CHIEF'S WELCOME

"We protect, serve, and problem solve with our community" - Mission Statement

To accomplish our mission, it is imperative that we are guided by a thoughtful and comprehensive set of policies and procedures. In conjunction with Lexipol, I believe we have accomplished just that.

While law enforcement is constantly changing and adapting to community issues and problems, I believe that this manual provides a consistent, comprehensive, and integrated program of risk management, while providing our employees guidance in a very complex and difficult environment.

Our police officers and professional staff are an integral part of the community and we take our responsibility seriously. Our specific goals – Crime Control, Team Development, Active Partnerships, Safe Neighborhoods, and Efficiency & Accountability speak directly to our commitment in making the City of Ventura a better and safer place to live and work.

By working with Lexipol to develop this manual, we have a living document that insures that our policies and procedures are constitutionally sound, up to date and in compliance with current laws and best practices.

As your Police Chief, I am proud to lead and serve alongside our courageous and compassionate Ventura Police team. Thank you to the more than 225 members of our team that are committed to serving the City of Ventura with the highest standards of performance.

-Darin Schindler - Police Chief

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Chapter 1 - Law Enforcement Role and Authority

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Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

100.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all peace officers are aware of their individual responsibilities to maintain their integrity and that of their department at all times.

100.2 POLICY

The Law Enforcement Code of Ethics shall be administered to all peace officer trainees during the Basic Academy course and to all other persons at the time of appointment (11 CCR 1013).

100.3 LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, my fundamental duty is to serve; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against abuse or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.

I WILL keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I WILL never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I RECOGNIZE the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession... law enforcement.

100.3.1 OBJECTION TO RELIGIOUS AFFIRMATION

Reference to religious affirmation in the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics may be omitted where objected to by the officer.

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Law Enforcement Authority

101.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to affirm the authority of the members of the Ventura Police Department to perform their functions based on established legal authority.

101.2 PEACE OFFICER POWERS

Sworn members of this department are authorized to exercise peace officer powers pursuant to applicable state law (Penal Code § 830.1 et seq.).

101.2.1 ARREST AUTHORITY INSIDE THE JURISDICTION OF THE VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT

The arrest authority within the jurisdiction of the Ventura Police Department includes (Penal Code § 830.1; Penal Code § 836):

(a) When the officer has probable cause to believe the person has committed a felony, whether or not committed in the presence of the officer.

(b) When the officer has probable cause to believe the person has committed a misdemeanor in this jurisdiction and in the presence of the officer.

(c) When the officer has probable cause to believe the person has committed a public offense outside this jurisdiction, in the presence of the officer and the officer reasonably believes there is an immediate danger to person or property, or of escape.

(d) When the officer has probable cause to believe the person has committed a misdemeanor for which an arrest is authorized or required by statute even though the offense has not been committed in the presence of the officer such as certain domestic violence offenses.

(e) In compliance with an arrest warrant.

101.2.2 TIME OF MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS

Officers shall not arrest a person for a misdemeanor between the hours of 10:00 p.m. of any day and 6:00 a.m. of the next day unless (Penal Code § 840):

(a) The arrest is made without a warrant pursuant to Penal Code § 836 which includes:

1. A misdemeanor committed in the presence of the officer.
2. Misdemeanor domestic violence offenses (See the Domestic Violence Policy).

(b) The arrest is made in a public place.

(c) The arrest is made with the person in custody pursuant to another lawful arrest.

(d) The arrest is made pursuant to a warrant which, for good cause shown, directs that it may be served at any time of the day or night.

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101.2.3 OREGON AUTHORITY

Sworn members of this department who enter the state of Oregon in order to provide or attempt to provide law enforcement assistance have Oregon peace officer authority within 50 miles from the California-Oregon border (ORS 133.405). Such authority shall only apply when officers are acting:

(a) In response to a request for law enforcement assistance initiated by an Oregon sheriff, constable, marshal, municipal police officer or member of the Oregon State Police.

(b) In response to a reasonable belief that emergency law enforcement assistance is necessary to preserve life, and circumstances make it impractical for Oregon law enforcement officials to formally request assistance.

(c) For the purpose of assisting Oregon law enforcement officials with emergency assistance in response to criminal activity, traffic accidents, emergency incidents or other similar public safety situations, regardless of whether an Oregon law enforcement official is present at the scene of the incident.

Ventura Police Department officers have no authority to enforce Oregon traffic or motor vehicle laws.

Whenever practicable, officers should seek permission from a supervisor before entering Oregon to provide law enforcement services. As soon as practicable, officers exercising law enforcement authority in Oregon shall submit any appropriate written reports concerning the incident to the Oregon agency having primary jurisdiction over the area in which the incident occurred.

101.3 CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

All employees shall observe and comply with every person’s clearly established rights under the United States and California Constitutions.

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Chief Executive Officer

103.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) has mandated that all sworn officers and dispatchers employed within the State of California shall receive certification by POST within prescribed time periods.

103.1.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REQUIREMENTS

Any chief executive officer of this department appointed after January 1, 1999, shall, as a condition of continued employment, complete the course of training prescribed by POST and obtain the Basic Certificate by POST within two years of appointment (Penal Code § 832.4).

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Oath of Office

105.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that oaths, when appropriate, are administered to department members.

105.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department that, when appropriate, department members affirm the oath of their office as an expression of commitment to the constitutional rights of those served by the Department and the dedication of its members to their duties.

105.3 OATH OF OFFICE

All department members, when appropriate, shall take and subscribe to the oaths or affirmations applicable to their positions. All sworn members shall be required to affirm the oath of office expressing commitment and intent to respect constitutional rights in discharging the duties of a law enforcement officer (Cal. Const. Art. 20, § 3; Government Code § 3102). The oath shall be as follows:

“I, (employee name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which I am about to enter.”

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Policy Manual

107.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The manual of the Ventura Police Department is hereby established and shall be referred to as "The Policy Manual." The Policy Manual is a statement of the current policies, procedures, rules, and guidelines of this department. All employees are to conform to the provisions of this manual. All prior and existing manuals, orders, and regulations which are in conflict with this manual are revoked, except to the extent that portions of existing manuals, orders, and other regulations which have not been included herein shall remain in effect where they do not conflict with the provisions of this manual.

Except where otherwise expressly stated, the provisions of this manual shall be considered as guidelines. It is recognized, however, that police work is not always predictable and circumstances may arise which warrant departure from these guidelines. It is the intent of this manual to be viewed from an objective standard, taking into consideration the sound discretion entrusted to members of this department under the circumstances reasonably available at the time of any incident.

107.1.1 DISCLAIMER

The provisions contained in this Policy Manual are not intended to create an employment contract, nor any employment rights or entitlements. The policies contained within this manual are for the internal use of the Ventura Police Department and shall not be construed to create a higher standard or duty of care for civil or criminal liability against the City, its officials or employees. Violations of any provision of any policy contained within this manual shall only form the basis for departmental administrative action, training or discipline. The Ventura Police Department reserves the right to revise any policy content, in whole or in part.

107.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

The ultimate responsibility for the contents of the manual rests with the Chief of Police. Since it is not practical for the Chief of Police to prepare and maintain the manual, the following delegations have been made:

107.2.1 CHIEF OF POLICE

The Chief of Police shall be considered the ultimate authority for the provisions of this manual and shall continue to issue Departmental Directives which shall modify those provisions of the manual to which they pertain. Departmental Directives shall remain in effect until such time as they may be permanently incorporated into the manual.

107.2.2 STAFF

Staff shall consist of the following:

- Chief of Police
- Assistant Chief
- Commanders

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The staff shall review all recommendations regarding proposed changes to the manual at staff meetings.

107.2.3 OTHER PERSONNEL
All Department employees suggesting revision of the contents of the Policy Manual shall forward their suggestion, in writing, to their Division Commander who will consider the recommendation and forward to staff.

107.3 FORMATTING CONVENTIONS FOR THE POLICY MANUAL

The purpose of this section is to provide examples of abbreviations and definitions used in this manual.

107.3.1 ACCEPTABLE ABBREVIATIONS
The following abbreviations are acceptable substitutions in the manual:

- Departmental Directives may be abbreviated as "DD"
- Policy Manual sections may be abbreviated as "Section 106.X" or "§ 106.X"

107.3.2 DEFINITIONS
The following words and terms shall have these assigned meanings, unless it is apparent from the content that they have a different meaning:

Adult - Any person 18 years of age or older.

CHP - The California Highway Patrol.

CFR - Code of Federal Regulations.

City - The City of Ventura.

Department /VPD - The Ventura Police Department.

DMV - The Department of Motor Vehicles.

Employee/Personnel - Any person employed by the Department.

Juvenile - Any person under the age of 18 years.

Manual - The Ventura Police Department Policy Manual.

May - Indicates a permissive, discretionary or conditional action.

Member - Any person who is employed or appointed by the Ventura Police Department including sworn officers, reserve officers, employees and volunteers.

Professional Staff - Employees and volunteers who are not sworn peace officers.

Officer/Sworn - Those employees, regardless of rank, who are sworn employees of the Ventura Police Department.

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On-Duty - Employee status during the period when he/she is actually engaged in the performance of his/her assigned duties.

Order - A written or verbal instruction issued by a superior.

POST - The California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

Rank - The job classification title held by an officer.

Shall or will - Indicates a mandatory action.

Should - Indicates a generally required or expected action, absent a rational basis for failing to conform.

USC - United States Code

107.3.3 DISTRIBUTION OF MANUAL

A computerized version of the Policy Manual will be made available on the Department network for access by all employees. The computerized version will be limited to viewing and printing of specific sections. No changes shall be made to the electronic version without authorization.

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Chapter 2 - Organization and Administration

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Organizational Structure and Responsibility

200.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The organizational structure of this department is designed to create an efficient means to accomplish our mission and goals and to provide for the best possible service to the public.

200.2 DIVISIONS

The Chief of Police is responsible for administering and managing the Ventura Police Department. There are two divisions in the Police Department as follows:

- Field Operations
- Administrative Operations

200.2.1 POLICE ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Police Administration Division is commanded by an Assistant Chief whose primary responsibility is to provide general management direction and control for that division. The Police Administration Division consists of the Chief's Office, Investigations, Records, Professional Standards and Development, Information and Technology, and all administrative personnel.

200.2.2 FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Field Operations Division is commanded by an Assistant Chief whose primary responsibility is to provide general managment direction and control for that division. The Field Operations Division consists of Uniformed Patrol, Special Operations, Command Center, Police Aides/Assistants and Marketing/Public Affairs.

200.2.3 INVESTIGATIONS

The Investigation Unit is commanded by a Commander whose primary responsibility is to provide general management direction and control for the Investigation Unit. The Investigation Division consists of Major Crimes Unit, Street Crimes Unit, Special Enforcement Team, School Resource Officers, Crime Analysis Unit, Property and Evidence Room, and Forensic Services.

200.2.4 COMMAND CENTER

The Command Center is commanded by a Commander whose primary responsibility is to provide general management direction and control for the Center. The Command Center consists of the Communications Center and the Front Desk.

200.2.5 TRAFFIC AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS

The Traffic and Special Operations Unit is commanded by a Commander whose primary responsibility is to provide general management direction and control for the Traffic and Special Operations Unit. The Traffic and Special Operations Division consists of the Traffic Unit, Parking Enforcement, Alcohol Beverage Control, andGraffiti Prevention.

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200.2.6 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND DEVELOPMENT

The Professional Standards and Development Unit is commanded by a Commander whose primary responsibility is to provide general management direction and control for the Professional Standards and Development Unit. Professional Standards and Development Unit consisits of Hiring, Backgrounds, Training, and Internal Investigations.

200.3 COMMAND PROTOCOL

200.3.1 UNITY OF COMMAND

The principles of unity of command ensure efficient supervision and control within the Department. Generally, each employee shall be accountable to one supervisor at any time for a given assignment or responsibility. Except where specifically delegated authority may exist by policy or special assignment (e.g., K-9, SWAT), any supervisor may temporarily direct any subordinate if an operational necessity exists.

200.3.2 ORDERS

Members shall respond to and make a good faith and reasonable effort to comply with the lawful order of superior officers and other proper authority.

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Departmental Directive

204.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Departmental Directives establish an interdepartmental communication that may be used by the Chief of Police to make immediate changes to policy and procedure consistent with the current Memorandum of Understanding and as permitted by Government Code § 3500 et seq. Departmental Directives will immediately modify or change and supersede sections of this manual to which they pertain.

204.1.1 DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTIVE PROTOCOL

Departmental Directives will be incorporated into the manual as required upon approval of Staff. Departmental Directives will modify existing policies or create a new policy as appropriate and will be rescinded upon incorporation into the manual.

All existing Departmental Directives are incorporated in the updated Policy Manual as of the below revision date.

Any Departmental Directives issued after publication of the manual shall be numbered consecutively starting with the last two digits of the year, followed by the number "01" For example, 08-01 signifies the first Departmental Directive for the year 2008.

204.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

204.2.1 STAFF

The staff shall review and approve revisions of the Policy Manual, which will incorporate changes originally made by a Departmental Directive.

204.2.2 CHIEF OF POLICE

The Chief of Police shall issue all Departmental Directives.

204.3 ACCEPTANCE OF DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTIVES

All employees are required to read and obtain any necessary clarification of all Departmental Directives.Departmental Directives will be sent from the Professional Standards and Development Unit to all employees via Email.

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Personal Information

205.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the department has the ability to contact off-duty department employees, that on-call employees can respond to the city in a timely fashion in case of emergency or other department needs, and are properly licensed to operate a motor vehicle. Furthermore, to make certain department employees can be reached by telephone and that changes to phone numbers and addresses are reported to the department promptly.

205.2 ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE

All Department members shall have a telephone where they can be contacted. Any change in telephone number or residence address shall be reported, in writing, to the Office of the Chief, within 24 hours after making such change. Telephone and residence information is for Department use only and all members are responsible for protecting the confidentiality of the information. Use of the information for any other purpose is prohibited.

205.3 RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

All specified members who are assigned a city vehicle and are on-call must reside in a location from which they can respond within 60 minutes from the time that member is notified to report to duty.

205.4 DRIVER LICENSES

Members who operate a City vehicle or any motor vehicle on City-related business shall have in their possession a current, valid California driver license of the proper classification. Members whose job duties include operating or driving a motor vehicle shall immediately notify their immediate supervisor of any restrictions, suspensions or revocation of their driver license. The use of the Department address on a member's driver license is prohibited.

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Emergency Management Plan

206.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The City has prepared an Emergency Management Plan for use by all employees in the event of a major disaster or other emergency event. The plan provides for a strategic response by all employees and assigns specific responsibilities in the event that the plan is activated (Government Code § 8610).

206.2 ACTIVATING THE EMERGENCY PLAN

The Emergency Management Plan can be activated on the order of the official designated by local ordinance.

206.2.1 RECALL OF PERSONNEL

In the event that the Emergency Management Plan is activated, all employees of the Ventura Police Department are subject to immediate recall. Employees may also be subject to recall during extraordinary circumstances as deemed necessary by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

Failure to promptly respond to an order to report for duty may result in discipline.

206.3 LOCATION OF THE PLAN

The Emergency Management Plan is available in Administrative Operations and the Watch Commander's office. All supervisors should familiarize themselves with the Emergency Management Plan. The Administrative Operations supervisor should ensure that department personnel are familiar with the roles police personnel will play when the plan is implemented.

206.4 UPDATING OF MANUALS

The Chief of Police or designee shall review the Emergency Management Plan Manual at least once every two years to ensure that the manual conforms to any revisions made by the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and should appropriately address any needed revisions.

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Training

208.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

It is the policy of this department to administer a training program that will provide for the professional growth and continued development of its personnel. By doing so, the Department will ensure its personnel possess the knowledge and skills necessary to provide a professional level of service that meets the needs of the community.

208.2 PHILOSOPHY

The Department seeks to provide ongoing training and encourages all personnel to participate in advanced training and formal education on a continual basis. Training is provided within the confines of funding, requirements of a given assignment, staffing levels, and legal mandates. Whenever possible, the Department will use courses certified by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST).

208.3 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Training Program are to:

(a) Enhance the level of law enforcement service to the public.

(b) Increase the technical expertise and overall effectiveness of our personnel.

(c) Provide for continued professional development of department personnel.

(d) Ensure compliance with POST rules and regulations concerning law enforcement training.

208.4 TRAINING PLAN

A training plan will be developed and maintained by the Professional Standards Sergeant. It is the responsibility of the Professional Standards Sergeant to maintain, review, and update the training plan on an annual basis. The training plan will consist of Legislatively mandated, California POST mandated, and Departmental training needs.

The Professional Standards Sergeant will conduct an annual training-needs assessment of the Department. The needs assessment will be reviewed by staff. Upon approval by the staff, the needs assessment will form the basis for the training plan for the calender year.

208.5 TRAINING PROCEDURES

(a) All employees assigned to attend training shall attend as scheduled unless previously excused by their immediate supervisor. Excused absences from mandatory training should be limited to the following:

1. Court appearances

2. First choice vacation

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3. Sick leave
4. Physical limitations preventing the employee's participation.
5. Emergency situations

(b) When an employee is unable to attend mandatory training, that employee shall:

1. Notify his/her supervisor as soon as possible but no later than one hour prior to the start of training.
2. Document his/her absence in a memorandum to his/her supervisor.
3. Make arrangements through his/her supervisor and the Professional Standards Sergeant to attend the required training on an alternate date.

208.5.1 TRAINING REQUESTS

Employees desiring training from an outside agency or source other than the Ventura Police Department shall submit a training request form via the chain of command. The employee's Sergeant and Professional Standards Commander will review all requested training and determine if the desired course meets the Department's training-needs.

All training requests shall be approved and routed via the below listed order:

1. Employee's Sergeant
2. Professional Standards Commander
3. Scheduling Commander
4. Assistant Chief

208.6 TRAINING BULLETINS

Training Bulletins will be issued to provide training on the Ventura Police Department Policy Manual and other important topics.Generally, one training bulletin will be made available for each update to a VPD policy and whenever the Professional Standards Sergeant feels a training bulletin would be beneficial.

Personnel are responsible for content covered in the Training Bulletins, which can be discussed during briefing training with supervisors at their discretion.Personnel are responsible for content covered in the Training Bulletins during extended absences (e.g., vacation, medical leave) upon returning to duty.

Supervisors will be responsible for monitoring the progress of personnel under their command to ensure compliance with this policy.

208.7 POLICY

The Department shall administer a training program that will meet the standards of federal, state, local, and POST training requirements. It is a priority of this department to provide continuing education and training for the professional growth and development of its members.

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208.8 TRAINING MANAGER

The Chief of Police shall designate a Professional Standards Sergeant who is responsible for developing, reviewing, updating, and maintaining the department training plan so that required training is completed. The Professional Standards Sergeant should review the training plan annually.

208.8.1 TRAINING RESTRICTION

The Professional Standards Sergeant is responsible for establishing a process to identify officers who are restricted from training other officers for the time period specified by law because of a sustained use of force complaint (Government Code § 7286(b)).

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Electronic Mail

212.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the proper use and application of the Department's electronic mail (email) system by employees of this department. E-mail is a communication tool available to employees to enhance efficiency in the performance of job duties and is to be used in accordance with generally accepted business practices and current law (e.g., California Public Records Act). Messages transmitted over the e-mail system must only be those that involve official business activities or contain information essential to employees for the accomplishment of business-related tasks and/or communication directly related to the business, administration, or practices of the Department.

212.2 E-MAIL RIGHT OF PRIVACY

All e-mail messages, including any attachments, that are transmitted over department networks are considered department records and therefore are department property. The Department reserves the right to access, audit or disclose, for any lawful reason, any message including any attachment that is transmitted over its e-mail system or that is stored on any department system.

The e-mail system is not a confidential system since all communications transmitted on, to or from the system are the property of the Department. Therefore, the e-mail system is not appropriate for confidential communications. If a communication must be private, an alternative method to communicate the message should be used instead of e-mail. Employees using the Department's e-mail system shall have no expectation of privacy concerning communications utilizing the system.

Employees should not use personal accounts to exchange e-mail or other information that is related to the official business of the Department.

212.3 PROHIBITED USE OF E-MAIL

Sending derogatory, defamatory, obscene, disrespectful, sexually suggestive and harassing or any other inappropriate messages on the e-mail system is prohibited and may result in discipline.

Personal advertisements are acceptable when using the socail activities email distribution list.

It is a violation of this policy to transmit a message under another user's name. Users are strongly encouraged to log off the network when their computer is unattended. This added security measure would minimize the misuse of an individual's e-mail, name and/or password by others.

212.4 MANAGEMENT OF E-MAIL

Because the e-mail system is not designed for long-term retention of messages, e-mail that the employee desires to save or that becomes part of an official record should be stored in another database. Users of e-mail are solely responsible for the management of their mailboxes.

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Messages should be purged manually by the user at least once per week. All messages in excess of one month will be deleted at regular intervals from the server computer.

212.5 RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR E-MAIL MESSAGES

All members shall check their e-mail for unread messages or subpoenas at least once at the beginning of each regularly scheduled workday, and again at the ending of each regularly scheduled workday.

