five years, for a dangerous crime as defined in [DC Official Code § 23-1331\(3\)](#) or a crime of violence as defined in [DC Official Code § 23-1331\(4\)](#).
19. CONFIDENTIALITY – No member shall reveal police information outside the department, except as provided elsewhere within a department order or as required by law or competent authority. Information contained in police records, information ordinarily accessible only to members, names of informants, complainants, witnesses and other persons known to the police are considered confidential. Unauthorized copying or duplication of official records is prohibited.
20. CHAIN OF COMMAND – All non-exigent internal matters or inquiries (e.g., leave requests) which require the review and/or approval of an official, **shall** go through the chain of command to the appropriate official.
21. COOPERATION – All members are charged with establishing and maintaining a high degree of cooperation, both within the department and with all agencies engaged in the administration of criminal justice and public service. Members shall cooperate with and assist each other, whenever practical. While on duty, members shall aid and/or reasonably assist persons whenever such aid or assistance appears to be called for and does not conflict with the general principles of law enforcement or in violation of legal statutes or department rules and regulations. Members shall not interview subjects, conduct any

investigation, or initiate any inquiries into the case of another member without the consent of that member or authorization from the commanding official.

22. IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT – Members shall not make any inquiry through any database solely for the purpose of inquiring about an individual's immigration status. Members shall not make inquiries into any person's immigration status for the purpose of determining whether they have violated the civil immigration laws or for the purpose of enforcing civil immigration laws. In accordance with [DC Official Code § 24–211.07](#), members are prohibited from assisting with the enforcement of civil immigration laws. MPD's cooperation with federal immigration enforcement activities, including regarding individuals in MPD custody, is strictly limited to those instances where members have verified, consistent with the procedures outlined in [GO-PCA-702.01 \(Arrest Warrants\)](#), that there is a criminal warrant or criminal judicial order in effect.
23. TRUTHFULNESS AND INTEGRITY
  - a. Members shall avoid any conduct which might compromise their personal integrity and that of other members, and shall not condone such activities of another member. Members shall speak and write the truth at all times, whether under oath or not, in giving testimony, or in connection with any official order or duties. Written documentation submitted shall be truthful and complete, and no member shall knowingly enter or cause to be entered, any inaccurate, false, or improper information.
  - b. Members shall respond truthfully when questioned by supervisors in matters relating to official MPD business. Members, during the course of an investigation, shall respond truthfully to questions asked by any agent or official in the Internal Affairs Division (IAD), even if the IAD agent is not of a superior rank.
  - c. Members shall not create, submit or sign an official report for another member unless authorized to do so by the member or an official.
24. CONFLICT OF INTEREST – Members shall not engage in any activity, which conflicts in any way with the objectives of the department, damages the department's image, or compromises its law enforcement authority.
25. OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT – Pursuant to the guidelines set forth in the [District Personnel Manual Chapter 18 \(Employee Conduct\)](#), members are free to work multiple jobs, both within and outside of District government, unless those jobs create or give the appearance of a conflict of interest, or if the jobs expose the District to overtime liability under the [Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938](#). Members shall only participate in outside employment pursuant to the requirements set forth in [GO-PER-201.17 \(Outside Employment\)](#).
26. VISITING PROHIBITED ESTABLISHMENTS – Members shall not knowingly visit or frequent an establishment wherein the laws of the United States or the District of Columbia are regularly violated, except in the performance of duty or while



acting under proper and specific orders from an official.

27. POLITICAL ACTIVITY – [Title 1 Chapter 11B](#) of the DC Official Code establishes restrictions on the political activity of District of Columbia government employees.

- a. At all times, members shall not:

Prohibited Political Activities	
(1)	Coerce, explicitly or implicitly, any subordinate employee to engage in political activity;
(2)	Engage in political activity while wearing a uniform or official insignia identifying the office or position of the employee;
(3)	Display political buttons, bumper stickers, posters or other political material at work, including in a government office or common area of a government building, and on government vehicles;
(4)	Engage in political activity while using any vehicle owned or leased by the District government;
(5)	Engage in political activity in any government office;
(6)	Knowingly solicit, accept, or receive political contributions unless the member is filed as a candidate;
(7)	File as candidates for partisan political office in District of Columbia Board of Elections regulated elections; and
(8)	Use official authority or influence to interfere with an election.

- b. While on-duty, members shall not engage in any type of political activity. This includes placing political material on personal equipment used while on-duty (e.g., clipboards).

