CHIEF'S PREFACE

Standards in this policy relate to the basic role and authority of this law enforcement agency. When an agency defines its role, two broad purposes are served. First, officers/employees are made aware of the actions and attitudes expected of them and can therefore act without hesitation in compliance with Department policy and established law. Second, members of the public are provided with a general standard by which they can measure the performance of the agency. Written policy defining the functional role should set forth the agency's purpose or mission, goals, and basic programs and priorities; and should specify that the agency intends to be responsive to, and protect the constitutional rights of all.

This agency shall have written policy outlining its law enforcement authority, and the need for public approval and acceptance of that authority. This policy will define what is reasonable and lawful, in accordance with established law. This policy will also address the need for accountability to the community it serves.

The expanding role and complexity of law enforcement in society makes it impossible to strictly outline an officer/employee action in every situation. While it is necessary that discipline may be required in correcting behavior that is contrary to policy, these policies are to be viewed as guidelines for the officer/employee to follow. An officer and/or employee's actions should be judged in accordance with the unique differences of each situation and the knowledge of that situation that the officer/employee has at the time. Disregard without credible and valid reasons may subject the officer/employee to discipline. Exceptions to this are actions which officers/employees are required to perform by law.

This law enforcement agency has established this policy to enhance and direct its officers/ employees performance of their duties. This provides our officers/employees with a clear understanding of the constraints under which they should operate and the expectations that they should fulfill.

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