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Administrative Communications

214.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE
Administrative communications of this department are governed by the following policies.

214.2 DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER
Department Newsletter may be issued periodically by the Chief of Police to announce and document all promotions, transfers, hiring of new personnel, separations, personnel and group commendations, or other changes in status.

214.3 CORRESPONDENCE
In order to ensure that the letterhead and name of the Department are not misused, all external correspondence shall be on Department letterhead. All Department letterhead shall bear the signature element of the Chief of Police. Personnel should use Department letterhead only for official business and with approval of their supervisor.

214.4 SURVEYS
All surveys made in the name of the Department shall be authorized by the Chief of Police or a Division Commander.

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Staffing Levels

216.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that proper supervision is available for all shifts. The Department intends to balance the employee's needs against the need to have flexibility and discretion in using personnel to meet operational needs. While balance is desirable, the paramount concern is the need to meet operational requirements of the Department.

216.2 MINIMUM STAFFING LEVELS

Minimum staffing levels should result in the scheduling of at least one regular supervisor is on duty whenever possible. Watch Commanders will ensure that a field supervisor is deployed at all times, in addition to the Watch Commander.

216.2.1 SUPERVISION DEPLOYMENTS

In order to accommodate training and other unforeseen circumstances, a corporal may be used as a field supervisor in place of a field sergeant with Watch Commander approval.

During the hours between 0200 and 0600, the on-duty field sergeant shall serve as the Watch Commander. With prior authorization from the Patrol Operations Division Commander, any sergeant may act as the Watch Commander for a limited period of time.

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License to Carry a Firearm

217.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Chief of Police is given the statutory discretion to issue a license to carry a firearm to residents within the community (Penal Code § 26150; Penal Code § 26155). This policy will provide a written process for the application and issuance of such licenses. Pursuant to Penal Code § 26160, this policy shall be made accessible to the public.

217.1.1 APPLICATION OF POLICY

Nothing in this policy shall preclude the Chief or other head of a municipal police department from entering into an agreement with the Sheriff of the county or preclude the Sheriff of the county from entering into an agreement with the Chief of any municipal police department to process all applications and license renewals for the carrying of concealed weapons (Penal Code § 26150; Penal Code § 26155).

217.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department will fairly and impartially consider all applications to carry firearms in accordance with applicable law and this policy.

217.3 QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

In order to qualify for a license to carry a firearm, the applicant must meet certain requirements, including:

(a) Be a resident of the City of Ventura (Penal Code § 26150; Penal Code § 26155).

(b) Be at least 21 years of age (Penal Code § 29610).

(c) Fully complete an application that will include substantial personal information. Much of the information in the application may be subject to public access under the Public Records Act.

(d) Be free from criminal convictions that would disqualify the applicant from carrying a firearm. Fingerprints will be required and a complete criminal background check will be conducted.

(e) Be of good moral character (Penal Code § 26150; Penal Code § 26155).

(f) Show good cause for the issuance of the license (Penal Code § 26150; Penal Code § 26155).

(g) Pay all associated application fees. These fees are set by statute and may not be refunded if the application is denied.

(h) Provide proof of ownership or registration of any firearm to be licensed.

(i) Be free from any psychological conditions that might make the applicant unsuitable for carrying a firearm (Penal Code § 26190).

(j) Complete required training (Penal Code § 26165).

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217.4 APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process for a license to carry a firearm shall consist of two phases. Upon the successful completion of each phase, the applicant will advance to the next phase until the process is completed and the license is either issued or denied.

217.4.1 PHASE ONE (TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL APPLICANTS)

(a) Any individual applying for a license to carry a firearm shall first fully complete a California Department of Justice (DOJ) application to be signed under penalty of perjury. Any applicant who provides false information or statements on the application will be removed from further consideration and may be prosecuted for a criminal offense (Penal Code § 26180).

1. In the event of any discrepancies in the application or background investigation, the applicant may be required to undergo a polygraph examination, at no cost to the applicant.

2. If an incomplete application package is received, the Chief of Police or authorized designee may do any of the following:

(a) Require the applicant to complete the package before any further processing.

(b) Advance the incomplete package to phase two for conditional processing pending completion of all mandatory conditions.

(c) Issue a denial if the materials submitted at the time demonstrate that the applicant would not qualify for a license to carry a firearm even if the package was completed (e.g., not a resident, disqualifying criminal conviction, absence of good cause).

(b) At the time the completed application is submitted, the applicant shall submit a check made payable to the California Department of Justice for the required California DOJ application fee, along with a separate check made payable to the City of Ventura for a nonrefundable 20 percent of the application fee to cover the cost of processing the application (Penal Code § 26190).

(a) Additional fees may be required for fingerprinting, training or psychological testing, in addition to the application fee.

(b) Full payment of the remainder of the application fee will be required upon issuance of a license.

(c) Payment of related fees may be waived if the applicant is a duly appointed reserve peace officer as defined in Penal Code § 830.6 (a) or (b) (Penal Code § 26170).

(c) The applicant shall be required to submit to fingerprinting and a complete criminal background check by the California DOJ. A second set of fingerprints may be required

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for retention in department files. Two recent passport-size photos (2 inches by 2 inches) of the applicant shall be submitted for department use. No person determined to fall within a prohibited class described in Penal Code § 29800, Penal Code § 29900, Welfare and Institutions Code § 8100 or Welfare and Institutions Code § 8103 will be issued a license to carry a firearm. A license shall not be issued if the California DOJ determines that the applicant is prohibited by state or federal law from possessing, receiving, owning or purchasing a firearm (Penal Code § 26195).

(d) The applicant should submit at least three signed letters of character reference from individuals other than relatives.

(e) The applicant shall submit proof of ownership or registration of each firearm to be licensed.

Once the Chief of Police or authorized designee has reviewed the completed application package and relevant background information, the application will either be advanced to phase two or denied.

In the event that an application is denied at the conclusion of, or during, phase one, the applicant shall be notified in writing within 90 days of the initial application or within 30 days after receipt of the applicant's criminal background check from the California DOJ, whichever is later. If the license is denied, the notice shall state which requirement was not satisfied (Penal Code § 26205).

217.4.2 PHASE TWO

This phase is to be completed only by those applicants successfully completing phase one.

(a) Upon successful completion of phase one, the applicant shall be scheduled for a personal interview with the Chief of Police or authorized designee. During this stage, there will be further discussion of the applicant's statement of good cause and any potential restrictions or conditions that might be placed on the license.

1. The determination of good cause should consider the totality of circumstances in each individual case.

2. Any denial for lack of good cause should be rational, articulable and not arbitrary in nature.

3. The Department will provide written notice to the applicant as to the determination of good cause (Penal Code § 26202).

(b) The Chief of Police may, based upon criteria established by the Chief of Police, require that the applicant be referred to an authorized psychologist used by the Department for psychological testing. The cost of such psychological testing (not to exceed $150) shall be paid by the applicant. The purpose of any such psychological testing is intended only to identify any outward indications or history of psychological problems that might render the applicant unfit to carry a firearm. This testing is not intended to certify in any other respect that the applicant is psychologically fit. If it is determined that

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the applicant is not a suitable candidate for carrying a firearm, the applicant shall be removed from further consideration (Penal Code § 26190).

(c) The applicant shall complete a course of training approved by the agency, which complies with Penal Code § 26165. The applicant will not be required to complete and pay for any training courses prior to any determination of good cause (Penal Code § 26165; Penal Code § 26202).

(d) The applicant shall submit any firearm to be considered for a license to the Rangemaster or other departmentally authorized gunsmith, at no cost to the applicant, for a full safety inspection. The Chief of Police reserves the right to deny a license for any firearm that has been altered from the manufacturer's specifications or that is unsafe (Penal Code § 31910).

(e) The applicant shall successfully complete a firearms safety and proficiency examination with the firearm to be licensed, to be administered by the department Rangemaster, or provide proof of successful completion of another departmentally approved firearms safety and proficiency examination, including completion of all releases and other forms. The cost of any outside inspection/examination shall be the responsibility of the applicant.

Once the Chief of Police or authorized designee has verified the successful completion of phase two, the license to carry a firearm will either be granted or denied.

Whether an application is approved or denied at the conclusion of or during phase two, the applicant shall be notified in writing within 90 days of the initial application or within 30 days after receipt of the applicant's criminal background check from the California DOJ, whichever is later. If the license is denied, the notice shall state which requirement was not satisfied (Penal Code § 26205).

217.5 LIMITED BUSINESS LICENSE TO CARRY A CONCEALED FIREARM

The authority to issue a limited business license to carry a concealed firearm to a non-resident applicant is granted only to the Sheriff of the county in which the applicant works. A chief of a municipal police department may not issue limited licenses (Penal Code § 26150). Therefore, such applicants may be referred to the Sheriff for processing.

An individual who is not a resident of the county but who otherwise successfully completes all portions of phases one and two above, may apply for and be issued a limited license subject to approval by the Sheriff and subject to the following:

(a) The applicant physically spends a substantial period of working hours in the applicant’s principal place of employment or business within the City of Ventura (Penal Code § 26150).

(b) Such a license will be valid for a period not to exceed 90 days from the date of issuance (Penal Code § 26220).

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(c) The applicant shall provide a copy of the license to the licensing authority of the city or county in which the applicant resides (Penal Code § 26220).

(d) Any application for renewal or reissuance of such a license may be granted only upon concurrence of the original issuing authority and the licensing authority of the city or county in which the applicant resides (Penal Code § 26220).

217.6 ISSUED FIREARMS PERMITS

In the event a license to carry a firearm is issued by the Chief of Police, the following shall apply:

(a) The license will be subject to any and all reasonable restrictions or conditions the Chief of Police has deemed warranted, including restrictions as to the time, place, manner and circumstances under which the person may carry the firearm.

1. All such restrictions or conditions shall be conspicuously noted on any license issued (Penal Code § 26200).
2. The licensee will be required to sign a Restrictions and Conditions Agreement. Any violation of any of the restrictions and conditions may result in the immediate revocation of the license.

(b) The license shall be laminated, bearing a photograph of the licensee with the expiration date, type of firearm, restrictions and other pertinent information clearly visible.

1. Each license shall be numbered and clearly identify the licensee.
2. All licenses shall be subjected to inspection by the Chief of Police or any law enforcement officer.

(c) The license will be valid for a period not to exceed two years from the date of issuance (Penal Code § 26220).

1. A license issued to a state or federal magistrate, commissioner or judge will be valid for a period not to exceed three years.
2. A license issued to any reserve peace officer as defined in Penal Code § 830.6(a) or (b), or a custodial officer employed by the Sheriff as provided in Penal Code § 831.5 will be valid for a period not to exceed four years, except that such license shall be invalid upon the individual's conclusion of service as a reserve officer.

(d) If the licensee's place of residence was the basis for issuance of a license and the licensee moves out of the county of issuance, the license shall expire 90 days after the licensee has moved (Penal Code § 26210).

(e) The licensee shall notify this department in writing within 10 days of any change of place of residency.

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217.6.1 LICENSE RESTRICTIONS

(a) The Chief of Police may place special restrictions limiting time, place, manner and circumstances under which any license shall be valid. In general, these restrictions will prohibit the licensee from:

1. Consuming any alcoholic beverage while armed.
2. Falsely representing him/herself as a peace officer.
3. Unjustified or unreasonable displaying of a firearm.
4. Committing any crime.
5. Being under the influence of any medication or drug while armed.
6. Interfering with any law enforcement officer's duties.
7. Refusing to display his/her license or firearm for inspection upon demand of any peace officer.
8. Loading the permitted firearm with illegal ammunition.

(b) The Chief of Police reserves the right to inspect any license or licensed firearm at any time.

(c) The alteration of any previously approved firearm including, but not limited to adjusting the trigger pull, adding laser sights or modifications shall void any license and serve as grounds for revocation.

217.6.2 AMENDMENTS TO LICENSES

Any licensee may apply to amend a license at any time during the period of validity by completing and submitting a written Application for License Amendment along with the current processing fee to the Department in order to (Penal Code § 26215):

(a) Add or delete authority to carry a firearm listed on the license.

(b) Change restrictions or conditions previously placed on the license.

(c) Change the address or other personal information of the licensee (Penal Code § 26210).

In the event that any amendment to a valid license is approved by the Chief of Police, a new license will be issued reflecting the amendment. An amendment to any license will not serve to extend the original expiration date and an application for an amendment will not constitute an application for renewal of the license.

217.6.3 REVOCATION OF LICENSES

Any license issued pursuant to this policy may be immediately revoked by the Chief of Police for any of the following reasons:

(a) The licensee has violated any of the restrictions or conditions placed upon the license.

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(b) The licensee becomes psychologically unsuitable to carry a firearm.

(c) The licensee is determined to be within a prohibited class described in Penal Code § 29800, Penal Code § 29900, Welfare and Institutions Code § 8100, Welfare and Institutions Code § 8103 or any state or federal law.

(d) The licensee engages in any conduct which involves a lack of good moral character or that might otherwise remove the good cause for the original issuance of the license.

(e) If the license is one to carry "loaded and exposed," the license shall be revoked immediately upon a change of the licensee's place of residence to another county (Penal Code § 26210).

The issuance of a license by the Chief of Police shall not entitle the holder to either a property or liberty interest as the issuance, amendment or revocation of such license remains exclusively within the discretion of the Chief of Police as set forth herein.

If any license is revoked, the Department will immediately notify the licensee in writing and the California DOJ (Penal Code § 26225).

217.6.4 LICENSE RENEWAL

No later than 90 days prior to the expiration of any valid license to carry a firearm, the licensee may apply to the Chief of Police for a renewal by:

(a) Verifying all information submitted in the original application under penalty of perjury.

(b) Completing a department-approved training course pursuant to Penal Code § 26165. The applicant shall not be required to pay for a training course prior to the determination of good cause (Penal Code § 26165).

(c) Submitting any firearm to be considered for a license renewal to the Rangemaster for a full safety inspection. The Chief of Police reserves the right to deny a license for any firearm that has been altered from the manufacturer's specifications or that is unsafe (Penal Code § 31910).

(d) Paying a non-refundable renewal application fee.

Once the Chief of Police or authorized designee has verified the successful completion of the renewal process, the renewal of the license to carry a firearm will either be granted or denied. Prior issuance of a license shall not entitle any licensee to any property or liberty right to renewal.

Whether an application for renewal is approved or denied, the applicant shall be notified in writing within 90 days of the renewal application or within 30 days after receipt of the applicant's criminal background check from the California DOJ, whichever is later (Penal Code § 26205).

217.7 DEPARTMENT REPORTING AND RECORDS

Pursuant to Penal Code § 26225, the Chief of Police shall maintain a record of the following and immediately provide copies of each to the California DOJ:

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(a) The denial of a license

(b) The denial of an amendment to a license

(c) The issuance of a license

(d) The amendment of a license

(e) The revocation of a license

The Chief of Police shall annually submit to the State Attorney General the total number of licenses to carry firearms issued to reserve peace officers and judges.

217.8 CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

The home address and telephone numbers of any peace officer, public defender, prosecutor, magistrate, court commissioner or judge contained in an application shall not be considered public record (Government Code § 6254(u)(2)).

Any information in an application for a license to carry a firearm that indicates when or where the applicant is vulnerable to attack or that concerns the applicant's medical or psychological history or that of his/her family shall not be considered public record (Government Code § 6254(u)(1)).

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Retiree Concealed Firearms

219.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the issuance, denial, suspension or revocation of Ventura Police Department identification cards under the Law Enforcement Officers' Safety Act (LEOSA) and California law (18 USC § 926C; Penal Code § 25455).

219.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department to provide identification cards to qualified former or retired officers as provided in this policy.

219.3 LEOSA

The Chief of Police may issue an identification card for LEOSA purposes to any qualified former officer of this Department who (18 USC § 926C(c)):

(a) Separated from service in good standing from this Department as an officer.

(b) Before such separation, had regular employment as a law enforcement officer for an aggregate of 10 years or more or, if employed as a law enforcement officer for less than 10 years, separated from service after completing any applicable probationary period due to a service-connected disability as determined by this Department.

(c) Has not been disqualified for reasons related to mental health.

(d) Has not entered into an agreement with this Department where the officer acknowledges that he/she is not qualified to receive a firearm qualification certificate for reasons related to mental health.

(e) Is not prohibited by federal law from receiving or possessing a firearm.

219.3.1 LEOSA IDENTIFICATION CARD FORMAT

The LEOSA identification card should contain a photograph of the former officer and identify him/her as having been employed as an officer.

If the Ventura Police Department qualifies the former officer, the LEOSA identification card or separate certification should indicate the date the former officer was tested or otherwise found by the Department to meet the active duty standards for qualification to carry a firearm.

219.3.2 AUTHORIZATION

Any qualified former law enforcement officer, including a former officer of this Department, may carry a concealed firearm under 18 USC § 926C when he/she is:

(a) In possession of photographic identification that identifies him/her as having been employed as a law enforcement officer, and one of the following:

1. An indication from the person's former law enforcement agency that he/she has, within the past year, been tested or otherwise found by the law enforcement

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agency to meet agency-established active duty standards for qualification in firearms training to carry a firearm of the same type as the concealed firearm.

2. A certification, issued by either the state in which the person resides or by a certified firearms instructor who is qualified to conduct a firearms qualification test for active duty law enforcement officers within that state, indicating that the person has, within the past year, been tested or otherwise found to meet the standards established by the state or, if not applicable, the standards of any agency in that state.

(b) Not under the influence of alcohol or another intoxicating or hallucinatory drug or substance.

(c) Not prohibited by federal law from receiving a firearm.

(d) Not in a location prohibited by California law or by a private person or entity on his/her property if such prohibition is permitted by California law.

219.4 CALIFORNIA IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUANCE

Any full-time sworn officer of this Department who was authorized to, and did, carry a concealed firearm during the course and scope of his/her employment shall be issued an identification card with a Carrying Concealed Weapon endorsement, "CCW Approved," upon honorable retirement (Penal Code § 25455).

(a) For the purpose of this policy, honorably retired includes all peace officers who have qualified for, and accepted, a service or disability retirement. It shall not include any officer who retires in lieu of termination.

(b) No CCW Approved endorsement shall be issued to any officer retiring because of a psychological disability (Penal Code § 26305).

219.4.1 CALIFORNIA IDENTIFICATION CARD FORMAT

The identification card issued to any qualified and honorably retired officer shall be 2 inches by 3 inches, and minimally contain (Penal Code § 25460):

(a) A photograph of the retiree.

(b) The retiree’s name and date of birth.

(c) The date of retirement.

(d) The name and address of this Department.

(e) A stamped CCW Approved endorsement along with the date by which the endorsement must be renewed (not more than one year). If a CCW endorsement has been denied or revoked, the identification card shall be stamped “No CCW Privilege.”

219.4.2 QUALIFIED RETIRED RESERVES

Qualified retired reserve officers who meet the Department requirements shall be provided an identification card with a CCW Approved endorsement (Penal Code § 26300).

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219.4.3 QUALIFIED RETIREES FROM INCORPORATED JURISDICTION

The Ventura Police Department shall provide an identification card with a CCW Approved endorsement to honorably retired peace officers from any jurisdiction that this Department now serves under the following conditions (Penal Code § 25905):

(a) The retiree's previous agency is no longer providing law enforcement services or the relevant government body is dissolved.

(b) This Department is in possession of the retiree's complete personnel record or can verify the retiree's honorably retired status.

(c) The retiree is in compliance with all of the requirements of this Department for the issuance of a CCW Approved endorsement.

219.5 FORMER OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

A former officer with a card issued under this policy shall immediately notify the Watch Commander of his/her arrest or conviction in any jurisdiction, or that he/she is the subject of a court order, in accordance with the Reporting of Employee Convictions policy.

219.5.1 RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER LEOSA

In order to obtain or retain a LEOSA identification card, the former officer shall:

(a) Sign a waiver of liability of the Department for all acts taken related to carrying a concealed firearm, acknowledging both his/her personal responsibility as a private person for all acts taken when carrying a concealed firearm as permitted by LEOSA and also that these acts were not taken as an employee or former employee of the Department.

(b) Remain subject to all applicable Department policies and federal, state and local laws.

(c) Demonstrate good judgment and character commensurate with carrying a loaded and concealed firearm.

(d) Successfully pass an annual criminal history background check indicating that he/she is not prohibited by law from receiving or possessing a firearm.

219.5.2 MAINTAINING A CALIFORNIA IDENTIFICATION CARD CCW ENDORSEMENT

In order to maintain a CCW Approved endorsement on an identification card issued under California law, the retired officer shall (Penal Code § 26305):

(a) Qualify annually with the authorized firearm at a course approved by this Department at the retired officer's expense.

(b) Remain subject to all applicable Department policies and federal, state and local laws.

(c) Not engage in conduct that compromises public safety.

(d) Only be authorized to carry a concealed firearm inspected and approved by the Department.

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219.6 DENIAL, SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF A LEOSA IDENTIFICATION CARD

A LEOSA identification card may be denied or revoked upon a showing of good cause as determined by the Department. In the event that an identification card is denied, suspended or revoked, the former officer may request a review by the Chief of Police. The decision of the Chief of Police is final.