- c. While off-duty, and subject to the requirements above, members may:

Off-Duty Permitted Political Activities	
(1)	Register and vote as they choose;
(2)	Join and be an active member of political clubs or parties;
(3)	Contribute money to political campaigns, parties, or partisan groups;
(4)	Campaign (including making speeches and distributing literature) for or against candidates in partisan elections [where candidates are running as representatives of a political party (e.g., Democrat and Republican);
(5)	Campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, and municipal ordinances;
(6)	File as candidates for election to non-partisan political office in District of Columbia Board of Elections regulated elections;
(7)	File as candidates for election to both partisan and non-partisan political office in non-District of Columbia Board of Elections regulated elections;
(8)	Hold office in political clubs or parties;
(9)	Express opinions about candidates and issues;
(10)	Assist in voter registration drives;
(11)	Sign nominating petitions; and
(12)	Attend and be active at political rallies and meetings.

28. USE OF TOBACCO AND SMOKING DEVICES – Smoking is prohibited in department facilities, department vehicles, and within 50 feet of entrances to department facilities. Members shall not use any tobacco products, while in direct contact with the public, while operating a department vehicle, or while in a District of Columbia building or facility. This rule applies to smokeless tobacco products



and electronic cigarettes.

**29. COURTESY AND RESPECT**

- a. Members shall be courteous, civil and respectful to their superiors, associates, and one another whether on or off-duty. When on duty and in the presence of the public, sworn members shall be referred to by rank.
- b. Members shall perform their duties quietly, remaining calm regardless of provocation to do otherwise. Members shall avoid giving the impression that they are evading the performance of their duty, or that they are not interested in the problems of persons who are referred elsewhere for service.
- c. In the performance of their duties, members shall not use coarse, violent, profane, sarcastic, or insolent language or gestures, and shall not use terms or resort to name-calling that might be interpreted as derogatory, disrespectful, or offensive to the dignity of any person.
- d. Members shall refrain from engaging in discussions of racial, religious, political, or other controversial subjects while on duty or in uniform unless they are directly related to police business.
- e. Every member, regardless of rank, grade, or assignment shall provide the highest quality of service by using courteous and professional communication skills when assisting individuals via telephone, email, and in person. When any person requests assistance or advice, or makes a complaint or report, all pertinent information shall be obtained in an official and courteous manner and properly and judiciously acted upon. All members shall take personal responsibility for each contact and the corresponding request for service or information.
- f. When approached by a member of the public under normal circumstances, members should respond with prompt acknowledgement and a professional greeting (e.g., "How may I help you?", "I'll be with you in a moment"). Members should maintain a cordial demeanor and tone throughout the interaction, offer their full name, if appropriate, and be accountable for every information and service request, even if it is misdirected. If possible, and if appropriate, members should respond. If unable to resolve the request immediately, members should take a name and phone number in order to provide progress reports, or information, about the request resolution. Members should end the encounter courteously (e.g., "May I help you with anything else?", "Have a nice day", "It was a pleasure to help you.")

**30. TELEPHONE AND EMAIL STANDARDS**

- a. Members with department voicemail shall record a standard voice mailbox message including the member's name, job title/rank, organization name, unit, and alternate phone number, in case of an emergency if necessary.

In the case of an extended absence greeting, members shall provide the return date. Members shall use a standard greeting when answering the phone by stating the member's name, title, name of organization, and unit and ask, "How may I help you?"

- b. Members shall ensure a consistent and professional standard when communicating internally and to outside agencies and members of the public via their department email account.
  - c. Members shall check their MPD email at least once during their shift for computer-assisted notification system (CANS) scheduling notices and other correspondence. Members accessing email on a mobile device shall only use the Microsoft Outlook application.
31. **SPEAKING IN OTHER LANGUAGES** – MPD recognizes that employees may engage in casual conversation in a language common to each of the parties. Employees shall adhere to the following guidelines when speaking in languages other than English.

<b>Speaking in Other Languages</b>	
a.	Employees who speak a language other than English may converse among themselves, or to members of the community in their common language. When such conversations are conducted pursuant to official police business, upon the request of an official, employees shall provide English transcripts of interviews or conversations.
b.	Officials requiring employees to speak only English must be able to demonstrate that such a requirement is necessary for official business.
c.	Members shall adhere to the provisions set forth in <a href="#">GO-SPT-302.05 (Radio Communications)</a> which prohibit radio transmissions in languages other than English without approval of the MPD OUC liaison.
d.	Members shall act in accordance with <a href="#">GO-SPT-304.18 (Language Access Program)</a> .

## V. **ADDITIONAL SWORN AND RESERVE CORPS RULES FOR CONDUCT**

In addition to all other rules for conduct, all sworn and reserve corps members are also subject to the following rules specific to police responsibility and operations.