219.7 FIREARM QUALIFICATIONS

The Rangemaster may provide former officers from this Department an opportunity to qualify. Written evidence of the qualification and the weapons used will be provided and will contain the date of the qualification. The Rangemaster will maintain a record of the qualifications and weapons used.

219.8 DENIAL, SUSPENSION, OR REVOCATION OF A CALIFORNIA CCW ENDORSEMENT CARD

A CCW endorsement for any officer retired from this Department may be denied or revoked only upon a showing of good cause. The CCW endorsement may be immediately and temporarily revoked by the Watch Commander when the conduct of a retired peace officer compromises public safety (Penal Code § 25470).

(a) In the event that a CCW endorsement is initially denied, the retired officer shall have 15 days from the date of denial to request a formal hearing. The failure to submit a timely written request for a hearing shall be deemed a waiver of such right. The hearing, absent written agreement between the parties, shall be held no later than 120 days after the request is received.

(b) Prior to revocation of any CCW endorsement, the Department shall provide the affected retiree with written notice of a hearing by either personal service or first class mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested to the retiree's last known address (Penal Code § 26315).

1. The retiree shall have 15 days from the date of service to file a written request for a hearing.
2. The hearing, absent written agreement between the parties, shall be held no later than 120 days after the request is received (Penal Code § 26315).
3. The failure to submit a timely written request for a hearing shall be deemed a waiver of such right.

(c) A hearing for the denial or revocation of any CCW endorsement shall be conducted before a hearing board composed of three members, one selected by the Department, one selected by the retiree or his/her employee organization, and one selected jointly (Penal Code § 26320).

(a) The decision of such hearing board shall be binding on the Department and the retiree.

(b) Any retiree who waives the right to a hearing or whose CCW endorsement has been revoked at a hearing shall immediately surrender his/her identification

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card. The Department will then reissue a new identification card which shall be stamped “No CCW Privilege.”

(d) Members who have reason to suspect the conduct of a retiree has compromised public safety shall notify the Watch Commander as soon as practicable. The Watch Commander should promptly take appropriate steps to look into the matter and, if warranted, contact the retiree in person and advise him/her of the temporary suspension and hearing information listed below.

(a) Notification of the temporary suspension should also be promptly mailed to the retiree via first class mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested (Penal Code § 26312).

(b) The Watch Commander should document the investigation, the actions taken and, if applicable, any notification made to the retiree. The memo should be forwarded to the Chief of Police.

(c) The personal and written notification should be as follows:

(a) The retiree’s CCW endorsement is immediately and temporarily suspended.

(b) The retiree has 15 days to request a hearing to determine whether the temporary suspension should become permanent revocation.

(c) The retiree will forfeit his/her right to a hearing and the CCW endorsement will be permanently revoked if the retiree fails to respond to the notice of hearing within the 15-day period.

(d) In the event that personal contact with the retiree cannot be reasonably achieved in a timely manner, the Watch Commander should attempt to make the above notice of temporary suspension through another law enforcement officer. For example, if a retiree was arrested or detained by a distant agency, the Watch Commander may request that a law enforcement officer from that agency act as the agent of the Department to deliver the written notification.

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Retirement and Separation Process

220.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Members who plan to separate from the Department voluntarily shall notify the Police Chief in writing of their intended date of separation as soon as possible.

The Chief's and Assistant Chief's Secretaries or their designees will be responsible for coordinating the separation process for all employees (voluntary and involuntary separations), including the following tasks:

(a) Preparation of appropriate documentation for Human Resources

(b) Scheduling exit interview

(c) Issuance of retired identification card (where appropriate)

(d) Arrange for CCW qualification (where appropriate)

(e) Coordinate the preparation of retirement plaques and badges

(f) Coordinate with the Recognition Committee to schedule retirement event (where appropriate)

The Professional Standards Sergeant is responsible for the following tasks:

(a) Arrange for transfer of duty weapon (where appropriate)

(b) Collection of all department property

220.2 RETIRED STATUS

In order to be classified as honorably retired, members must be separating from City employment and eligible to receive benefits from the Public Employees Retirement System at the time of separation from employment.

Any member who is terminated for disciplinary reasons (including violation of State or Federal law), for substandard performance, or who resigns prior to such termination or resigns at a time where they are the subject of an incomplete administrative investigation shall not be considered honorably retired.

220.3 BADGE AND IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Only members who are honorably retired may be considered to receive a retirement badge and/or identification card.

Sworn members may receive a wallet badge. The wallet badge will have the word retired printed in lieu of the employee number and will indicate the rank or job classification at the time of retirement.

Sworn and civilian members' duty badges and last identification cards may be mounted on a plaque at the employee's expense, or by arrangement with another resource (employee union, retirement gift, etc.).

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Sworn and civilian members may receive a retired identification card. The card shall clearly indicate that the member is retired, and shall reflect the member's last rank or job classification.

In the case of sworn members, the rear of the identification card shall indicate whether or not the retiree may carry a concealed firearm pursuant to Sections 12027(a)(1) and 12031(b) of the California Penal Code. If so authorized by the Police Chief, the identification card will reflect the expiration date of the concealed weapons endorsement. The expiration date shall be five years from date of issuance.

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Chapter 3 - General Operations

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Use of Force

300.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines on the reasonable use of force. While there is no way to specify the exact amount or type of reasonable force to be applied in any situation, every member of this department is expected to use these guidelines to make such decisions in a professional, impartial, and reasonable manner (Government Code § 7286).

In addition to those methods, techniques, and tools set forth below, the guidelines for the reasonable application of force contained in this policy shall apply to all policies addressing the potential use of force, including but not limited to the Control Devices and Techniques and Conducted Energy Device policies.

Retaliation prohibitions for reporting suspected violations are addressed in the Anti-Retaliation Policy.

300.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Deadly force - Any use of force that creates a substantial risk of causing death or serious bodily injury, including but not limited to the discharge of a firearm (Penal Code § 835a).

Feasible - Reasonably capable of being done or carried out under the circumstances to successfully achieve the arrest or lawful objective without increasing risk to the officer or another person (Government Code § 7286(a)).

Force - The application of physical techniques or tactics, chemical agents, or weapons to another person. It is not a use of force when a person allows him/herself to be searched, escorted, handcuffed, or restrained.

Serious bodily injury - A serious impairment of physical condition, including but not limited to the following: loss of consciousness; concussion; bone fracture; protracted loss or impairment of function of any bodily member or organ; a wound requiring extensive suturing; and serious disfigurement (Penal Code § 243(f)(4)).

Totality of the circumstances - All facts known to the officer at the time, including the conduct of the officer and the subject leading up to the use of force (Penal Code § 835a).

300.2 POLICY

The use of force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Officers are involved on a daily basis in numerous and varied interactions and, when warranted, may use reasonable force in carrying out their duties.

Officers must have an understanding of, and true appreciation for, their authority and limitations. This is especially true with respect to overcoming resistance while engaged in the performance of law enforcement duties.

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The Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. Vesting officers with the authority to use reasonable force and to protect the public welfare requires monitoring, evaluation and a careful balancing of all interests.

300.2.1 FAIR AND UNBIASED USE OF FORCE
Officers are expected to carry out their duties, including the use of force, in a manner that is fair and unbiased (Government Code § 7286(b)). See the Bias-Based Policing Policy for additional guidance.

300.2.2 DUTY TO INTERCEDE
Any officer present and observing another law enforcement officer or an employee using force that is clearly beyond that which is necessary, as determined by an objectively reasonable officer under the circumstances, shall, when in a position to do so, intercede (as defined by Government Code § 7286) to prevent the use of unreasonable force.

When observing force used by a law enforcement officer, each officer should take into account the totality of the circumstances and the possibility that other law enforcement officers may have additional information regarding the threat posed by the subject (Government Code § 7286(b)).

300.2.3 DUTY TO REPORT EXCESSIVE FORCE
Any officer who observes a law enforcement officer or an employee use force that potentially exceeds what the officer reasonably believes to be necessary shall immediately report these observations to a supervisor (Government Code § 7286(b)).

As used in this subsection, "immediately" means as soon as it is safe and feasible to do so.

300.2.4 FAILURE TO INTERCEDE
An officer who has received the required training on the duty to intercede and then fails to act to intercede when required by law, may be disciplined in the same manner as the officer who used force beyond that which is necessary (Government Code § 7286(b)).

300.3 USE OF FORCE
Officers shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given the facts and totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose (Penal Code § 835a).

The reasonableness of force will be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene at the time of the incident. Any evaluation of reasonableness must allow for the fact that officers are often forced to make split-second decisions about the amount of force that reasonably appears necessary in a particular situation, with limited information and in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving.

Given that no policy can realistically predict every possible situation an officer might encounter, officers are entrusted to use well-reasoned discretion in determining the appropriate use of force in each incident. Officers may only use a level of force that they reasonably believe is proportional to

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the seriousness of the suspected offense or the reasonably perceived level of actual or threatened resistance (Government Code § 7286(b)).

It is also recognized that circumstances may arise in which officers reasonably believe that it would be impractical or ineffective to use any of the approved or authorized tools, weapons, or methods provided by the Department. Officers may find it more effective or reasonable to improvise their response to rapidly unfolding conditions that they are confronting. In such circumstances, the use of any improvised device or method must nonetheless be objectively reasonable and utilized only to the degree that reasonably appears necessary to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

While the ultimate objective of every law enforcement encounter is to avoid or minimize injury, nothing in this policy requires an officer to retreat or be exposed to possible physical injury before applying reasonable force.

300.3.1 ALTERNATIVE TACTICS - DE-ESCALATION

As time and circumstances reasonably permit, and when community and officer safety would not be compromised, officers should consider actions that may increase officer safety and may decrease the need for using force:

(a) Summoning additional resources that are able to respond in a reasonably timely manner.

(b) Formulating a plan with responding officers before entering an unstable situation that does not reasonably appear to require immediate intervention.

(c) Employing other tactics that do not unreasonably increase officer and/or community jeopardy.

In addition, when reasonable, officers should evaluate the totality of circumstances presented at the time in each situation and, when feasible, consider and utilize reasonably available alternative tactics and techniques that may persuade an individual to voluntarily comply or may mitigate the need to use a higher level of force to resolve the situation before applying force (Government Code § 7286(b)). Such alternatives may include but are not limited to:

(a) Attempts to de-escalate a situation.

(b) If reasonably available, the use of crisis intervention techniques by properly trained personnel.

300.3.2 USE OF FORCE TO EFFECT AN ARREST

Any peace officer may use objectively reasonable force to effect an arrest, to prevent escape, or to overcome resistance. A peace officer who makes or attempts to make an arrest need not retreat or desist from his/her efforts by reason of resistance or threatened resistance on the part of the person being arrested; nor shall an officer be deemed the aggressor or lose his/her right to self-defense by the use of reasonable force to effect the arrest, prevent escape, or to overcome resistance. Retreat does not mean tactical repositioning or other de-escalation techniques (Penal Code § 835a).

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300.3.3 FACTORS USED TO DETERMINE THE REASONABLENESS OF FORCE

When determining whether to apply force and evaluating whether an officer has used reasonable force, a number of factors should be taken into consideration, as time and circumstances permit (Government Code § 7286(b)). These factors include but are not limited to:

(a) The apparent immediacy and severity of the threat to officers or others (Penal Code § 835a).

(b) The conduct of the individual being confronted, as reasonably perceived by the officer at the time (Penal Code § 835a).

(c) Officer/subject factors (age, size, relative strength, skill level, injuries sustained, level of exhaustion or fatigue, the number of officers available vs. subjects).

(d) The conduct of the involved officer leading up to the use of force (Penal Code § 835a).

(e) The effects of suspected drugs or alcohol.

(f) The individual's apparent mental state or capacity (Penal Code § 835a).

(g) The individual’s apparent ability to understand and comply with officer commands (Penal Code § 835a).

(h) Proximity of weapons or dangerous improvised devices.

(i) The degree to which the subject has been effectively restrained and his/her ability to resist despite being restrained.

(j) The availability of other reasonable and feasible options and their possible effectiveness (Penal Code § 835a).

(k) Seriousness of the suspected offense or reason for contact with the individual prior to and at the time force is used.

(l) Training and experience of the officer.

(m) Potential for injury to officers, suspects, bystanders, and others.

(n) Whether the person appears to be resisting, attempting to evade arrest by flight, or is attacking the officer.

(o) The risk and reasonably foreseeable consequences of escape.

(p) The apparent need for immediate control of the subject or a prompt resolution of the situation.

(q) Whether the conduct of the individual being confronted no longer reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to the officer or others.

(r) Prior contacts with the subject or awareness of any propensity for violence.

(s) Any other exigent circumstances.

300.3.4 PAIN COMPLIANCE TECHNIQUES

Pain compliance techniques may be effective in controlling a physically or actively resisting individual. Officers may only apply those pain compliance techniques for which they have

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successfully completed department-approved training. Officers utilizing any pain compliance technique should consider:

(a) The degree to which the application of the technique may be controlled given the level of resistance.

(b) Whether the person can comply with the direction or orders of the officer.

(c) Whether the person has been given sufficient opportunity to comply.

The application of any pain compliance technique shall be discontinued once the officer determines that compliance has been achieved.

300.3.5 RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF A CHOKE HOLD

Officers of this department are not authorized to use a choke hold. A choke hold means any defensive tactic or force option in which direct pressure is applied to a person's trachea or windpipe (Government Code § 7286.5).

300.3.6 USE OF FORCE TO SEIZE EVIDENCE

In general, officers may use reasonable force to lawfully seize evidence and to prevent the destruction of evidence. However, officers are discouraged from using force solely to prevent a person from swallowing evidence or contraband. In the instance when force is used, officers should not intentionally use any technique that restricts blood flow to the head, restricts respiration or which creates a reasonable likelihood that blood flow to the head or respiration would be restricted. Officers are encouraged to use techniques and methods taught by the Ventura Police Department for this specific purpose.

300.3.7 ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS

Terms such as "positional asphyxia," "restraint asphyxia," and "excited delirium" continue to remain the subject of debate among experts and medical professionals, are not universally recognized medical conditions, and frequently involve other collateral or controlling factors such as narcotics or alcohol influence, or pre-existing medical conditions. While it is impractical to restrict an officer's use of reasonable control methods when attempting to restrain a combative individual, officers are not authorized to use any restraint or transportation method which might unreasonably impair an individual's breathing or respiratory capacity for a period beyond the point when the individual has been adequately and safely controlled. Once controlled, the individual should be placed into a recovery position (e.g., supine or seated) and monitored for signs of medical distress (Government Code § 7286.5).

300.4 DEADLY FORCE APPLICATIONS

Where feasible, the officer shall, prior to the use of deadly force, make reasonable efforts to identify him/herself as a peace officer and to warn that deadly force may be used, unless the officer has objectively reasonable grounds to believe the person is aware of those facts (Penal Code 835a).

If an objectively reasonable officer would consider it safe and feasible to do so under the totality of the circumstances, officers shall evaluate and use other reasonably available resources and

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techniques when determining whether to use deadly force. To the extent that it is reasonably practical, officers should consider their surroundings and any potential risks to bystanders prior to discharging a firearm (Government Code § 7286(b)).

The use of deadly force is only justified when the officer reasonably believes it is necessary in the following circumstances (Penal Code § 835a):

(a) An officer may use deadly force to protect him/herself or others from what he/she reasonably believes is an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person.

(b) An officer may use deadly force to apprehend a fleeing person for any felony that threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury, if the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to another unless immediately apprehended.

Officers shall not use deadly force against a person based on the danger that person poses to him/herself, if an objectively reasonable officer would believe the person does not pose an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or to another person (Penal Code § 835a).

An “imminent” threat of death or serious bodily injury exists when, based on the totality of the circumstances, a reasonable officer in the same situation would believe that a person has the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person. An officer’s subjective fear of future harm alone is insufficient as an imminent threat. An imminent threat is one that from appearances is reasonably believed to require instant attention (Penal Code § 835a).

300.4.1 SHOOTING AT OR FROM MOVING VEHICLES

Shots fired at or from a moving vehicle are rarely effective and may involve additional considerations and risks. When feasible, officers should take reasonable steps to move out of the path of an approaching vehicle instead of discharging their firearm at the vehicle or any of its occupants. An officer should only discharge a firearm at a moving vehicle or its occupants when the officer reasonably believes there are no other reasonable means available to avert the imminent threat of the vehicle, or if deadly force other than the vehicle is directed at the officer or others (Government Code § 7286(b)).

Officers should not shoot at any part of a vehicle in an attempt to disable the vehicle.

300.4.2 DISPLAYING OF FIREARMS

Given that individuals might perceive the display of a firearm as a potential application of force, officers should carefully evaluate each tactical situation and use sound discretion when drawing a firearm in public by considering the following guidelines (Government Code § 7286(b)):

(a) If the officer does not initially perceive a threat but reasonably believes that the potential for such threat exists, firearms should generally be kept in the low-ready or other position not directed toward an individual.

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(b) If the officer reasonably believes that a threat exists based on the totality of circumstances presented at the time (e.g., high-risk stop, tactical entry, armed encounter), firearms may be directed toward such threat until the officer no longer perceives such threat.

Once it is reasonably safe to do so, officers should carefully secure all firearms.

300.5 REPORTING THE USE OF FORCE

Any use of force by a member of this department shall be documented promptly, completely, and accurately in an appropriate report, depending on the nature of the incident. The officer should articulate the factors perceived and why he/she believed the use of force was reasonable under the circumstances. To collect data for purposes of training, resource allocation, analysis, and related purposes, the Department may require the completion of additional report forms, as specified in department policy, procedure, or law. See the Report Preparation Policy for additional circumstances that may require documentation.

300.5.1 NOTIFICATION TO SUPERVISORS

Any use of force by an officer shall be reported immediately to a supervisor, including but not limited to the following circumstances (Penal Code § 832.13):

(a) The application caused a visible injury.

(b) The application would lead a reasonable officer to conclude that the individual may have experienced more than momentary discomfort.

(c) The individual subjected to the force complained of injury or continuing pain.

(d) The individual indicates intent to pursue litigation.

(e) Any application of a TASER device or control device.

(f) Any application of a restraint device other than handcuffs, shackles, or belly chains.

(g) The individual subjected to the force was rendered unconscious.

(h) An individual was struck or kicked.

(i) An individual alleges unreasonable force was used or that any of the above has occurred.

As used in this subsection, “immediately” means as soon as it is safe and feasible to do so.

300.5.2 REPORTING TO CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Statistical data regarding all officer-involved shootings and incidents involving use of force resulting in serious bodily injury is to be reported to the California Department of Justice as required by Government Code § 12525.2. See the Records Unit Policy.

300.6 MEDICAL CONSIDERATION

Once it is reasonably safe to do so, properly trained officers should promptly provide or procure medical assistance for any person injured or claiming to have been injured in a use of force incident (Government Code § 7286(b)).

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Prior to booking or release, medical assistance shall be obtained for any person who exhibits signs of physical distress, who has sustained visible injury, expresses a complaint of injury or continuing pain, or who was rendered unconscious. Any individual exhibiting signs of physical distress after an encounter should be continuously monitored until he/she can be medically assessed.

Based upon the officer's initial assessment of the nature and extent of the subject's injuries, medical assistance may consist of examination by fire personnel, paramedics, hospital staff, or medical staff at the jail. If any such individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal shall be fully documented in related reports and, whenever practicable, should be witnessed by another officer and/or medical personnel. If a recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included in the recording, if possible.

The on-scene supervisor or, if the on-scene supervisor is not available, the primary handling officer shall ensure that any person providing medical care or receiving custody of a person following any use of force is informed that the person was subjected to force. This notification shall include a description of the force used and any other circumstances the officer reasonably believes would be potential safety or medical risks to the subject (e.g., prolonged struggle, extreme agitation, impaired respiration).

Persons who exhibit extreme agitation, violent irrational behavior accompanied by profuse sweating, extraordinary strength beyond their physical characteristics and imperviousness to pain (sometimes called "excited delirium"), or who require a protracted physical encounter with multiple officers to be brought under control, may be at an increased risk of sudden death. Calls involving these persons should be considered medical emergencies. Officers who reasonably suspect a medical emergency should request medical assistance as soon as practicable and have medical personnel stage away if appropriate.

See the Medical Aid and Response Policy for additional guidelines.

300.7 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITY

A supervisor should respond to any reported use of force, if reasonably available. The responding supervisor is expected to (Government Code § 7286(b)):

(a) Obtain the basic facts from the involved officers. Absent an allegation of misconduct or excessive force, this will be considered a routine contact in the normal course of duties.

(b) Ensure that any injured parties are examined and treated.

(c) When possible, separately obtain a recorded interview with the subject upon whom force was applied. If this interview is conducted without the person having voluntarily waived his/her *Miranda* rights, the following shall apply:

1. The content of the interview should not be summarized or included in any related criminal charges.
2. The fact that a recorded interview was conducted should be documented in LEFTA.

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3. The recording of the interview should be distinctly marked for retention until all potential for civil litigation has expired.

(d) Once any initial medical assessment has been completed or first aid has been rendered, ensure that photographs have been taken of any areas involving visible injury or complaint of pain, as well as overall photographs of uninjured areas. These photographs should be retained until all potential for civil litigation has expired.

(e) Identify any witnesses not already included in related reports.

(f) Review and approve all related reports.

(g) Determine if there is any indication that the subject may pursue civil litigation.

1. If there is an indication of potential civil litigation, the supervisor should complete and route a notification of a potential claim through the appropriate channels.

(h) Evaluate the circumstances surrounding the incident and initiate an administrative investigation if there is a question of policy non-compliance or if for any reason further investigation may be appropriate.

In the event that a supervisor is unable to respond to the scene of an incident involving the reported application of force, the supervisor is still expected to complete as many of the above items as circumstances permit.

300.7.1 WATCH COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITY

The Watch Commander shall review each use of force by any personnel within his/her command to ensure compliance with this policy.

300.8 USE OF FORCE COMPLAINTS

The receipt, processing, and investigation of civilian complaints involving use of force incidents should be handled in accordance with the Personnel Complaints Policy (Government Code § 7286(b)).

300.9 TRAINING

Officers, investigators, and supervisors will receive periodic training on this policy and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding (Government Code § 7286(b)).

Subject to available resources, the Professional Standards Sergeant should ensure that officers receive periodic training on de-escalation tactics, including alternatives to force.

Training should also include (Government Code § 7286(b)):

(a) Guidelines regarding vulnerable populations, including but not limited to children, elderly persons, pregnant individuals, and individuals with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities.

(b) Training courses required by and consistent with POST guidelines set forth in Penal Code § 13519.10.

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See the Training Policy for restrictions relating to [officers/deputies] who are the subject of a sustained use of force complaint.

300.10 USE OF FORCE ANALYSIS

At least annually, the Patrol Assistant Chief should prepare an analysis report on use of force incidents. The report should be submitted to the Chief of Police. The report should not contain the names of officers, suspects or case numbers, and should include:

(a) The identification of any trends in the use of force by members.

(b) Training needs recommendations.

(c) Equipment needs recommendations.

(d) Policy revision recommendations.

300.11 POLICY REVIEW

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee should regularly review and update this policy to reflect developing practices and procedures (Government Code § 7286(b)).

300.12 POLICY AVAILABILITY

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee should ensure this policy is accessible to the public (Government Code § 7286(c)).

300.13 PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS

Requests for public records involving an officer's personnel records shall be processed in accordance with Penal Code § 832.7 and the Personnel Records and Records Maintenance and Release policies (Government Code § 7286(b)).

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Tactical Review Committee

301.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Every reportable Use of Force (UOF) incident shall be reviewed by the Tactical Review Committee (TRC). The role of the TRC is to evaluate whether the level of force used in a use of force incident is within policy, as well as to evaluate the circumstances leading up to the use of force. The Tactical Review Committee will also identify any need for additional training and/or identify trends that need to be addressed through training.

301.2 COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Tactical Review Committee is considered a collateral assignment comprised of three (3) to five (5) department officers, including at least one (1) sergeant, who are “Subject Matter Experts” in use of force.

301.3 AREAS OF SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE

The TRC shall consist of officers with expertise in at least one of the following disciplines: ACT, Baton, Scenario-Based Training (SBT), FOS/LEDS and Less Lethal force options.

301.4 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

The TRC will evaluate the officer’s actions in a use of force incident and determine if the use of force is within policy. The committee will also identify potential training needs and identify potential changes needed to the department’s training regimen to address identified trends.

The TRC will report their findings directly to the Tactical Review Committee Commander. The committee does not have the authority to recommend discipline.

301.5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUPERVISORS AND TRC

When an officer is involved in a UOF incident, the on-duty Sergeant shall:

- Review the reports and notify the on-duty Watch Commander of any issues.
- Prepare the UOF packet, which includes reviewing all related reports, and all body worn video.
- Complete LEFTA entry.

301.6 ROUTING FOR TRC REVIEW

Use of Force Review and Routing Process

- The on-duty sergeant shall enter the Use of Force (UOF) into LEFTA and review all reports. When the on-duty sergeant is not able to complete these steps associated with the UOF process due to time constraints or other circumstances, the on-duty sergeant must brief the oncoming sergeant on what is needed to complete the process. The oncoming sergeant shall complete the process and notify the watch commander when the process is completed.

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- The following must be completed:

  - Review reports in MRE.

  -Complete LEFTA entry.

  -Attach Taser download (if deployed).

  -Save and forward the LEFTA entry to the on-duty Watch Commander.

  -Confirm that all involved officers complete a report prior to end of watch.

- After sergeant review, the on-duty Watch Commander will approve all reports and download the narratives and BWV into LEFTA and forward the entry to the first available TRC member.

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Deadly Force Review Boards

302.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a process to review the use of deadly force by employees of this department.

302.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department is charged with the important responsibility of objectively evaluating the use of deadly force. It is the policy of this department to convene a Use of Deadly Force Review Board when the use of deadly force by an employee results in injury or death to a person or in any incident in which a person dies or suffers life threatening injury as a result of police action (i.e. Pursuits and legal intervention).

The Use of Deadly Force Review Board may also investigate and review the circumstances surrounding every accidental or intentional discharge of a firearm, whether the employee is on or off duty, excluding range training or recreational use.

The Chief of Police may convene the Use of Deadly Force Review Board to investigate the circumstances surrounding any use of force incident.

302.2.1 COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

The Use of Deadly Force Review Board shall be comprised of the Professional Standards Commander or designee, a sworn supervisor appointed by the Chief, and a noninvolved sworn officer selected by the involved employee. The Professional Standards Commander will serve as chairperson.

The chairperson will convene the board as necessary. It will be the responsibility of the Division or Unit Supervisor of the involved employee(s) to notify the Assistant Chief of any incidents requiring board review. The Division or Unit Supervisor will also ensure that all relevant reports, documents, and materials are available for consideration and review by the board.

302.2.2 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD

The Use of Deadly Force Review Board is empowered to conduct an administrative investigation into the circumstances of an incident. The Board membership may request further investigation, call persons to present information, and may request that the involved employees appear before the Board. The involved employees will be notified of the meeting of the Board and may be represented by legal counsel and/or other representation through all phases of the review process.

Absent an expressed waiver from the employee, no more than two members of the Board may ask questions of the involved employee.

If it appears that the actions of the employee(s) may result in criminal charges or disciplinary action by the Department, the Board will conduct the interviews in accordance with department disciplinary procedures. The Board does not have the authority to recommend discipline. The Board shall make a finding and such finding will be limited to one of the following:

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(a) The employee's actions were within department policy and procedures. (b) The employee's actions were in violation of department policy and procedure.

A finding will be the consensus of the Board. After the board has concluded, the board chairman will submit written findings of the board to the Chief of Police. After review by the Chief of Police, a copy of the findings will be forwarded to the involved employee's Division Commander for review and appropriate action. A preliminary report will be submitted to the Police Chief within 48 hours. A final report is due in 14 days. The Police Chief can grant an extension of time if needed.

If the board determines that the involved employee's actions violated law or policy, the Chief of Police may require that an internal administrative investigation be completed.

At the conclusion of the review process, a copy of all relevant reports and information will be filed with the Chief of Police or his/her designee. Once the Board has reached its specific finding, the Training Sergeant may convene the separate training committee to address training needs and recommendations for this department without specific reference to the facts of the incident considered by the Board.

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Handcuffing and Restraints

306.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the use of handcuffs and other restraints during detentions and arrests.

306.2 POLICY

Ventura Police Department authorizes the use of restraint devices in accordance with this policy, the Use of Force Policy, and department training. Restraint devices shall not be used to punish, to display authority, or as a show of force.

306.3 USE OF RESTRAINTS

Only members who have successfully completed Ventura Police Department approved training on the use of restraint devices described in this policy are authorized to use these devices.

When deciding whether to use any restraint, officers should carefully balance officer safety concerns with factors that include but are not limited to:

- The circumstances or crime leading to the arrest.
- The demeanor and behavior of the arrested person.
- The age and health of the person.
- Whether the person is known to be pregnant.
- Whether the person has a hearing or speaking disability. In such cases, consideration should be given, safety permitting, to handcuffing to the front in order to allow the person to sign or write notes.
- Whether the person has any other apparent disability.

306.3.1 RESTRAINT OF DETAINEES

Situations may arise where it may be reasonable to restrain a person who may, after brief investigation, be released without arrest. Unless arrested, the use of restraints on detainees should continue only for as long as is reasonably necessary to ensure the safety of officers and others. When deciding whether to remove restraints from a detainee, officers should continuously weigh the safety interests at hand against the continuing intrusion upon the detainee.

306.3.2 RESTRAINT OF PREGNANT PERSONS

Persons who are known to be pregnant should be restrained in the least restrictive manner that is effective for officer safety. Leg irons, waist chains, or handcuffs behind the body should not be used unless the officer has a reasonable suspicion that the person may resist, attempt escape, injure self or others, or damage property.

No person who is in labor, delivery, or recovery after delivery shall be handcuffed or restrained except in extraordinary circumstances and only when a supervisor makes an individualized

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determination that such restraints are necessary for the safety of the arrestee, officers, or others (Penal Code § 3407; Penal Code § 6030).

306.3.3 RESTRAINT OF JUVENILES
A juvenile under 14 years of age should not be restrained unless he/she is suspected of a dangerous felony or when the officer has a reasonable suspicion that the juvenile may resist, attempt escape, injure him/herself, injure the officer, or damage property.

306.3.4 NOTIFICATIONS
Whenever an officer transports a person with the use of restraints other than handcuffs, the officer shall inform the jail staff upon arrival at the jail that restraints were used. This notification should include information regarding any other circumstances the officer reasonably believes would be potential safety concerns or medical risks to the person (e.g., prolonged struggle, extreme agitation, impaired respiration) that may have occurred prior to, or during, transportation to the jail.

306.4 APPLICATION OF HANDCUFFS OR PLASTIC CUFFS

Handcuffs, including temporary nylon or plastic cuffs, may be used only to restrain a person's hands to ensure officer safety.

Although recommended for most arrest situations, handcuffing is discretionary and not an absolute requirement of the Department. Officers should consider handcuffing any person they reasonably believe warrants that degree of restraint. However, officers should not conclude that in order to avoid risk every person should be handcuffed, regardless of the circumstances.

In most situations, handcuffs should be applied with the hands behind the person's back. When feasible, handcuffs should be double-locked to prevent tightening, which may cause undue discomfort or injury to the hands or wrists.

In situations where one pair of handcuffs does not appear sufficient to restrain the person or may cause unreasonable discomfort due to the person's size, officers should consider alternatives, such as using an additional set of handcuffs or multiple plastic cuffs.

Handcuffs should be removed as soon as it is reasonable or after the person has been searched and is safely confined within a detention facility.

306.5 APPLICATION OF SPIT HOODS

Spit hoods are temporary protective devices designed to prevent the wearer from transferring or transmitting fluids (saliva and mucous) to others.

Spit hoods may be placed upon persons in custody when the officer reasonably believes the person will spit, either on a person or in an inappropriate place. They are generally used during application of a physical restraint, while the person is restrained, or during or after transport.

Officers utilizing spit hoods should ensure that the spit hood is fastened properly to allow for adequate ventilation and so that the restrained person can breathe normally. Officers should provide assistance during the movement of a restrained person due to the potential for impairing or

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distorting that person's vision. Officers should avoid comingling those wearing spit hoods with other detainees.

Spit hoods should not be used in situations where the restrained person is bleeding profusely from the area around the mouth or nose, or if there are indications that the person has a medical condition, such as difficulty breathing or vomiting. In such cases, prompt medical care should be obtained. If the person vomits while wearing a spit hood, the spit hood should be promptly removed and discarded. Persons who have been sprayed with oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray should be thoroughly decontaminated, including hair, head, and clothing, prior to application of a spit hood.

Those who have been placed in a spit hood should be continually monitored and shall not be left unattended until the spit hood is removed. Spit hoods shall be discarded after each use.

306.6 APPLICATION OF AUXILIARY RESTRAINT DEVICES

Auxiliary restraint devices include transport belts, waist or belly chains, transportation chains, leg irons, and other similar devices. Auxiliary restraint devices are intended for use during long-term restraint or transportation. They provide additional security and safety without impeding breathing, while permitting adequate movement, comfort, and mobility.

Only department-authorized devices may be used. Any person in auxiliary restraints should be monitored as reasonably appears necessary.

306.7 APPLICATION OF LEG AND/OR BODY RESTRAINT DEVICES

Leg and/or body restraints may be used to restrain the legs and/or body of a violent or potentially violent person when it is reasonable to do so during the course of detention, arrest, or transportation. Only restraint devices approved by the Department shall be used.

In determining whether to use the leg and/or body restraint, officers should consider:

(a) Whether the officer or others could be exposed to injury due to the assaultive or resistant behavior of a person.

(b) Whether it is reasonably necessary to protect the person from his/her own actions (e.g., hitting his/her head against the interior of the patrol vehicle, running away from the arresting officer while handcuffed, kicking at objects or officers).

(c) Whether it is reasonably necessary to avoid damage to property (e.g., kicking at windows of the patrol vehicle).

306.7.1 GUIDELINES FOR USE OF LEG AND/OR BODY RESTRAINTS

When applying leg and/or body restraints, the following guidelines should be followed:

(a) If practicable, officers should notify a supervisor of the intent to apply the leg and/or body restraint device. In all cases, a supervisor shall be notified as soon as practicable after the application of the leg and/or body restraint device.

(b) Once applied, absent a medical or other emergency, restraints should remain in place until the officer arrives at the jail or other facility or the person no longer reasonably appears to pose a threat.

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(c) Once secured, the person should be placed in a seated or upright position, secured with a seat belt, and shall not be placed on his/her stomach for an extended period, as this could reduce the person's ability to breathe.

(d) The restrained person should be continually monitored by an officer while in the leg and/or body restraint. The officer should ensure that the person does not roll onto and remain on his/her stomach.

(e) The officer should look for signs of labored breathing and take appropriate steps to relieve and minimize any obvious factors contributing to this condition.

(f) When transported by emergency medical services, the restrained person should be accompanied by an officer when requested by medical personnel. The transporting officer should describe to medical personnel any unusual behaviors or other circumstances the officer reasonably believes would be potential safety or medical risks to the person (e.g., prolonged struggle, extreme agitation, impaired respiration).

306.8 REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

If a person is restrained and released without an arrest, the officer shall document the details of the detention and the need for handcuffs or other restraints.

If a person is arrested, the use of handcuffs or other restraints shall be documented in the related report.

Officers should document the following information in reports, as appropriate, when restraints other than handcuffs are used on a person:

(a) The factors that led to the decision to use restraints.

(b) Supervisor notification and approval of restraint use.

(c) The types of restraint used.

(d) The amount of time the person was restrained.

(e) How the person was transported and the position of the person during transport.

(f) Observations of the person’s behavior and any signs of physiological problems.

(g) Any known or suspected drug use or other medical problems.

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Control Devices and Techniques

308.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To reduce and minimize altercation-related injuries to officers and suspects, the Department authorizes the use of selected control devices. Certain control devices are provided in order to control violent or potentially violent suspects. It is anticipated that the use of these devices will generally result in fewer altercation-related injuries to officers and suspects. The below procedures are for the use and maintenance of control devices (i.e. baton, oleoresin capsicum spray and tear gas).

308.1.1 WHEN DEVICES MAY BE USED

When a decision has been made to restrain or arrest a violent or threatening suspect, an approved control device may only be used when its use appears reasonable under the circumstances.

308.2 POLICY

In order to control subjects who are violent or who demonstrate the intent to be violent, the Ventura Police Department authorizes officers to use control devices in accordance with the guidelines in this policy and the Use of Force Policy.

308.3 ISSUING, CARRYING AND USING CONTROL DEVICES

Control devices described in this policy may be carried and used by members of this department only if the device has been issued by the Department or approved by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

Only officers who have successfully completed department-approved training in the use of any control device are authorized to carry and use the device.

Control devices may be used when a decision has been made to control, restrain or arrest a subject who is violent or who demonstrates the intent to be violent, and the use of the device appears reasonable under the circumstances. When reasonable, a verbal warning and opportunity to comply should precede the use of these devices.

When using control devices, officers should carefully consider potential impact areas in order to minimize injuries and unintentional targets.

308.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

308.4.1 WATCH COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

The on-duty Watch Commander shall monitor the use of control devices in the same manner as all other use of force incidents.

(a) The Watch Commander may authorize the use of a control device by selected personnel or members of specialized units provided the person(s) authorized has/have the required training. The request for a control device should be made through the on-duty field supervisor.

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(b) The on-duty Watch Commander shall review each use of control devices by any personnel within his or her command.

(c) The on-duty Watch Commander shall ensure briefing training on the use of control devices is provided as needed.

308.4.2 PROPERTY OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES
The Property Officer shall control the inventory and shall issue all control devices. All damaged, inoperative and/or expended control devices shall be returned to the Property Officer for disposition, repair or replacement.

308.4.3 MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY
All normal maintenance, charging or cleaning shall remain the responsibility of personnel using the various devices.

308.5 BATON GUIDELINES

The police baton is authorized for use when, based upon the circumstances perceived by the officer, a lesser force would not reasonably appear to result in the safe control of the suspect. The Authorized batons are the Koga Baton 29-inch or 26-inch straight hardwood baton or Peacekeeper expandable Baton.

The baton may be used in any of the following circumstances when the circumstances perceived by the officer at the time indicate that such application is reasonably necessary to control a person:

(a) The subject is violent or is physically resisting.

(b) The subject has demonstrated, by words or action, an intention to be violent or to physically resist, and reasonably appears to present the potential to harm officers, him/herself or others.

Mere flight from a pursuing officer, without other known circumstances or factors, is not good cause for the use of a baton to apprehend an individual.

308.6 TEAR GAS GUIDELINES

The use of tear gas for crowd control/dispersal or against barricaded suspects shall be based on the circumstances. The Watch Commander, Incident Commander or SWAT Commander may authorize the delivery and use of tear gas, evaluating all conditions known at the time and determining that lesser force would not reasonably appear to result in the safe control of the suspect(s). Where practical, fire personnel should be alerted or summoned to the scene to control any fires and to assist in providing medical aid or gas evacuation when the scene is safe. Only officers or supervisors trained in the use of tear gas weapons should discharge such devices at the scene.

308.7 CHEMICAL AGENTS SPRAY GUIDELINES

Only authorized personnel may possess and maintain department issued oleoresin capsicum spray. Chemical agents are weapons used to minimize the potential for injury to officers, citizens

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or offenders. They should be used only in situations where such force reasonably appears justified and necessary.

Chemical agents may be used in any of the following circumstances when the circumstances perceived by the officer at the time indicate that such application is reasonably necessary to control a person:

(a) The subject is violent or is physically resisting.

(b) The subject has demonstrated, by words or action, an intention to be violent or to physically resist, and reasonably appears to present the potential to harm officers, him/herself or others.

Mere flight from a pursuing officer, without other known circumstances or factors, is not good cause for the use of chemical agents to apprehend an individual.

308.7.1 REQUIRED INSTRUCTION FOR USE

All personnel authorized to carry OC spray, shall complete the required course of instruction prior to possessing and using the oleoresin capsicum spray.

308.7.2 CARRYING OF OC SPRAY

Uniformed personnel carrying OC spray shall carry the device in its holster on the equipment belt. Plainclothes and non-field personnel may carry OC spray as authorized, consistent with the needs of their assignment or at the direction of their supervisor.

308.7.3 PEPPER PROJECTILE SYSTEMS

PepperBall Projectiles are plastic spheres that are filled with oleoresin capsicum (OC) powder. A high-pressure air launcher delivers the projectiles with enough force to burst the projectiles on impact, releasing the OC powder. Although classified as a less-lethal device, the potential exists for the projectiles to inflict injury when they strike the face, eyes, neck, and groin. Therefore, personnel deploying the PepperBall System shall avoid intentionally striking those body areas unless a life-threatening situation exists. The use of the PepperBall System is subject to the following requirements:

(a) Officers encountering a situation that requires the use of the PepperBall System shall notify a supervisor as soon as practical. The supervisor shall respond to all PepperBall System deployments where the suspect has been hit. The field sergeant shall make all notifications and reports as required by the department's Use of Force policy.

(b) Only qualified, department-trained personnel shall be allowed to deploy and use the PepperBall System.

(c) Each deployment of a PepperBall System shall be documented. This includes situations where the launcher was directed toward the suspect, whether or not the launcher was used. Only non-incident deployments are exempt from the evaluation form requirement (e.g., training, accidental discharges, or product demonstrations).

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308.7.4 TREATMENT FOR OC SPRAY EXPOSURE
Persons who have been sprayed with or otherwise affected by the use of OC should be promptly provided with clean water to cleanse the affected areas. Those persons who complain of further severe effects shall be examined by appropriate medical personnel.

308.7.5 REPORT OF USE
All uses of chemical agents shall be documented in the related arrest/crime report and a Use of Force report.