1. **LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS** – MPD derives its law enforcement authority from [DC Official Code § 5-127.03](#). With this authority, sworn members investigate other people, abridge normal liberties, and use force when necessary. Therefore, it is imperative that sworn members epitomize the highest degree of ethical behavior when serving the communities and people who live, work, and visit Washington, DC. Sworn members shall abide by the following MPD law enforcement officer code of ethics:

<b>Law Enforcement Code of Ethics</b>
<i>As a law enforcement officer, my duty is to serve the community by protecting the innocent, respecting constitutional rights, and maintaining order. I will be professional, maintain self-restraint, and always act with honesty, impartiality, and integrity while never engaging in corruption or bribery. I will never behave in a manner that brings discredit to me or my agency, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will enforce the law without fear or favor and constantly strive to improve my knowledge and competence. The badge of my office is a symbol of public trust, and I accept and protect it by dedicating myself to my chosen profession of law enforcement.</i>

2. OPERATIONAL KNOWLEDGE – Members shall be familiar with the laws and regulations they are required to enforce. Members shall become thoroughly acquainted with every part of their area of responsibility and be familiar with the residents, business owners, streets, alleys, general topography of the assigned area, and individuals who have, are suspected of, or display a propensity to violate the law, while giving special attention to locations known or suspected to foster criminal activity, checking abandoned buildings regularly, and investigating all suspicious vehicles in their assigned area.
3. READINESS AND SHIFT OPERATIONS
  - a. Members shall report to roll call on time, properly equipped and give full attention to the official in charge. Members shall take note of items of importance from teletypes, clipboards, roll call training, and other official communications.
  - b. Members shall make contact with members being relieved and check-off officials to ascertain issues of police importance or community concern.
  - c. Members shall respond to their assigned area in a timely manner, constantly patrol their area according to their beat assignment unless otherwise directed, and not return to the station except on official business approved by an official.
  - d. Members shall be limited to one meal break, not to exceed 30 minutes in any one shift. Members may not request a meal break during the morning and evening rush hours (0630-0930 and 1530-1830 hours) or during the last hour of their shift.
  - e. When directed to take their assignment, members shall do so by the most expedient route and method. Members shall monitor the police radio, keep the dispatcher advised of his or her location at all times, advise the dispatcher of any assigned details or when arriving on a scene or clearing a scene, and provide dispositions and go out of service with the dispatcher at the end of the shift.
  - f. Unless incapacitated, members shall aid, assist and protect fellow members, other law enforcement officers, and members of the community in time of danger or under conditions in which danger is imminent.
  - g. Members shall not leave their assigned district without the approval of a MPD official and not leave the District of Columbia without the approval of the watch commander, except in exigent circumstances.
  - h. When requested to identify themselves, members shall state their first and last name and badge number in a respectful and polite manner. In accordance with [GO-PER-110.11](#), members shall provide their business card upon request.
4. ARREST

- a. When a member has probable cause to believe that a felony has been committed, the subject shall be taken into custody, if appropriate.
- b. At the time of any arrest, the arrestee shall be advised of the reason for the arrest, unless such a notification may jeopardize an investigation, endanger potential witnesses, or compromise sources of information.
- c. Arrestees shall be treated fairly and humanely. They shall not be humiliated, ridiculed, taunted, or embarrassed. In the arrest, transportation, and detention of arrestees, members shall take precautions to prevent escape, injury, and damage to property.

## 5. OFF-DUTY SERVICE FIREARMS

- a. When carrying a firearm in the District of Columbia, sworn members shall carry their badge and identification card.
- b. Sworn members carrying their department-issued service firearm or department-authorized off-duty firearm while off-duty shall carry the weapon on their person in an authorized holster at all times or ensure that the weapon is properly secured in accordance with [GO-RAR-901.01 \(Handling of Service Weapons\)](#).
- c. Sworn members traveling off-duty to and from the District of Columbia and carrying their department-issued or authorized off-duty firearm, shall ensure that they are in compliance with all applicable rules, regulations, and laws of the jurisdiction in which they are traveling. Members are not authorized to take police action in jurisdictions outside of the District of Columbia.
- d. Off-duty sworn members are required to be armed at all times while in the District with the exception of situations where carrying a weapon may prove unnecessary or imprudent (e.g., religious services, events where armed security is present, engaging in athletic activities, or any other instance when the member prefers not to be armed while off duty).
- e. Off-duty sworn members shall not carry their service firearm or authorized off-duty firearm:
  - a. When consuming, planning to consume, or likely to consume an alcoholic beverage.
  - b. To any public or private event, function, religious gathering, or business or entertainment establishment, where the weapon is required to be removed from their person to store (e.g., checked) or otherwise placed in the custody of another party outside of their direct control.
- f. When a sworn member is off-duty and/or is not carrying a firearm, his or her firearm shall be secured in accordance with [GO-RAR-901.01](#).