308.8 KINETIC ENERGY PROJECTILE GUIDELINES

This Department is committed to reducing the potential for violent confrontations with the suspects we encounter. Kinetic energy projectiles are items which when used properly, are less likely to result in death or serious physical injury.

- Kinetic energy projectiles are approved by the Department and are fired from 12 gauge shotguns, 40 mm launchers, or 37 mm launchers. Certain munitions can be used in an attempt to de-escalate

308.8.1 DEPLOYMENT
Approved munitions are justified and may be used to compel an individual to cease his or her actions when such munitions present a reasonable option for resolving the situation at hand.

Officers are not required or compelled to use approved munitions in lieu of other reasonable tactics if the involved officer(s) determine that deployment of these munitions cannot be done safely. The safety of hostages, innocent third party citizens, and officers, takes priority over the safety of subjects engaged in criminal or suicidal behavior.

308.8.2 EXAMPLES OF CIRCUMSTANCES APPROPRIATE FOR DEPLOYMENT
Examples include, but are not limited to, the following types of situations where the subject:

(a) Is armed with a weapon and the tactical circumstances allow for the safe application of approved munitions;

(b) Has made credible threats to harm others and/or officers;

(c) Is engaged in riotous behavior or is throwing rocks, bottles, or other dangerous projectiles at citizens and/or officers.

308.8.3 DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS
Before discharging projectiles, the officer should consider the following factors:

(a) Severity of the crime or incident;

(b) Subject’s capability to pose an immediate threat to the safety of officers or others;

(c) If the subject is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight;

(d) The credibility of the subject’s threat as evaluated by the officers present, & physical capacity/capability;

(e) The proximity of weapons available to the subject;

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(f) The officer's versus the subject's physical factors (i.e., age, size, relative strength, skill level, injury/exhaustion, the number of officer(s) versus subject(s);

(g) The availability of other force options and their possible effectiveness;

(h) Distance and angle to target;

(i) Type of munitions employed;

(j) Type and thickness of subject's clothing;

(k) The subject's actions dictate the need for an immediate response and the use of control devices appears appropriate.

308.8.4 DEPLOYMENT DISTANCES

Officers will keep in mind the manufacturer's recommendations regarding deployment when using control devices, but are not solely restricted to use according to these manufacturer recommendations. Each tactical situation must be evaluated on the totality of circumstances at the time of deployment.

Twenty feet is the manufacturer's minimum recommended distance for application of a Deftec 12 gauge beanbag munition to prevent death or serious physical injury. 75 feet is the manufacturer's maximum recommended distance for beanbags.

Five feet is the minimum manufacturer's recommended distance for the Deftec 40 mm Exact Impact Sponge Round. 131 feet is the maximum recommended effective distance.

308.8.5 SHOT PLACEMENT

The need to immediately incapacitate the subject must be weighed against the risk of causing serious injury or death.

The primary zone for shot placement is the legs, with care given to avoid targeting the groin area. The legs have large muscles and bones that minimize the risk of serious bodily injury.

The secondary zone for shot placement is the abdomen and arms. The abdomen extends from below the ribs to the waistline. The abdomen has smaller muscles and contains large internal organs. There is a greater probability of causing serious injury. The arms contain smaller bones and can quickly move, careful consideration should be given when targeting the arms.

The third zone for shot placement is the head and thoracic cavity. Shots that land in this area carry the greatest risk of causing serious or fatal injury. This zone includes the head, neck, spinal cord, kidney area and center mass. Intentionally targeting one of these areas should be reserved for deadly force situations.

In cases where the use of deadly force is justified or immediate incapacitation must be accomplished to prevent death or serious injury, officers are authorized to consider close range or extended range shots involving distances outside the manufacturer's guidelines.

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308.8.6 APPROVED MUNITIONS

The approved 12 gauge munition for patrol is the DefTec 12 gauge drag stabilized bean bag round. The part number for this round is 3027. The round has a clear plastic body that contains a yellow less lethal bean bag. The round has a brass colored base.

The approved 40mm munition for patrol is the DefTec Exact Impact sponge round. The part number for this round is 6325. The round has a blue foam projectile, a black plastic collar and a silver base.

The SWAT Team employs a number of 12-gauge and 37 mm specialty munitions. Current munitions include the MK Ballistic System Flexible Baton, 37 mm Def-Tec #20F, Def-Tec #28B, and KO-1 Baton rounds.

308.8.7 SAFETY PROCEDURES FOR SHOTGUNS

Shotguns specifically designated for use with kinetic energy projectiles will be specially marked in a manner that makes them readily identifiable as such.

Officers will inspect the shotgun and projectiles at the beginning of each shift to ensure that the shotgun is in proper working order and the projectiles are of the approved type and appear to be free from defects.

When it is not deployed, the shotgun will be unloaded and properly and securely stored in the vehicle. When deploying the kinetic energy projectile shotgun, the officer shall visually inspect the kinetic energy projectiles to ensure that conventional ammunition is not being loaded into the shotgun. If feasible, officers shall record themselves loading less lethal rounds with their body worn video.

Absent compelling circumstances, officers who must transition from conventional ammunition to kinetic energy projectiles will employ the two-person rule for loading. The two-person rule is a safety measure in which a second officer watches the unloading and loading process to ensure that the weapon is completely emptied of conventional ammunition.

308.8.8 SAFETY PROCEDURES FOR 37MM AND 40MM LAUNCHERS

40mm launchers and rounds assigned to patrol operations shall be inspected by the officer at the beginning of each shift to ensure they are in proper working order and that the projectiles are of the approved type.

When it is not deployed, the 37mm or 40mm launcher will be unloaded and properly and securely stored in the vehicle, safe or armory. When deploying the kinetic energy projectile 37mm or 40mm launcher, the officer shall visually inspect the kinetic energy projectiles to ensure only authorized rounds are being loaded into the launcher. If feasible, officers shall record themselves loading less lethal rounds with their body worn video.

Absent compelling circumstances, officers should only fire the 40mm launcher from the double-action position.

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308.9 TRAINING REQUIRED FOR USE

Personnel who have successfully completed an approved departmental training course shall be authorized to use kinetic energy projectiles. Officers deploying kinetic energy projectiles will complete an annual recertification course. Officers assigned to SWAT, who have completed a departmental training course, may carry and employ 12 gauge, 37 mm projectiles, or 40mm projectiles while on-duty or while performing Special Weapons and Tactics missions.

308.10 REPORTING USE OF CONTROL DEVICES AND TECHNIQUES

Any application of a control device and/or technique listed within this section shall be documented pursuant to Policy Manual § 300.4 and 300.5.

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Conducted Energy Device (Tasers)

309.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the issuance and use of TASER devices.

309.2 POLICY

The TASER® device is intended to control a violent or potentially violent individual, while minimizing the risk of serious injury. The appropriate use of such a device should result in fewer serious injuries to officers and suspects.

309.3 ISSUANCE AND CARRYING TASERS

Only members who have successfully completed department-approved training may be issued and carry the TASER device.

TASER devices are issued for use during a member's current assignment. Those leaving a particular assignment may be required to return the device to the department's inventory.

Officers shall only use the TASER device and cartridges that have been issued by the Department. Uniformed officers who have been issued the TASER device shall wear the device in an approved holster or secured in the driver's compartment of the vehicle so that it is readily accessible at all times. Non-uniformed officers may secure the TASER device in the driver's compartment of their vehicle.

Members carrying the TASER device should perform a spark test on the unit prior to every shift.

When carried while in uniform officers shall carry the TASER device in a weak-side holster on the side opposite the duty weapon.

(a) All TASER devices shall be clearly and distinctly marked to differentiate them from the duty weapon and any other device.

(b) Whenever practicable, officers should carry two or more cartridges on their person when carrying the TASER device.

(c) Officers shall be responsible for ensuring that their issued TASER device is properly maintained and in good working order.

(d) Officers should not hold both a firearm and the TASER device at the same time.

309.4 VERBAL AND VISUAL WARNINGS

A verbal warning of the intended use of the TASER device should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances. The purpose of the warning is to:

(a) Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.

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(b) Provide other officers and individuals with a warning that the TASER device may be deployed.

If, after a verbal warning, an individual is unwilling to voluntarily comply with an officer's lawful orders and it appears both reasonable and feasible under the circumstances, the officer may, but is not required to, display the electrical arc (provided that a cartridge has not been loaded into the device), or the laser in a further attempt to gain compliance prior to the application of the TASER device. The aiming laser should never be intentionally directed into the eyes of another as it may permanently impair his/her vision.

The fact that a verbal or other warning was given or the reasons it was not given shall be documented by the officer deploying the TASER device in the related report.

309.5 USE OF THE TASER DEVICE

The TASER device has limitations and restrictions requiring consideration before its use. The TASER device should only be used when its operator can safely approach the subject within the operational range of the device. Although the TASER device is generally effective in controlling most individuals, officers should be aware that the device may not achieve the intended results and be prepared with other options.

309.5.1 APPLICATION OF THE TASER DEVICE

The TASER device may be used in any of the following circumstances, when the circumstances perceived by the officer at the time indicate that such application is reasonably necessary to control a person:

(a) The subject is violent or is physically resisting.

(b) The subject has demonstrated, by words or action, an intention to be violent or to physically resist, and reasonably appears to present the potential to harm officers, him/herself or others.

Mere flight from a pursuing officer, without other known circumstances or factors, is not good cause for the use of the TASER device to apprehend an individual.

309.5.2 SPECIAL DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The use of the TASER device on certain individuals should generally be avoided unless the totality of the circumstances indicates that other available options reasonably appear ineffective or would present a greater danger to the officer, the subject or others, and the officer reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the risk of using the device. This includes:

(a) Individuals who are known to be pregnant.

(b) Elderly individuals or obvious juveniles.

(c) Individuals with obviously low body mass.

(d) Individuals who are handcuffed or otherwise restrained.

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(e) Individuals who have been recently sprayed with a flammable chemical agent or who are otherwise in close proximity to any known combustible vapor or flammable material, including alcohol-based oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray.

(f) Individuals whose position or activity may result in collateral injury (e.g., falls from height, operating vehicles).

Because the application of the TASER device in the drive-stun mode (i.e., direct contact without probes) relies primarily on pain compliance, the use of the drive-stun mode generally should be limited to supplementing the probe-mode to complete the circuit, or as a distraction technique to gain separation between officers and the subject, thereby giving officers time and distance to consider other force options or actions.

The TASER device shall not be used to psychologically torment, elicit statements or to punish any individual.

309.5.3 TARGETING CONSIDERATIONS

Reasonable efforts should be made to target lower center mass and avoid the head, neck, chest and groin. If the dynamics of a situation or officer safety do not permit the officer to limit the application of the TASER device probes to a precise target area, officers should monitor the condition of the subject if one or more probes strikes the head, neck, chest or groin until the subject is examined by paramedics or other medical personnel.

309.5.4 MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS OF THE TASER DEVICE

Officers should apply the TASER device for only one standard cycle and then evaluate the situation before applying any subsequent cycles. Multiple applications of the TASER device against a single individual are generally not recommended and should be avoided unless the officer reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the potentially increased risk posed by multiple applications.

If the first application of the TASER device appears to be ineffective in gaining control of an individual, the officer should consider certain factors before additional applications of the TASER device, including:

(a) Whether the probes are making proper contact.

(b) Whether the individual has the ability and has been given a reasonable opportunity to comply.

(c) Whether verbal commands, other options or tactics may be more effective.

Officers should generally not intentionally apply more than one TASER device at a time against a single subject.

309.5.5 ACTIONS FOLLOWING DEPLOYMENTS

Officers shall notify a supervisor of all TASER device discharges. Confetti tags should be collected and the expended cartridge, along with both probes and wire, should be submitted into evidence.

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The cartridge serial number should be noted and documented on the evidence paperwork. The evidence packaging should be marked "Biohazard" if the probes penetrated the subject's skin.

309.5.6 DANGEROUS ANIMALS
The TASER device may be deployed against an animal as part of a plan to deal with a potentially dangerous animal, such as a dog, if the animal reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to human safety and alternative methods are not reasonably available or would likely be ineffective.

309.5.7 OFF-DUTY CONSIDERATIONS
Officers are not authorized to carry department TASER devices while off-duty.

Officers shall ensure that TASER devices are secured while in their homes, vehicles or any other area under their control, in a manner that will keep the device inaccessible to others.

309.6 DOCUMENTATION
Officers shall document all TASER device discharges in the related arrest/crime report and the TASER device report form. Notification shall also be made to a supervisor in compliance with the Use of Force Policy. Unintentional discharges, pointing the device at a person, laser activation and arcing the device will also be documented on the report form.

309.6.1 TASER DEVICE DOCUMENTATION
Items that shall be included in the TASER device documentation are:

(a) The type and brand of TASER device and cartridge and cartridge serial number.

(b) Date, time and location of the incident.

(c) Whether any display, laser or arc deterred a subject and gained compliance.

(d) The number of TASER device activations.

(e) The range at which the TASER device was used.

(f) The type of mode used (probe or drive-stun).

(g) Location of any probe impact.

(h) Location of contact in drive-stun mode.

(i) Description of where missed probes went.

(j) Whether medical care was provided to the subject.

(k) Whether the subject sustained any injuries.

(l) Whether any officers sustained any injuries.

Officers will be allowed to review the Taser download report prior to submitting their reports.

The Professional Standards Sergeant should periodically analyze the reports to identify trends, including deterrence and effectiveness. The Professional Standards Sergeant should also conduct audits of data downloads and reconcile TASER device reports with recorded activations. TASER

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device information and statistics, with identifying information removed, should periodically be made available to the public.

309.6.2 REPORTS
The officer should include the following in the arrest/crime report:

(a) Identification of all personnel firing TASER devices

(b) Identification of all witnesses

(c) Medical care provided to the subject

(d) Observations of the subject's physical and physiological actions

(e) Any known or suspected drug use, intoxication or other medical problems

309.7 MEDICAL TREATMENT

Consistent with local medical personnel protocols and absent extenuating circumstances, only appropriate medical personnel should remove TASER device probes from a person's body. Used TASER device probes shall be treated as a sharps biohazard, similar to a used hypodermic needle, and handled appropriately. Universal precautions should be taken.

All persons who have been struck by TASER device probes or who have been subjected to the electric discharge of the device shall be medically assessed prior to booking. Additionally, any such individual who falls under any of the following categories should, as soon as practicable, be examined by paramedics or other qualified medical personnel:

(a) The person is suspected of being under the influence of controlled substances and/or alcohol.

(b) The person may be pregnant.

(c) The person reasonably appears to be in need of medical attention.

(d) The TASER device probes are lodged in a sensitive area (e.g., groin, female breast, head, face, neck).

(e) The person requests medical treatment.

Any individual exhibiting signs of distress or who is exposed to multiple or prolonged applications (i.e., more than 15 seconds) shall be transported to a medical facility for examination or medically evaluated prior to booking. If any individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal should be witnessed by another officer and/or medical personnel and shall be fully documented in related reports. If an audio recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included, if possible.

The transporting officer shall inform any person providing medical care or receiving custody that the individual has been subjected to the application of the TASER device.

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309.8 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

When possible, supervisors should respond to calls when they reasonably believe there is a likelihood the TASER device may be used. A supervisor should respond to all incidents where the TASER device was activated.

A supervisor should review each incident where a person has been exposed to an activation of the TASER device. The device's onboard memory should be downloaded through the data port by a supervisor or Taser Instructor and saved with the related arrest/crime report. Photographs of probe sites should be taken and witnesses interviewed.

309.9 TRAINING

Personnel who are authorized to carry the TASER device shall be permitted to do so only after successfully completing the initial department-approved training. Any personnel who have not carried the TASER device as a part of their assignment for a period of six months or more shall be recertified by a department-approved TASER device instructor prior to again carrying or using the device.

Proficiency training for personnel who have been issued TASER devices should occur every year. A reassessment of an officer's knowledge and/or practical skill may be required at any time if deemed appropriate by the Professional Standards Sergeant. All training and proficiency for TASER devices will be documented in the officer's training file.

Command staff, supervisors and investigators should receive TASER device training as appropriate for the investigations they conduct and review.

Officers who do not carry TASER devices should receive training that is sufficient to familiarize them with the device and with working with officers who use the device.

The Professional Standards Sergeant is responsible for ensuring that all members who carry TASER devices have received initial and annual proficiency training. Periodic audits should be used for verification.

Application of TASER devices during training could result in injury to personnel and should not be mandatory for certification.

The Professional Standards Sergeant should ensure that all training includes:

a. A review of this policy.

b. A review of the Use of Force Policy.

c. Performing weak-hand draws or cross-draws.

d. Unintentionally drawing and firing a firearm.

e. Target area considerations,

   (a) Unintentional application of probes near the head, neck, chest and groin.

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(b) Handcuffing a subject during the application of the TASER device and transitioning to other force options.

(c) De-escalation techniques.

(d) Restraint techniques that do not impair respiration following the application of the TASER device.

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Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths

310.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish policy and procedures for the investigation of an incident in which a person is injured or dies as the result of an officer-involved shooting or dies as a result of other action of officer.

In other incidents not covered by this policy, the Chief of Police may decide that the investigation will follow the process provided in this policy.

310.2 POLICY

The Policy of the Ventura Police Department is to ensure that officer-involved shootings and deaths are investigated in a thorough, fair and impartial manner.

310.3 TYPES OF INVESTIGATIONS

Officer-involved shootings and deaths involve several separate investigations. The investigations may include:

- A criminal investigation of the suspect's actions.
- A criminal investigation of the involved officer's actions.
- An administrative investigation as to policy compliance by involved officers.
- A civil investigation to determine potential liability.

310.4 CONTROL OF INVESTIGATIONS

Jurisdiction is determined by the location of the shooting or death and the agency employing the involved officer. The following scenarios outline the jurisdictional responsibilities for investigating officer-involved shootings and deaths.

310.4.1 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF SUSPECT ACTIONS

The investigation of any possible criminal conduct by the suspect is controlled by the agency in whose jurisdiction the suspect's crime occurred. For example, the Ventura Police Department would control the investigation if the suspect's crime occurred in Ventura.

If multiple crimes have been committed in multiple jurisdictions, identification of the agency that will control the investigation may be reached in the same way as with any other crime. The investigation may be conducted by the agency in control of the criminal investigation of the involved officer, at the discretion of the Chief of Police and with concurrence from the other agency.

310.4.2 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF OFFICER ACTIONS

(a) VPD Officer/Allied Agency Officer Within This Jurisdiction - The criminal investigation of the officer-involved shooting will be conducted by the Investigations Bureau with the assistance of the District Attorney's Office.

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(b) VPD Officer In Another Jurisdiction - The agency where the incident occurred had criminal jurisdiction and is responsible for the criminal investigation of the incident.

310.4.3 ADMINISTRATIVE AND CIVIL INVESTIGATION
Regardless of where the incident occurs, the administrative and civil investigation of each involved officer is controlled by the respective employing agency.

310.5 INVESTIGATION PROCESS
The following procedures are guidelines used in the investigation of an officer-involved shooting or death.

310.5.1 UNINVOLVED OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES
Upon arrival at the scene of an officer-involved shooting, the first uninvolved VPD officer will be the officer-in-charge and will assume the responsibilities of a supervisor until properly relieved. This officer should, as appropriate:

(a) Secure the scene and identify and eliminate hazards for all those involved.

(b) Take reasonable steps to obtain emergency medical attention for injured individuals.

(c) Request additional resources from the Department or other agencies.

(d) Coordinate a perimeter or pursuit of suspects.

(e) Check for injured persons and evacuate as needed.

(f) Brief the supervisor upon arrival.

310.5.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES
Upon arrival at the scene, the first uninvolved VPD supervisor should ensure completion of the duties as outlined above, plus:

a. Attempt to obtain a brief overview of the situation from any uninvolved officers.

1. In the event that there are no uninvolved officers who can supply adequate overview, the supervisor should attempt to obtain a brief voluntary overview from one involved officer.

b. If necessary, the supervisor may administratively order any VPD officer to immediately provide safety information necessary to secure the scene, identify injured parties and pursue suspects.

1. Public safety information shall be limited to such things as outstanding suspect information, number and direction of any shots fired, permitter of the incident scene, identity of known or potential witnesses and any other pertinent information.

2. The initial on-scene supervisor should not attempt to order any involved officer to provide any information other than public safety information.

c. Provide all available information to the Watch Commander and the Communications Center. If feasible, sensitive information should be communicated over secure networks

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d. Take command of and secure the incident scene with additional VPD members until properly relieved by another supervisor or other assigned personnel or investigator

e. As soon as practicable, ensure that involved officers are transported (separately, if feasible) to a suitable location for further direction.

1. Each involved VPD officer should be given an administrative order not to discuss the incident with other involved officers or VPD members pending further direction from a supervisor.

2. When an involved officer's weapon is taken or left at the scene for other than officer-safety reasons (e.g., evidence), ensure that he/she is provided with a comparable replacement weapon or transported by other VPD officers.

310.5.3 WATCH COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon learning of an officer-involved shooting or death, the Watch Commander shall be responsible for coordinating all aspects of the incident until he/she is relieved by the Chief of Police or a division Commander.

All outside inquiries about the incident shall be directed to the Watch Commander.

310.5.4 NOTIFICATIONS

The following person(s) shall be notified as soon as practicable:

- Chief of Police
- Investigation Assistant Chief
- All Staff Officers
- officer-involved shooting protocol rollout team
- Outside agency investigator (if appropriate)
- Professional Standards Unit supervisor
- Civil liability response team
- Psychological/peer support personnel
- Chaplain
- Coroner (if necessary)
- Involved officer's agency representative (if requested)
- Public Information Officer

310.5.5 INVOLVED OFFICERS

The following shall be considered for the involved officer:

a. Any request for legal or union representation will be accommodated.

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1. Involved VPD officers shall not be permitted to meet collectively or in a group with an attorney or any representative prior to providing a formal interview or report.

2. Requests from involved non-VPD officers should be referred to their employing agency.

b. Discussions with licensed attorneys will be considered privileged as attorney-client communications.

c. Discussions with agency representative/employee groups will be privileged only as to the discussion on non-criminal information (Government Code § 3303(i)).

d. A licensed psychotherapist shall be provided by the Department to each involved VPD officer.A licensed psychotherapist may also be provided to any other affected VPD members, upon request.

1. Interviews with a licensed psychotherapist will be considered privileged.

2. An interview or session with a licensed psychotherapist may take place prior to the member providing a formal interview or report. However, involved members shall not be permitted to consult or meet collectively or in a group with a licensed psychotherapist prior to providing a formal interview or report.

3. A seperate fitness-for-duty exam may also be required (see the Fitness for Duty Policy).

e. Although the Department will honor the sensitivity of communications with peer counselors, there in no legal privilege to such communications. Peer counselors are cautioned against discussing the facts of any incident with an involved or witness officer.

Care should be taken to preserve the integrity of any physical evidence present on the involved officer's equipment or clothing, such as blood fingerprints, until investigators or lab personnel can properly retrieve it. Each involved VPD officer shall be given reasonable paid administrative leave following an officer-involved shooting or death. It shall be the responsibility of the Watch Commander to make schedule adjustments to accommodate such leave.

310.5.6 NOTIFICATION TO DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The California Department of Justice (DOJ) is required to investigate an officer-involved shooting resulting in the death of an unarmed civilian. The Watch Commander should promptly notify the DOJ in all incidents involving an officer-involved shooting resulting in the death of an unarmed civilian, including where it is undetermined if the civilian was unarmed.

For purposes of notification, “unarmed civilian” means anyone who is not in possession of a deadly weapon (Government Code § 12525.3).

310.6 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

The District Attorney's Office is responsible for the criminal investigation into the circumstances of any officer-involved shooting or death.

If available, investigative personnel from this department may be assigned to partner with investigators from outside agencies or the District Attorney's Office to avoid duplicating efforts in related criminal investigations.

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Once public safety issues have been addressed, criminal investigators should be given the opportunity to obtain a voluntary statement from involved officers and to complete their interviews. The following shall be considered for the involved officer:

(a) VPD supervisors and Professional Standards Unit personnel should not participate directly in any voluntary interview of VPD officers. This will not prohibit such personnel from monitoring interviews or providing the criminal investigators with topics for inquiry.

(b) If requested, any involved officer will be afforded the opportunity to consult individually with a representative of his/her choosing or an attorney prior to speaking with criminal investigators (Government Code § 3303(i)). However, in order to maintain the integrity of each involved officer's statement, involved officers shall not consult or meet with a representative or an attorney collectively or in groups prior to being interviewed.

(c) If any involved officer is physically, emotionally or otherwise not in a position to provide a voluntary statement when interviewed by criminal investigators, consideration should be given to allowing a reasonable period for the officer to schedule an alternate time for the interview.

(d) Either a voluntary or administratively coerced statement shall be completed within 48 hours of the incident, unless otherwise approved by the Chief of Police due to extenuating circumstances.

(e) Any voluntary statement provided by an involved officer will be made available for inclusion in any related investigation, including administrative investigations. However, no administratively coerced statement will be provided to any criminal investigators unless the officer consents.

310.6.1 REPORTS BY INVOLVED VPD OFFICERS

In the event that suspects remain outstanding or subject to prosecution for related offenses, this department shall retain the authority to require involved VPD officers to provide sufficient information for related criminal reports to facilitate the apprehension and prosecution of those individuals (Government Code § 3304(a)).

While the involved VPD officer may write the report, it is generally recommended that such reports be completed by assigned investigators, who should interview all involved officers as victims/witnesses. Since the purpose of these reports will be to facilitate criminal prosecution, statements of involved officers should focus on evidence to establish the elements of criminal activities by suspects. Care should be taken not to duplicate information provided by involved officers in other reports.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to deprive an involved VPD officer of the right to consult with legal counsel prior to completing any such criminal report.

Reports related to the prosecution of criminal suspects will be processed according to normal procedures but should also be included for reference in the investigation of the officer-involved shooting or death.

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310.6.2 WITNESS IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVIEWS

Because potential witnesses to an officer-involved shooting or death may become unavailable or the integrity of their statements compromised with the passage of time, a supervisor should take reasonable steps to promptly coordinate with criminal investigators to utilize available personnel for the following:

(a) Identification of all persons present at the scene and in the immediate area.

1. When feasible, a recorded statement should be obtained from those persons who claim not to have witnessed the incident but who were present at the time it occurred.

2. Any potential witness who is unwilling or unable to remain available for a formal interview should not be detained absent reasonable suspicion to detain or probable cause to arrest. Without detaining the individual for the sole purpose of identification, officers should attempt to identify the witness prior to his/her departure.

(b) Witnesses who are willing to provide a formal interview should be asked to meet at a suitable location where criminal investigators may obtain a recorded statement. Such witnesses, if willing, may be transported by a member of the Department.

1. A written, verbal or recorded statement of consent should be obtained prior to transporting a witness. When the witness is a minor, consent should be obtained from the parent or guardian, if available, prior to transportation.

(c) Promptly contacting the suspect’s known family and associates to obtain any available and untainted background information about the suspect’s activities and state of mind prior to the incident.

310.6.3 INVESTIGATIVE PERSONNEL

Once notified of an officer involved shooting or death, it shall be the responsibility of the Major Crimes supervisor to assign appropriate investigative personnel to handle the investigation of related crimes.Department investigators will be assigned to work with investigators from the District Attorney's Office and may be assigned to separately handle the investigation of any related crimes not being investigated by the District Attorney's Office.

All related department reports, except administrative and/or privileged reports, will be forwarded to the Major Crimes supervisor for approval.Privileged reports shall be maintained exclusively by members who are authorized such access.Administrative reports will be forwarded to the Professional Standards Commander.

310.7 ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATION

In addition to all other investigations associated with an officer-involved shooting or death, this department will conduct an administrative investigation, in the form of a deadly force review board, to determine conformance with department policy. The investigation will be conducted under

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the supervision of the Professional Standards Unit and will be considered a confidential officer personnel file.

Interviews of members shall be subject to department policies and applicable laws (see the Personnel Complaints Policy).

(a) Any officer involved in a shooting or death may be requested or administratively compelled to provide a blood sample for alcohol/drug screening. Absent consent from the officer, such compelled samples and the results of any such testing shall not be disclosed to any criminal investigative agency.

(b) If any officer has voluntarily elected to provide a statement to criminal investigators, the assigned administrative investigator should review that statement before proceeding with any further interview of that involved officer.

1. If a further interview of the officer is deemed necessary to determine policy compliance, care should be taken to limit the inquiry to new areas with minimal, if any, duplication of questions addressed in the voluntary statement. The involved officer shall be provided with a copy of his/her prior statement before proceeding with any subsequent interviews.

(c) In the event that an involved officer has elected to not provide criminal investigators with a voluntary statement, the assigned administrative investigator shall conduct an administrative interview to determine all relevant information.

1. Although this interview should not be unreasonably delayed, care should be taken to ensure that the officer’s physical and psychological needs have been addressed before commencing the interview.

2. If no voluntary statement is given to investigations, an administratively coerced statement shall be completed within 48 hours of the incident, unless otherwise approved by the Chief of Police due to extenuating circumstances.

3. If requested, the officer shall have the opportunity to select an uninvolved representative to be present during the interview. However, in order to maintain the integrity of each individual officer's statement, involved officers shall not consult or meet with a representative or attorney collectively or in groups prior to being interviewed (Government Code § 3303(i)).

4. Administrative interviews should be recorded by the investigator. The officer may also record the interview (Government Code § 3303(g)).

5. The officer shall be informed of the nature of the investigation. If an officer refuses to answer questions, he/she should be given his/her *Lybarger* or *Garrity* rights and ordered to provide full and truthful answers to all questions. The officer shall be informed that the interview will be for administrative purposes only and that the statement cannot be used criminally.

6. The Professional Standards Unit shall compile all relevant information and reports necessary for the Department to determine compliance with applicable policies.

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7. Any other indications of potential policy violations shall be determined in accordance with standard disciplinary procedures.

310.8 CIVIL LIABILITY RESPONSE

A member of this department may be assigned to work exclusively under the direction of the legal counsel for the Department to assist in the preparation of materials deemed necessary in anticipation of potential civil litigation.

All materials generated in this capacity shall be considered attorney work product and may not be used for any other purpose.The civil liability response in not intended to interfere with any other investigation but shall be given reasonable access to all other investigations.

310.9 AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDINGS

Any officer involved in a shooting or death may be permitted to review available Mobile Audio/ Video (MAV), body-worn video, or other video or audio recordings prior to providing a recorded statement or completing reports.

Upon request, non-law enforcement witnesses who are able to verify their presence and their ability to contemporaneously perceive events at the scene of an incident may also be permitted to review available MAV, body-worn video, or other video or audio recordings with approval of assigned investigators or a supervisor.

Any MAV, body-worn and other known video or audio recordings of an incident should not be publicly released during an ongoing investigation without consulting the prosecuting attorney or City Attorney's Office, as appropriate.

310.10 DEBRIEFING

Following an officer-involved shooting or death, the Ventura Police Department should conduct both a critical incident/stress debriefing and a tactical debriefing.

310.10.1 CRITICAL INCIDENT/STRESS DEBRIEFING

A critical incident/stress debriefing should occur as soon as practicable.the Professional Standards Commander is responsible for organizing the debriefing.Notes and recorded statements should not be taken because the sole purpose of the debriefing is to help mitigate the stress-related effects of a traumatic event.

The debriefing is not part of any investigative process.Care should be taken not to release or repeat any communication made during a debriefing unless otherwise authorized by policy, law or a valid court order.

Attendance at the debriefing shall only include those members of the Department directly involved in the incident, which can include support personnel (e.g., dispatchers, or other non-sworn personnel).Family or other support personnel may attend with the concurrence of those involved in

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the incident.The debriefing shall be closed to the public and should be closed to all other members of the Department, including supervisory and Professional Standards personnel.

310.11 MEDIA RELATIONS

Any media release shall be prepared with the input and concurrence from the supervisor and department representative responsible for each phase of the investigation. Releases will be available to the Watch Commander, Investigations Bureau Commander and Press Information Officer in the event of inquiries from the media.

The Department shall not subject any involved VPD officer to visits by the media (Government Code § 3303(e)). No involved VPD officer shall make any comment to the media unless he/she is authorized by the Chief of Police. Department members receiving inquiries regarding officer-involved shootings or deaths occurring in other jurisdictions shall refrain from public comment and will direct those inquiries to the agency having jurisdiction and primary responsibility for the investigation.

310.12 REPORTING

If the death of an individual occurs in the Ventura Police Department jurisdiction and qualifies to be reported to the state as a justifiable homicide or an in-custody death, the Operations Division Commander will ensure that the Records Manager is provided with enough information to meet the reporting requirements (Penal Code § 196; Penal Code § 13022; Government Code § 12525).

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Firearms

312.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes procedures for the acquisition, use, and documentation of training in the use of firearms. The Chief of Police or his or her designee shall approve all Department firearms before they are acquired and utilized by any member of this department.

312.2 AUTHORIZED WEAPONS

No firearms will be carried that have not been thoroughly inspected by the armorer and approved via chain of command. Except in an emergency or as directed by a supervisor, no firearm shall be carried by a member who has not qualified with that weapon at an authorized department range.

All other weapons, including but not limited to, edged weapons, chemical or electronic weapons, impact weapons or any weapon prohibited or restricted by law or that is not covered elsewhere by department policy, may not be carried by personnel in the performance of their official duty without the express written authorization of the Assistant Chief. This exclusion does not apply to the carrying of a single folding pocketknife that is not otherwise prohibited by law.

312.2.1 DUTY WEAPONS

The department issued handgun is the Sig Sauer P226, P228, and P229 9mm pistol. Detectives assigned to plainclothes details may also be assigned the Sig Sauer P365XL 9mm pistol.

As an alternative, officers may elect to carry the Sig Sauer P226 or P229 in.40 caliber, or the Sig Sauer P320 in 9mm or.40 caliber pistol models as follows:

The P320 firearms shall have a 3.9 inch or longer barrel. The 3.6 inch slide and barrel assembly is not permitted for uniformed, duty use.

The P320 Firearms shall have a minimum capacity of 15 rounds for 9mm or 12 rounds for .40 caliber.

The grips modules carried on-duty shall be compact, carry, or full size. Sub-compact is not permitted. Classic or subsequent versions (Pro / X series / AXG) of the grip modules are allowed as long as they conform to the rest of the firearms policy in terms of color, size, etc. The X5 Legion is not approved.

Employees intending on carrying personally purchased weapons under this policy are encouraged to consult with department armorers prior to making a purchase to ensure the weapon to be purchased fully conforms to policy.

Personnaly owned duty weapons are subject to the following restrictions:

(a) The purchase of the weapon shall be the responsibility of the officer. The department will purchase and issue the ammunition.

(b) It will be the responsibility of the officer to submit the weapon to the Armorer for inspection prior to being carried on duty and periodic inspection as outlined in Manual Section 312.5.

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(c) Training and qualification requirements remain the same as with the department issued pistol.

(d) Personally owned firearms carried for duty (P226, P229, P320) shall be black (blue steel) finish slide with a black frame, stainless finish slide with black frame, or full stainless (for classic P series pistols). Camo, desert tan, coyote brown, olive drab, flat dark earth, or other non-conventional law enforcement pistol finishes are expressly prohibited. Heavily modified/stylized slides, grips, and grip modules that are not black or similar color are not authorized.

(e) All firearms carried on duty shall be equipped with triggers that are of Sig factory specification for a duty or civilian model, without modifications to lessen or augment the pressure needed for a trigger pull. Sig factory competition guns or reduced trigger pull versions are not allowed. Triggers shall be traditional double action/single action for P226 or P229 pistols. Single action variants are not authorized.

(f) Firearms and magazines carried on duty shall not have any engravings, slogans, or graphics. The only acceptable markings are factory engravings or an officer's name and/or ID number.

(g) Stippling is not allowed on department owned firearms. The stippling of a personally owned firearm is allowed only on the grip area. The stippling shall be uniform in appearance, with no artistic designs. The stippling shall not interfere with the normal functions of the firearm or alter the structural integrity of the firearm.

312.2.2 AUTHORIZED SECONDARY FIREARM

Officers desiring to carry a secondary firearm are subject to the following restrictions:

(a) The firearm shall be in good working order.

(b) Only one secondary firearm may be carried at a time.

(c) The purchase of the firearm and ammunition shall be the responsibility of the officer.

(d) The firearm shall be carried out of sight at all times and in such a manner as to prevent accidental cocking, discharge or loss of physical control.

(e) The firearm shall be inspected by a Department Armorer prior to being carried and thereafter shall be subject to inspection whenever deemed necessary.

(f) Officers shall only carry department-authorized ammunition.

(g) Prior to carrying the secondary firearm, personnel shall qualify under range supervision and thereafter shall qualify in accordance with the department qualification schedule. Officers must demonstrate proficiency and safe handling, and that the firearm functions properly.

(h) Personnel shall provide written notice of the make, model, color, serial number, and caliber of a second firearm to the Rangemaster.

312.2.3 AUTHORIZED OFF-DUTY FIREARM

The carrying of firearms by sworn officers while off-duty is permitted by the Chief of Police but may be rescinded should circumstances dictate (e.g., administrative leave). Officers who choose

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to carry a firearm while off-duty, based on their authority as a peace officer, will be required to meet the following guidelines:

(a)The firearm shall be of good quality and workmanship and approved by the Department.

(b)The purchase of the firearm and ammunition shall be the responsibility of the officer.

(c)The firearm shall be carried concealed at all times and in such a manner as to prevent accidental cocking, discharge, or loss of physical control.

(d)It will be the responsibility of the officer to submit the firearm to the armorer for inspection prior to being carried. Thereafter the firearm shall be subject to periodic inspection by the Armorer.

(e)Prior to carrying any off-duty firearm, the officer shall demonstrate to the Rangemaster that he/she is proficient in handling and firing the firearm and that it will be carried in a safe manner.

(f)The officer will successfully qualify with the firearm prior to it being carried and thereafter once annually. The range qualification dates will be specified by the Training Sergeant.

(g)A complete description of the firearm shall be contained on the qualification record approved by the Rangemaster.

(h)If any member desires to use more than one firearm while off-duty, he/she may do so, as long as the officer meets all the requirements set forth in this policy for each firearm used.

(i)Officers shall only carry department-authorized ammunition.

(j)When armed, whether on- or off-duty, officers shall carry their badge and department identification.

312.2.4 AUTHORIZED PATROL RIFLES

The following patrol rifles are approved for on-duty use:

- Colt AR-15
- Colt M16
- American Spirit Arms AR-15
- Sig MCX Patrol
- Sig M400 Classic
- Sig M400 Enhanced
- Sig M400 SWAT
- Sig 516 Patrol
- Any subsequently released Sig M400, MCX, or 516 series rifle that is chambered in.223/5.56 and are of standard duty rifle appearance as determined by department armorers

Privately owned rifles must have a 16” barrel, shall be black in color, and all patrol rifles require an attached black sling.

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312.2.5 RIFLE SUPPRESSORS

Rifle Suppressors are authorized for on-duty department owned weapons only. All suppressors shall be installed by Ventura Police Department Armorers and must remain with the weapon they are assigned.

312.2.6 AMMUNITION

Officers shall carry only department-authorized ammunition. Officers shall be issued fresh duty ammunition in the specified quantity for all department issued firearms during the officer's first scheduled qualification each year. Officers carrying personally owned authorized firearms of a caliber differing from department issued firearms shall be responsible for obtaining fresh duty ammunition in accordance with the above at their own expense. Replacements for unserviceable or depleted ammunition issued by the Department shall be dispensed by the Professional Standards Sergeant when needed in accordance with established policy.

Duty weapon ammunition will be purchased and provided by the Department. Secondary weapon and off-duty weapon ammunition shall be the same as department issue. If the caliber of the firearm is other than department issue, the ammunition shall be factory loaded and made by a reputable ammunition company. The ammunition shall be Jacketed Hollow Point or similar style, produced specifically for self-defense and designed to minimize over penetration.

312.2.7 ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Weapons shall not be carried by any officer who has consumed an amount of an alcoholic beverage or taken any drug that would tend to adversley affect the officer's senses or judgment.

312.2.8 LASER SIGHTS

Optics or Laser sights may only be installed on a weapon carried on or off-duty after they have been examined and approved by the Armorer.

(a) Any approved laser sight shall only be installed in strict accordance with manufacturer specifications.

(b) Once approved laser sights have been properly installed on any weapon, the officer shall qualify with the weapon to ensure proper functionality and sighting of the weapon prior to carrying it.

Except in an approved training situation, an officer may only activate a laser sight when the officer would otherwise be justified in pointing a weapon at an individual or other authorized target.

312.2.9 WEAPON LIGHTS

Lights may only be installed on a weapon carried on or off duty after they have been examined and approved by the Armorer. The approved weapon lights are the Blackhawk Xiphos series lights, the Streamlight TLR series lights, and the Surefire X200/X300 series lights. All light housings must be black in color.

(a) Any approved weapon lights shall only be installed by the Armorer in strict accordance with manufacturer specifications.

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(b) Once approved weapon lights have been properly installed on any weapon, the officer shall qualify with the weapon to ensure proper functionality prior to carrying it.

Holsters designed to accommodate any weapon with a light mounted on it must be designed for the specific weapon and light system, and must be approved by the Armorer. No weapon with a light mounted on it will be used unless the Armorer has approved the holster intended to carry it.

The currently authorized holsters (in basket weave or plain nylon/polymer type finish) for use with a duty handgun equipped with a light are as follows:

Blackhawk SERPA Level 3

Safariland 7360 ALS/SLS Level 3

Safariland 6360 ALS/SLS Level 3

BlackHawk T-Series L3D Level 3 light bearing duty holster

Except in an approved training situation, an officer may only activate a weapon light when the officer would otherwise be justified in pointing a weapon at an individual or other authorized target.

312.2.10 WEAPON MOUNTED OPTICS

(a) Weapon mounted optics for rifles may only be used after the officer demonstrates proficiency with the optic and the rifle must also have a back-up iron sight installed. Weapon mounted optics for rifles must be of a reputable manufacturer, such as Sig, Trijicon, EOTech, etc.