## 6. OFF-DUTY POLICE ACTION IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- a. Off-duty sworn members shall only take police action when they have the appropriate training and equipment to safely assist. If there is any doubt as to the member's ability to safely assist, the member shall call 911 and not take police action.
- b. In the event of an incident requiring police action, off-duty sworn members shall cooperate fully with on-duty members and abide by MPD policies and procedures. Off-duty members are reminded to adhere to the procedures governing off-duty traffic and parking enforcement as outlined in [GO-SPT-303.01 \(Traffic Enforcement\)](#).
- c. Off-duty sworn members shall not take police action except as necessary to protect the member's life or the lives of others in any incident when they are personally involved or have a conflict of interest (due to a family, financial, or other relationship). In these cases, members shall notify OUC to request an on-duty member and official to respond to the scene.
- d. Members shall not take police action after consuming alcohol. In the event of an incident requiring police action, the member shall call 911.
- e. Off-duty sworn members shall only use force in strict accordance with [GO-RAR-901.07 \(Use of Force\)](#) and this order.
  - (1) Members shall attempt to defuse use of force situations with de-escalation techniques whenever feasible. If force is used, members shall ensure that the use of force is reported pursuant to [GO-RAR-901.07](#).
  - (2) Off-duty members shall only use firearms authorized by the department when taking police action off-duty.
- f. Nothing in this order shall be read or interpreted as limiting a member's right to self-defense (i.e., to use a reasonable amount of force in self-defense if the member actually believes he/she is in imminent danger of bodily harm and has reasonable grounds for that belief).
- g. Off-duty members shall notify OUC as soon as possible to report the incident requiring police action to request an on-duty member and official to respond to the scene. Members shall follow the direction of the responding on-duty member and remain on the scene until relieved by the on-scene official.
- h. When directed to comply with an on-duty law enforcement officer, off-duty members shall use the tentative recognition signal as described in [GO-OPS-308.13 \(Casual Clothes Units\)](#). Absent exigent circumstances, at no time in this situation shall the off-duty member make any further attempt to identify himself or herself until after the situation has stabilized. Members shall not reach for a badge or identification card, concealed or displayed

on their person, until the on-duty member gives them permission to do so.

- i. Members shall advise the responding member of his or her presence and duty status once the situation has stabilized. Members shall be aware and/or take notes, if applicable, of the circumstances surrounding the incident (e.g., look-outs, witnesses), and share that information with responding members.
- j. Pursuant to [GO-PER-206.01](#) and the [Fraternal Order of Police Collective Bargaining Agreement](#), members who take police action off-duty shall be properly compensated when the member's time and continued involvement is necessary, as determined by an official, for an hour or more.
- k. The responding official shall report the incident to the watch commander. The watch commander shall ensure that the date, time, and description of incidents involving off-duty police action are documented in the PD Form 150 (Watch Commander Report).

## VI. RESCISSION

### Rescinds:

CIR-18-05 [Local Hatch Act (Permitted and Prohibited Political Activities)], Effective Date July 9, 2018  
 EO-21-032 (Off-Duty Service Firearms and Police Action), Effective Date December 30, 2021  
 EO-22-010 (Regular and Continuous Associations), Effective Date July 13, 2022  
 EO-23-003 (Law Enforcement Officer Code of Ethics), Effective Date March 7, 2023  
 GO-PER-100.22 (No Smoking Policy), Effective Date August 9, 2017  
 GO-PER-201.35 (Customer Service Standards and Testing), Effective Date March 25, 2001  
 GO-PER-301.08 (Vehicular Driving Safety Program), Effective Date October 23, 1981  
 GO-OPS-304.15 (Unbiased Policing), Effective Date March 19, 2007  
 GO-OMA-403.01 (Solicitation and Acceptance of Donations), Effective Date March 29, 2018  
 SOP-05-01 (Customer Service Standards and Testing), Effective Date September 12, 2005  
 TT 11-085-21 (Requirement for Accessing Email on Mobile Devices), Issued November 24, 2021



Pamela A. Smith  
Chief of Police

Amendment #	Page #	Description of Change	Effective Date of Change	Name and Title of Authorizing Member
1	3	Revised Part IV.5.c to correct spelling errors.	1/7/2025	Maureen O'Connell, Director, Policy and Standards Branch