(b) Weapon mounted optics for approved pistols shall only be carried on duty after receiving department approved training in the usage of pistol mounted optics, and after the weapon has been presented to a department weapons inspector verification of proper installation.

(c) Weapon mounted optics for off-duty and or back up firearms shall only be carried after the officer demonstrates proficiency with the optic and after an armorer has verified proper installation.

(d) Weapon mounted optics for primary handguns carried on duty shall have a backup sight in the form of a dedicated iron sight.

(e) The approved weapon mounted optic for primary handguns is the Sig Romeo series red dot optic.

(f) The holsters approved for use with handguns that have a weapon light and red dot optic are as follows:

Safariland 7360RDS ALS/SLS Level III Duty Holster

Safariland 6360RDS ALS/SLS Level III Duty Holster

BlackHawk T-Series L3D Level 3 Light Bearing Red Dot Sight (RDS) Duty Holster

312.3 SAFE HANDLING OF FIREARMS

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312.3.1 SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

(a) Officers shall not unnecessarily display or handle any firearm.

(b) Officers shall be governed by all rules and regulations pertaining to the use of the range and shall obey all orders issued by the Rangemaster. Officers shall not dry fire or practice quick draws except under Rangemaster supervision.

(c) Any member who discharges his/her weapon accidentally or intentionally while on-duty, except during training or recreational use, shall make a verbal report to their immediate supervisor as soon as circumstances permit. If the member is off-duty at the time of the discharge, the member shall notify the Watch Commander as soon as circumstances permit. If the discharge results in injury or death to another person, additional statements and reports shall be made in accordance with the Officer-Involved Shooting Policy. If a firearm was discharged as a use of force, the involved member shall adhere to the additional reporting requirements set forth in the Use of Force Policy.

(d) Officers shall not clean, repair, load or unload a firearm anywhere in the Department, except where clearing barrels are present.

(e) Handguns shall be inspected regularly and upon access to, or possession by, another person. Shotguns and rifles shall be inspected at the beginning of every shift by the member to whom the weapon is issued. The member shall ensure that the firearm is carried in the proper condition and loaded with approved ammunition. Inspection of the shotgun and rifle shall be conducted using department bullet traps or clearing barrels. Unless directed by a Department Rangemaster, all firearms shall be loaded, unloaded, and inspected with the use of a bullet trap or clearing barrel. Shotguns and rifles shall not be loaded or unloaded in the underground parking area.

(f) Officers shall not place or store any firearm or other weapons on Department premises except where the place of storage is locked. No one shall carry firearms into the jail section or any part thereof when securing or processing a prisoner but shall place all firearms in a secured location. It shall be the responsibility of the releasing officer to make sure that persons from outside agencies do not enter the jail section with any firearm.

(g) Officers shall not use any automatic weapon, heavy caliber rifles, gas or other types of chemical weapon (from the armory), except with the approval of a supervisor.

(h) Any weapon authorized by the department to be carried on or off duty that is found by the officer to be malfunctioning or needing service shall not be carried and shall be promptly presented to the department Armorer for inspection. Any weapon determined to be in need of service or repair during an inspection by the department Armorer will be immediately removed from service. If the weapon is the officer's primary duty weapon, a replacement weapon will be issued to the officer until the duty weapon is again rendered serviceable.

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312.3.2 PERSONALLY OWNED DUTY FIREARMS

Members desiring to carry an authorized but personally owned duty firearm must receive written approval from the Chief of Police or the authorized designee. Once approved, personally owned duty firearms are subject to the following restrictions:

(a) The firearm shall be in good working order and on the department list of approved firearms.

(b) The firearm shall be inspected by the Armorer prior to being carried and thereafter shall be subject to inspection whenever it is deemed necessary.

(c) Prior to carrying the firearm, members shall qualify under range supervision and thereafter shall qualify in accordance with the department qualification schedule. Members must demonstrate proficiency and safe handling, and that the firearm functions properly.

(d) Members shall provide written notice of the make, model, color, serial number and caliber of the firearm on the Department approved Weapons Certification form.

312.4 PATROL RIFLE

312.4.1 DEFINITION

A patrol rifle is an authorized weapon which is owned by the Department and which is made available to properly trained and qualified officers as a supplemental resource to their duty handgun or shotgun. No personally owned rifles may be carried for patrol duty unless preapproved in writing by the Chief of Police and the department armorer.

312.5 SPECIFICATIONS

Only weapons and ammunition that meet agency authorized specifications, approved by the Chief of Police, and issued by the Department may be used by officers in their law enforcement responsibilities.

312.5.1 RIFLE AMMUNITION

The only ammunition authorized for the patrol rifle is that which has been issued by the Department. This will consist of a quality factory load in a .223 caliber.

312.6 RIFLE MAINTENANCE

(a) Primary responsibility for maintenance of patrol rifles shall fall on the Department Armorer, who shall inspect and service each patrol rifle annually.

(b) Each patrol officer carrying a patrol rifle may be required to field strip and clean an assigned patrol rifle as needed.

(c) Each patrol officer shall be responsible for promptly reporting any damage or malfunction of an assigned patrol rifle.

(d) Any patrol rifle found to be unserviceable shall be removed from service. The rifle shall be clearly labeled as "out of service" and details regarding the weapon's condition shall be included on the label.

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(e) Each patrol rifle shall be subject to inspection by a supervisor or the Armorer at any time.

(f) No modification shall be made to any patrol rifle without prior written authorization from the Armorer.

312.7 TRAINING

Officers shall not carry or utilize the patrol rifle unless they have successfully completed departmental training. This training shall consist of an initial 24-hour patrol rifle user's course and qualification score with a certified Rangemaster. Officers shall thereafter be required to successfully complete quarterly training and qualification conducted by a certified Rangemaster. Any officer who fails to qualify or who fails to successfully complete two or more department sanctioned training/qualification sessions within a calendar year will no longer be authorized to carry the patrol rifle without successfully retaking the initial patrol officers user's course and qualification.

312.8 DEPLOYMENT OF THE PATROL RIFLE

Officers may deploy the patrol rifle in any circumstance where the officer can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be needed. Examples of some general guidelines for deploying the patrol rifle may include, but are not limited to:

(a) Situations where the officer reasonably anticipates an armed encounter.

(b) When an officer is faced with a situation that may require the delivery of accurate and effective fire at long range.

(c) Situations where an officer reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.

(d) When an officer reasonably believes that there may be a need to deliver fire on a barricaded suspect or a suspect with a hostage.

(e) When an officer reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor.

(f) When authorized or requested by a supervisor.

(g) When needed to euthanize an animal.

312.9 DISCHARGE OF THE PATROL RIFLE

The discharge of the patrol rifle shall be governed by the Department's Deadly Force Policy, Policy Manual § 300.

312.10 PATROL READY

Any qualified officer carrying a patrol rifle in the field shall maintain the weapon in a patrol ready condition until deployed. A rifle is considered in a patrol ready condition when it has been inspected by the assigned officer, the fire selector switch is in the safe position, the chamber is empty and a fully loaded magazine is inserted into the magazine well.

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312.11 RIFLE STORAGE

(a) When not in use, patrol rifles will be stored in the department armory in rifle racks. Personally owned rifles may be stored in assigned lockers.

(b) When not deployed, in-service patrol rifles should be secured in the vehicle in a locked gun rack or locked in the trunk.

(c) At the end of the assigned officer's shift, the patrol rifle should be returned and secured in the department armory.

312.12 FIREARMS QUALIFICATIONS

All sworn personnel are required to qualify once in every two month period with their duty weapon and annually with their off-duty weapon and secondary weapon on an approved range course. The Training Coordinator shall keep accurate records of bi-monthly qualifications, repairs, maintenance, training or as directed by the Training Sergeant. In addition to regular qualification schedules, the Rangemaster shall be responsible for providing all sworn personnel with annual practical training designed to simulate field situations. All personnel carrying a firearm will receive training annually on the department Use of Force policy and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.

312.12.1 REPAIRS OR MODIFICATIONS

Each member shall be responsible for promptly reporting any damage or malfunction of an assigned firearm to a supervisor or the Armorer.

Firearms that are the property of the Department or personally owned firearms that are approved for department use may be repaired or modified only by a person who is department-approved and certified as an armorer or gunsmith in the repair of the specific firearm. Such modification or repair must be authorized in advance by the Armorer supervisor.

Any repairs or modifications to the member’s personally owned firearm shall be done at his/her expense and must be approved by the Armorer supervisor.

312.12.2 HOLSTERS

Only department-approved holsters shall be used and worn by members. Members shall periodically inspect their holsters to make sure they are serviceable and provide the proper security and retention of the handgun.

312.13 DESTRUCTION OF ANIMALS

Officers are authorized to use firearms to stop an animal in circumstances where the animal reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to human safety and alternative methods are not reasonably available or would likely be ineffective.

In circumstances in which officers have sufficient advance notice that a potentially dangerous animal may be encountered, officers should develop reasonable contingency plans for dealing with the animal (e.g., fire extinguisher, TASER device, oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, animal

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control officer). Nothing in this policy shall prohibit any officer from shooting a dangerous animal if circumstances reasonably dictate that a contingency plan has failed or becomes impractical.

312.13.1 INJURED ANIMALS
With the approval of a supervisor, a member may euthanize an animal that is so badly injured that human compassion requires its removal from further suffering and where other dispositions are impractical (Penal Code § 597.1(e)).

Injured animals (with the exception of dogs and cats) may only be euthanized after a reasonable search to locate the owner has been made (Penal Code § 597.1(b)).

312.14 WARNING AND OTHER SHOTS

Generally, warning shots or shots fired for the purpose of summoning aid are discouraged and may not be discharged unless the member reasonably believes that they appear necessary, effective and reasonably safe.

312.15 RANGEMASTER DUTIES

The range will be under the exclusive control of aRangemaster. All members attending will follow the directions of a Rangemaster.A Rangemaster will maintain a roster of all members attending the range and will input the roster to METR/LEFTA after each range date. Failure of any member to sign in and out with aRangemaster may result in non-qualification.

The range shall remain operational and accessible to Department members within the hours of 0900-1900 unless expressly authorized by the Watch Commander.

The placement of targets on the range must comply with safety standards relative to the potential for ricochet, fragmentation, and target misses. As such, no target may be placed in an area outside of the previously identified and fixed target locations. Modifications to the range and/or the relocation of fixed targets shall not occur absent approval of the Rangemaster with concurrence from the Assistant Chief.

The Armorer has the responsibility of making periodic inspection, at least once a year, of all duty firearms carried by members of this department to verify proper operation. The Rangemaster has the authority to deem any department-issued or personally owned firearm unfit for service. The member will be responsible for all repairs to his/her personally owned firearm and it will not be returned to service until inspected by the Armorer.

The Rangemaster has the responsibility for ensuring each member meets the minimum requirements during training shoots and, on at least a yearly basis, can demonstrate proficiency in the care, cleaning and safety of all firearms the member is authorized to carry.

The Rangemaster shall complete and submit to the Training Sergeant documentation of the training courses provided. Documentation shall include the qualifications of each instructor who provides the training, a description of the training provided and, on a form that has been approved by the Department, a list of each member who completes the training. The Rangemaster should

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keep accurate records of all training shoots, qualifications, repairs, maintenance or other records as directed by the Training Sergeant.

312.16 MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

Firearms carried on duty shall be maintained in a clean, serviceable condition. Since the use of personally owned weapons is at the option of the individual officer, officers are responsible to turn in their personally owned duty weapons for maintenance and repair by Ventura Police Department Armorers.

312.16.1 REPAIR OR MODIFICATION OF DUTY WEAPONS

The Armorer shall be the only person authorized to repair or modify any department-owned weapon or personally owned if carried on duty. All repairs and/or modifications of department issued weapons not performed by the Armorer must be approved in advance by the Armorer supervisor and accomplished by a department approved gunsmith.

312.17 FLYING WHILE ARMED

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has imposed rules governing law enforcement officers flying armed on commercial aircraft. The following requirements apply to officers who intend to be armed while flying on a commercial air carrier or flights where screening is conducted (49 CFR 1544.219):

(a) Officers wishing to fly while armed must be flying in an official capacity, not for vacation or pleasure, and must have a need to have the firearm accessible, as determined by the Department based on the law and published TSA rules.

(b) Officers must carry their Ventura Police Department badge and identification card, bearing the officer's name, a full-face photograph, identification number, the officer's signature and the signature of the Chief of Police or the official seal of the Department and must present this identification to airline officials when requested. The officer should also carry the standard photo identification needed for passenger screening by airline and TSA officials (e.g., driver license, passport).

(c) The Ventura Police Department must submit a National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) message prior to the officer's travel. If approved, TSA will send the Ventura Police Department an NLETS message containing a unique alphanumeric identifier. The officer must present the message on the day of travel to airport personnel as authorization to travel while armed.

(d) An official letter signed by the Chief of Police authorizing armed travel may also accompany the officer. The letter should outline the officer's need to fly armed, detail his/her itinerary, and include that the officer has completed the mandatory TSA training for a law enforcement officer flying while armed.

(e) Officers must have completed the mandated TSA security training covering officers flying while armed. The training shall be given by the department-appointed instructor.

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(f) It is the officer's responsibility to notify the air carrier in advance of the intended armed travel. This notification should be accomplished by early check-in at the carrier's check-in counter.

(g) Any officer flying while armed should discreetly contact the flight crew prior to take-off and notify them of his/her assigned seat.

(h) Discretion must be used to avoid alarming passengers or crew by displaying a firearm. The officer must keep the firearm concealed on his/her person at all times. Firearms are not permitted in carry-on luggage and may not be stored in an overhead compartment.

(i) Officers should try to resolve any problems associated with flying armed through the flight captain, ground security manager, TSA representative or other management representative of the air carrier.

(j) Officers shall not consume alcoholic beverages while aboard an aircraft, or within eight hours prior to boarding an aircraft.

312.18 OUT OF STATE PEACE OFFICERS IN CALIFORNIA

Pursuant to 18 United States Code 926C, any full-time or retired out-of-state peace officer is authorized to carry a concealed firearm in California subject to the following conditions:

(a) The officer shall have in his/her possession a photographic identification from the issuing law enforcement agency which indicates that the officer has met the state's training and qualification standards within not less than one year prior to the date of issuance.

(b) The officer may not be under the influence of alcohol or any other intoxicating or hallucinatory drug.

(c) Out-of-state peace officers are not authorized to carry a concealed firearm into government buildings or areas otherwise expressly restricted by state or local law.

312.19 CARRYING FIREARMS OUT OF STATE

Qualified, active, full-time officers of this department are authorized to carry a concealed firearm in all other states subject to the following conditions (18 USC § 926B):

(a) The officer shall carry his/her Ventura Police Department badge and identification card whenever carrying such firearm.

(b) The officer is not the subject of any current disciplinary action.

(c) The officer may not be under the influence of alcohol or any other intoxicating or hallucinatory drug.

(d) The officer will remain subject to this and all other department policies (including qualifying and training).

Officers are cautioned that individual states may enact local regulations that permit private persons or entities to prohibit or restrict the possession of concealed firearms on their property,

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or that prohibit or restrict the possession of firearms on any state or local government property, installation, building, base or park. Federal authority may not shield an officer from arrest and prosecution in such locally restricted areas.

Active law enforcement officers from other states are subject to all requirements set forth in 18 USC § 926B.

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Vehicle Pursuits

314.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for vehicle pursuits in order to protect the safety of involved officers, the public, and fleeing suspects.

314.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Blocking - A low-speed tactic where one or more authorized police department emergency vehicles intentionally restrict the movement of a suspect vehicle, with the goal of containment or preventing a pursuit. Blocking is not boxing in or a roadblock.

Boxing-in - A tactic designed to stop a suspect's moving vehicle by surrounding it with law enforcement vehicles and then slowing all vehicles to a stop.

Pursuit Intervention - An attempt to stop the suspect's ability to continue to flee in a vehicle through tactical application of technology, tire deflation devices, blocking or vehicle intercept, boxing-in, the PIT (known as Pursuit Intervention Technique or Precision Immobilization Technique), ramming, or roadblock procedures.

Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) - A low-speed tactic intentionally applied to cause the suspect vehicle to spin out and terminate the pursuit.

Ramming - The deliberate act of impacting a suspect's vehicle with another vehicle to functionally damage or otherwise force the suspect's vehicle to stop.

Roadblocks - A tactic designed to stop a suspect's vehicle by intentionally placing an emergency vehicle or other immovable object in the path of the suspect's vehicle.

Tire deflation device - A device that extends across the roadway designed to puncture the tires of the pursued vehicle, sometimes referred to as spike strips.

Terminate - To discontinue a pursuit or stop chasing fleeing vehicles.

Trail - Following the path of the pursuit at a safe speed while obeying all traffic laws and without activating emergency equipment. If the pursuit is at a slow rate of speed, the trailing vehicle will maintain sufficient distance from the pursuit vehicles so as to clearly indicate an absence of participation in the pursuit

Vehicle Pursuit - An event involving one or more law enforcement officers attempting to apprehend a suspect, who is attempting to avoid arrest while operating a motor vehicle by using high-speed driving or other evasive tactics, such as driving off a highway, turning suddenly, or driving in a legal manner but willfully failing to yield to an officer's signal to stop.

314.2 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Vehicle pursuits shall only be conducted using authorized police department emergency vehicles that are equipped with and displaying emergency lighting and sirens as required by Vehicle Code

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§ 21055. Officers are responsible for continuously driving with due regard and caution for the safety of all persons and property (Vehicle Code § 21056).

314.2.1 WHEN TO INITIATE A PURSUIT

Officers are authorized to initiate a pursuit when the officer reasonably believes that a suspect, who has been given appropriate signal to stop by a law enforcement officer, is attempting to evade arrest or detention by fleeing in a vehicle.

Factors that should be considered in deciding whether to initiate a pursuit include:

(a) The seriousness of the known or reasonably suspected crime and its relationship to community safety.

(b) The importance of protecting the public and balancing the known or reasonably suspected offense and the apparent need for immediate capture against the risks to officers, innocent motorists, and others.

(c) The safety of the public in the area of the pursuit, including the type of area, time of day, the amount of vehicular and pedestrian traffic (e.g., school zones), and the speed of the pursuit relative to these factors.

(d) The pursuing officers' familiarity with the area of the pursuit, the quality of radio communications between the pursuing units and dispatch, and the driving capabilities of the pursuing officers under the conditions of the pursuit.

(e) Whether weather, traffic, and road conditions unreasonably increase the danger of the pursuit when weighed against the risk of the suspect's escape.

(f) Whether the identity of the suspect has been verified and whether there is comparatively minimal risk in allowing the suspect to be apprehended at a later time.

(g) The performance capabilities of the vehicles used in the pursuit in relation to the speeds and other conditions of the pursuit.

(h) Emergency lighting and siren limitations on unmarked police department vehicles that may reduce visibility of the vehicle, such as visor or dash-mounted lights, concealable or temporary emergency lighting equipment, and concealed or obstructed siren positioning.

(i) Suspect and officer vehicle speeds.

(j) Other persons in or on the pursued vehicle (e.g., passengers, co-offenders, hostages).

(k) Availability of other resources such as air support or vehicle locator or deactivation technology.

314.2.2 WHEN TO TERMINATE A PURSUIT

Pursuits should be terminated whenever the totality of objective circumstances known or which reasonably ought to be known to the officer or supervisor during the pursuit indicates that the present risks of continuing the pursuit reasonably appear to outweigh the risks resulting from the suspect’s escape.

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The factors listed in this policy on when to initiate a pursuit will apply equally to the decision to terminate a pursuit. Officers and supervisors must objectively and continuously weigh the seriousness of the offense against the potential danger to innocent motorists, themselves, and the public when electing to continue a pursuit.

In addition to the factors that govern when to initiate a pursuit, other factors should be considered in deciding whether to terminate a pursuit, including:

(a) The distance between the pursuing vehicle and the fleeing vehicle is so great that further pursuit would be futile or require the pursuit to continue for an unreasonable time and/or distance.

(b) The pursued vehicle's location is no longer definitely known.

(c) The pursuing vehicle sustains damage or a mechanical failure that renders it unsafe to drive.

(d) The pursuing vehicle's emergency lighting equipment or siren becomes partially or completely inoperable.

(e) Hazards to uninvolved bystanders or motorists.

(f) The danger that the continued pursuit poses to the public, the officers, or the suspect, balanced against the risk of allowing the suspect to remain at large.

(g) The identity of the suspect is known and it does not reasonably appear that the need for immediate capture outweighs the risks associated with continuing the pursuit.

(h) Extended pursuits of violators for misdemeanors not involving violence, risk of serious harm, or weapons (independent of the pursuit) are generally discouraged.

314.2.3 SPEED LIMITS

The speed of a pursuit is a factor that should be evaluated on a continuing basis by the officer and supervisor. Evaluation of vehicle speeds should take into consideration public safety, officer safety, and the safety of the occupants of the fleeing vehicle.

Should high vehicle speeds be reached during a pursuit, officers and supervisors should also consider these factors when determining the reasonableness of the speed of the pursuit:

(a) Pursuit speeds have become unreasonably unsafe for the surrounding conditions.

(b) Pursuit speeds have exceeded the driving ability of the officer.

(c) Pursuit speeds are beyond the capabilities of the pursuit vehicle thus making its operation unsafe.

314.3 PURSUIT UNITS

When involved in a pursuit, unmarked police department emergency vehicles should be replaced by marked emergency vehicles whenever practicable.

Vehicle pursuits should be limited to three vehicles (two units and a supervisor); however, the number of units involved may vary with the circumstances.

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An officer or supervisor may request additional units to join a pursuit if, after assessing the factors outlined above, it reasonably appears that the number of officers involved may be insufficient to safely arrest the suspects. All other officers should stay out of the pursuit, but should remain alert to its progress and location. Any officer who drops out of a pursuit may then, if necessary, proceed to the termination point at legal speeds, following the appropriate rules of the road.

314.3.1 MOTORCYCLE OFFICERS

When involved in a pursuit, police department motorcycles should be replaced by marked four-wheel emergency vehicles as soon as practicable.

314.3.2 VEHICLES WITHOUT EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

The exemptions provided by Vehicle Code Section 21055 do not apply to officers using vehicles without emergency equipment. For this reason, absent an immediate life threatening situation, officers operating vehicles not equipped with a red light and siren are prohibited from initiating or joining in any pursuit.

314.3.3 PRIMARY UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

The initial pursuing unit will be designated as the primary pursuit unit and will be responsible for the conduct of the pursuit unless the officer is unable to remain reasonably close to the suspect's vehicle. The primary responsibility of the officer initiating the pursuit is the apprehension of the suspects without unreasonable danger to any person.

The primary unit should notify dispatch commencing with a request for priority radio traffic, that a vehicle pursuit has been initiated, and as soon as practicable provide information including but not limited to:

(a) The location, direction of travel, and estimated speed of the suspect's vehicle.

(b) The description of the suspect's vehicle including license plate number, if known.

(c) The reason for the pursuit.

(d) Known or suspected weapons. Threat of force, violence, injuries, hostages, or other unusual hazards.

(e) The suspected number of occupants and identity or description.

(f) The weather, road, and traffic conditions.

(g) The need for any additional resources or equipment.

(h) The identity of other law enforcement agencies involved in the pursuit.

Until relieved by a supervisor or secondary unit, the officer in the primary unit is responsible for the broadcasting of the progress of the pursuit. Unless circumstances reasonably indicate otherwise, the primary pursuing officer should, as soon as practicable, relinquish the responsibility of broadcasting the progress of the pursuit to a secondary unit or air support joining the pursuit to minimize distractions and allow the primary pursuing officer to concentrate foremost on safe pursuit tactics.

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314.3.4 SECONDARY UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

The second officer in the pursuit will be designated as the secondary unit and is responsible for:

(a) The officer in the secondary unit should immediately notify the dispatcher of entry into the pursuit as soon as reasonably practicable.

(b) Remaining a safe distance behind the primary unit unless directed to assume the role of primary pursuit vehicle or if the primary pursuit vehicle is unable to continue the pursuit.

(c) Broadcasting the progress, updating known or critical information, and providing changes in the pursuit, unless the situation indicates otherwise.

(d) Identifying the need for additional resources or equipment as appropriate.

(e) Serving as backup to the primary pursuing officer once the suspect has been stopped.

314.3.5 PURSUIT DRIVING

The decision to use specific driving tactics requires the same assessment of the factors the officer considered when determining whether to initiate and/or terminate a pursuit. The following are tactics for units involved in the pursuit:

(a) Officers, considering their driving skills and vehicle performance capabilities, will space themselves from other involved vehicles such that they are able to see and avoid hazards or react safely to maneuvers by the fleeing vehicle.

(b) Because intersections can present increased risks, the following tactics should be considered:

1. Available units not directly involved in the pursuit may proceed safely to controlled intersections ahead of the pursuit in an effort to warn cross traffic.

2. Pursuing units should exercise due regard and caution when proceeding through controlled intersections.

(c) As a general rule, officers should not pursue a vehicle driving left of center (wrong way) against traffic. In the event that the pursued vehicle does so, the following tactics should be considered:

1. Requesting assistance from available air support.

2. Maintain visual contact with the pursued vehicle by paralleling it on the correct side of the roadway.

3. Request other units to observe exits available to the suspects.

(d) Notify the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and/or other law enforcement agency if it appears that the pursuit may enter its jurisdiction.

(e) Officers involved in a pursuit should not attempt to pass other units unless the situation indicates otherwise or they are requested to do so by the primary unit and with a clear understanding of the maneuver process between the involved units.

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314.3.6 PURSUIT TRAILING

In the event the initiating unit from this agency either relinquishes control of the pursuit to another unit or jurisdiction, that initiating unit may, with permission of a supervisor, trail the pursuit to the termination point in order to provide information and assistance for the arrest of the suspects and reporting the incident.

314.3.7 AIR SUPPORT ASSISTANCE

When available, air support assistance should be requested. Once the air unit has established visual contact with the pursued vehicle, the unit should assume control over the pursuit. The primary and secondary ground units, or involved supervisor, will maintain operational control but should consider whether the participation of air support warrants the continued close proximity and/or involvement of ground units in the pursuit.

The air unit should coordinate the activities of resources on the ground, report progress of the pursuit and provide officers and supervisors with details of upcoming traffic congestion, road hazards, or other pertinent information to evaluate whether to continue the pursuit. If ground units are not within visual contact of the pursued vehicle and the air support unit determines that it is unsafe to continue the pursuit, the air support unit should recommend terminating the pursuit.

314.3.8 UNITS NOT INVOLVED IN THE PURSUIT

There should be no paralleling of the pursuit route. Officers are authorized to use emergency equipment at intersections along the pursuit path to clear intersections of vehicular and pedestrian traffic to protect the public. Officers should remain in their assigned area and should not become involved with the pursuit unless directed otherwise by a supervisor.

The primary and secondary units should be the only units operating under emergency conditions (red light and siren) unless other units are assigned to the pursuit.

314.4 SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Available supervisory and management control will be exercised over all vehicle pursuits involving officers from this department.

The field supervisor of the officer initiating the pursuit, or if unavailable, the nearest field supervisor will be responsible for:

(a) Immediately notifying involved unit and dispatch of supervisory presence and ascertaining all reasonably available information to continuously assess the situation and risk factors associated with the pursuit.

(b) Engaging in the pursuit, when appropriate, to provide on-scene supervision.

(c) Exercising management and control of the pursuit even if not engaged in it.

(d) Ensuring that no more than the required number of units are involved in the pursuit under the guidelines set forth in this policy.

(e) Directing that the pursuit be terminated if, in the supervisor's judgment, it is unreasonable to continue the pursuit under the guidelines of this policy.

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(f) Ensuring that assistance from air support, canines, or additional resources is requested, if available and appropriate.

(g) Ensuring that the proper radio channel is being used.

(h) Ensuring that the Watch Commander is notified of the pursuit as soon as practicable.

(i) Ensuring the notification and/or coordination of outside agencies if the pursuit either leaves or is likely to leave the jurisdiction of this department.

(j) Controlling and managing Ventura Police Department units when a pursuit enters another jurisdiction.

(k) Preparing a post-pursuit review and documentation of the pursuit.

1. Supervisors should initiate follow up or additional review when appropriate.

314.4.1 WATCH COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon becoming aware that a pursuit has been initiated, the Watch Commander should monitor and continually assess the situation and ensure the pursuit is conducted within the guidelines and requirements of this policy. Once notified, the Watch Commander has the final responsibility for the coordination, control, and termination of a vehicle pursuit and shall be in overall command.

The Watch Commander shall review all pertinent reports for content and forward to the Assistant Chief.

314.5 COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

If the pursuit is confined within the City limits, radio communications will be conducted on the primary channel unless instructed otherwise by a supervisor or dispatcher. If the pursuit leaves the jurisdiction of this department or such is imminent, involved units should, whenever available, switch radio communications to a tactical or emergency channel most accessible by participating agencies and units.

314.5.1 COMMUNICATIONS CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon notification or becoming aware that a pursuit has been initiated, the dispatcher is responsible for:

(a) Clearing the radio channel of non-emergency traffic.

(b) Coordinating pursuit communications of the involved units and personnel.

(c) Broadcasting pursuit updates as well as other pertinent information as necessary.

(d) Ensuring that a field supervisor is notified of the pursuit.

(e) Notifying and coordinating with other involved or affected agencies as practicable.

(f) Notify the Watch Commander as soon as practicable.

(g) Assigning an incident number and logging all pursuit activities.

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314.5.2 LOSS OF PURSUED VEHICLE

When the pursued vehicle is lost, the primary unit should broadcast pertinent information to assist other units in locating suspects. The primary unit or supervisor will be responsible for coordinating any further search for either the pursued vehicle or suspects fleeing on foot.

314.6 INTER-JURISDICTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

When a pursuit enters another agency's jurisdiction, the primary officer or supervisor, taking into consideration distance traveled, unfamiliarity with the area and other pertinent facts, should determine whether to request the other agency to assume the pursuit. Unless entry into another jurisdiction is expected to be brief, it is generally recommended that the primary officer or supervisor ensure that notification is provided to each outside jurisdiction into which the pursuit is reasonably expected to enter, regardless of whether such jurisdiction is expected to assist.

314.6.1 ASSUMPTION OF PURSUIT BY ANOTHER AGENCY

Officers will relinquish control of the pursuit when another agency has assumed the pursuit, unless the continued assistance of the Ventura Police Department is requested by the agency assuming the pursuit. Upon relinquishing control of the pursuit, the involved officers may proceed, with supervisory approval, to the termination point of the pursuit to assist in the investigation. The supervisor should coordinate such assistance with the assuming agency and obtain any information that is necessary for any reports. Notification of a pursuit in progress should not be construed as a request to join the pursuit. Requests to or from another agency to assume a pursuit should be specific.

314.6.2 PURSUITS EXTENDING INTO THIS JURISDICTION

The agency that initiates a pursuit is responsible for conducting the pursuit. Units from this department should not join a pursuit unless specifically requested to do so by the pursuing agency and with approval from a supervisor. The exception to this is when a single unit from the initiating agency is in pursuit. Under this circumstance, a supervisor may authorize units from this department to join the pursuit until sufficient units from the initiating agency join the pursuit or until additional information is provided allowing withdrawal of the pursuit.

When a request is made for this department to assist or take over a pursuit that has entered the jurisdiction of Ventura Police Department, the supervisor should consider:

(a) The public's safety within this jurisdiction.

(b) The safety of the pursuing officers.

(c) Whether the circumstances are serious enough to continue the pursuit.

(d) Whether there is adequate staffing to continue the pursuit.

(e) The ability to maintain the pursuit.

As soon as practicable, a supervisor or the Watch Commander should review a request for assistance from another agency. The Watch Commander or supervisor, after considering the above factors, may decline to assist in, or assume the other agency’s pursuit.

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Assistance to a pursuing allied agency by officers of this department will terminate at the City limits provided that the pursuing officers have sufficient assistance from other sources. Ongoing participation from this department may continue only until sufficient assistance is present.

In the event that a pursuit from another agency terminates within this jurisdiction, officers should provide appropriate assistance to officers from the allied agency including but not limited to scene control, coordination and completion of supplemental reports, and any other reasonable assistance requested or needed.

314.7 WHEN PURSUIT INTERVENTION IS AUTHORIZED

Whenever practicable, an officer shall seek approval from a supervisor before employing any intervention to stop the pursued vehicle. In deciding whether to use intervention tactics, officers/supervisors should balance the risks of allowing the pursuit to continue with the potential hazards to the public arising from the use of each tactic, the officers, and persons in or on the pursued vehicle to determine which, if any, intervention tactic may be reasonable.

314.7.1 USE OF FIREARMS

An officer should only discharge a firearm at a moving vehicle or its occupants when the officer reasonably believes there are no other reasonable means available to avert the threat of the vehicle, or if deadly force other than the vehicle is directed at the officer or others.

Officers should not shoot at any part of a vehicle in an attempt to disable the vehicle (see the Use of Force Policy).

314.7.2 INTERVENTION STANDARDS

Any intervention tactic, depending upon the conditions and circumstances under which it is used, may present dangers to the officers, the public, or anyone in or on the vehicle being pursued. Certain applications of intervention tactics may be construed to be a use of force, including deadly force, and subject to the policies guiding such use. Officers should consider these facts and requirements prior to deciding how, when, where, and if an intervention tactic should be employed.

(a) Blocking should only be used after giving consideration to the following:

1. The technique should only be used by officers who have received training in the technique.
2. The need to immediately stop the suspect vehicle or prevent it from leaving reasonably appears to outweigh the risks of injury or death to occupants of the suspect vehicle, officers, or other members of the public.
3. It reasonably appears the technique will contain or prevent the pursuit.

(b) The PIT should only be used after giving consideration to the following:

1. The technique should only be used by officers who have completed training in the technique, including speed restrictions.
2. Supervisory approval should be obtained before using the technique.

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3. The need to immediately stop the suspect vehicle reasonably appears to outweigh the risks of injury or death to occupants of the suspect vehicle, officers, or other members of the public.
4. It reasonably appears the technique will terminate or prevent the pursuit.

(c) Ramming a fleeing vehicle should only be done after giving consideration to the following:

1. When practicable, supervisory approval should be obtained before using the technique.
2. The need to immediately stop the suspect vehicle reasonably appears to substantially outweigh the risks of injury or death to occupants of the suspect vehicle, officers, or other members of the public.
3. It reasonably appears the technique will terminate or prevent the pursuit.
4. Ramming may be used only under circumstances when deadly force would be authorized.
5. Ramming may be used when all other reasonable alternatives have been exhausted or reasonably appear ineffective.

(d) Before attempting to box a suspect vehicle during a pursuit the following should be considered:

1. The technique should only be used by officers who have received training in the technique.
2. Supervisory approval should be obtained before using the technique.
3. The need to immediately stop the suspect vehicle reasonably appears to outweigh the risks of injury or death to occupants of the suspect vehicle, officers, or other members of the public.
4. It reasonably appears the technique will terminate or prevent the pursuit.

(e) Tire deflation devices should only be used after considering the following:

1. Tire deflation devices should only be used by officers who have received training in their use.
2. Supervisory approval should be obtained before using tire deflation devices.
3. The need to immediately stop the suspect vehicle reasonably appears to outweigh the risks of injury or death to occupants of the suspect vehicle, officers, or other members of the public.
4. It reasonably appears the use will terminate or prevent the pursuit.
5. Tire deflation devices should not be used when the pursued vehicle is a motorcycle, a vehicle transporting hazardous materials, or a school bus transporting children, except in extraordinary circumstances.
6. Due to the increased risk to officers deploying tire deflation devices, such deployment should be communicated to all involved personnel.

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(f) Roadblocks should only be used after considering the following:

1. Roadblocks should only be used by officers who have received training in their use.
2. Supervisory approval should be obtained before using the technique.
3. The need to immediately stop the suspect vehicle reasonably appears to substantially outweigh the risks of injury or death to occupants of the suspect vehicle, officers, or other members of the public.
4. It reasonably appears the technique will terminate or prevent the pursuit. Roadblocks may be used only under circumstances when deadly force would be authorized.
5. Roadblocks may be used when all other reasonable alternatives have been exhausted or reasonably appear ineffective.

314.7.3 CAPTURE OF SUSPECTS

Proper self-discipline and sound professional judgment are the keys to a successful conclusion of a pursuit and apprehension of evading suspects. Officers shall use only that amount of force, which reasonably appears necessary under the circumstances, to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

Unless relieved by a supervisor, the primary pursuing officer should coordinate efforts to apprehend the suspects following the pursuit. Officers should consider safety of the public and the involved officers when formulating plans for setting up perimeters or for containing and capturing the suspects.

314.7.4 TIRE DEFLATION DEVICES

Officers trained in spike strip deployment may use this tire deflation device to terminate a pursuit. Whenever practical, a supervisor's approval should be obtained prior to deploying a spike strip.

Deployment of a spike strip or other tire deflation device may be used in a non pursuit situation when authorized by a supervisor to protect public safety.

PROCEDURE:

A. When deploying a spike strip during a pursuit, the following should be considered:

1. Provisions should be made for coordination between pursuing units and the Officer deploying the spike strip.

2. A spike strip should generally not be used in situations where geographic configurations of the roadway could increase risk of injury to the suspect.

3. Pursuing units should notify the deploying unit as far in advance as possible to deploy the spike strip.

4. The person deploying a spike strip should generally be in a position at a predetermined location to allow sufficient time for deployment.

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5. The Officer deploying a spike strip generally should not attempt to overtake and pass a high-speed pursuit in order to position a spike strip.

6. Deployment locations should generally have reasonably good sight distances to enable the person deploying the spike strip to observe the pursuit and other traffic as it approaches.

7. Deploying Officers generally should use spike strips on concrete or asphalt rather than on dirt or gravel.

8. Extreme care should be exercised when deploying a spike strip to reduce the possibility of damage to uninvolved vehicles and pedestrians.

9. After deploying a spike strip, the deploying Officer should attempt to seek protection from flying road debris.

10. Pursuing units should allow enough distance to avoid driving over a spike strip.

B. USAGE RESTRICTIONS

1. A spike strip generally should not be used on motorcycles or other vehicles with less than 4 wheels unless the use of deadly force would appear reasonable.

2. Caution should be used when deploying a spike strip to stop the following vehicles.

a. Any vehicle transporting hazardous material as defined in Vehicle Code Section 2402.7

b. Any passenger bus transporting passengers

c. Any school bus transporting pupils

d. Any vehicle, which by design or cargo would represent a significant hazard to other parties

C. POST DEPLOYMENT PROCEDURES

1. In instances where a spike strip is deployed, but not struck by a vehicle, the officer deploying the spike strip is responsible for its return to the spike strip carrier, which is mounted in the trunk so that it is available for future use.

2. In instances where a spike strip is deployed and is struck by a vehicle, the spike strip should be placed in the trunk of the vehicle outside of the spike strip carrier. A unit repair slip shall be completed, followed by an Email to the sergeant in charge of the patrol fleet, indicating that the spike strip needs to be replaced.

3. Department EVOC personnel will be notified of replacement requests by the fleet sergeant. Damaged spike strips will be left in the vehicle's trunk where it was installed until repaired or replaced. Once replaced by an EVOC instructor, the spike strips will be placed in the spike strip carrier inside the vehicle's trunk.

D. REPORTING PROCEDURES

1. The deploying officer will notify their supervisor as soon as possible when a spike strip or other tire deflation device deflates any vehicle's tires.

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2. In instances where the spike strips were struck by a vehicle during a pursuit, the supervisor or their delegate, shall ensure that the use of the stop-stick is noted on the appropriate pursuit reporting forms.

314.8 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All appropriate reports should be completed to comply with applicable laws, policies, and procedures.

(a) The primary officer should complete appropriate crime/arrest reports.

(b) The Watch Commander shall ensure that an Allied Agency Vehicle Pursuit Report (form CHP 187A) is filed with the CHP not later than 30 days following the pursuit (Vehicle Code § 14602.1). The primary officer should complete as much of the required information on the form as is known and forward the report to the Watch Commander for review and distribution.

(c) After first obtaining the available information, the involved, or if unavailable on-duty, field supervisor shall promptly complete a LEFTA/VIPER entry, briefly summarizing the pursuit to the Chief of Police or the authorized designee. This log or memorandum should include, at a minimum:

1. Date and time of pursuit.
2. Initial reason and circumstances surrounding the pursuit.
3. Length of pursuit in distance and time, including the starting and termination points.
4. Involved units and officers.
5. Alleged offenses.
6. Whether a suspect was apprehended, as well as the means and methods used.
7. Any use of force that occurred during the vehicle pursuit.
   (a) Any use of force by a member should be documented in the appropriate report (See the Use of Force Policy).
8. Any injuries and/or medical treatment.
9. Any property or equipment damage.
10. Name of supervisor at scene or who handled the incident.

(d) After receiving copies of reports, logs, and other pertinent information, the Watch Commander should conduct or assign the completion of a post-pursuit review.

Annually, the Chief of Police should direct a documented review and analysis of department vehicle pursuit reports to minimally include policy suitability, policy compliance, and training or equipment needs.

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314.8.1 REGULAR AND PERIODIC PURSUIT TRAINING

The Professional Standards Sergeant shall make available to all officers initial and supplementary Police Officer Standard Training (POST) training on pursuits required by Penal Code § 13519.8, and no less than annual training addressing:

(a) This policy.

(b) The importance of vehicle safety and protecting the public.

(c) The need to balance the known offense and the need for immediate capture against the risks to officers and others (Vehicle Code § 17004.7(d)).

314.8.2 POLICY REVIEW

Officers of this department shall certify in writing that they have received, read, and understand this policy initially, upon any amendments, and whenever training on this policy is provided. The POST attestation form, or an equivalent form, may be used to document the compliance and should be retained in the member's training file.

314.9 APPLICATION OF VEHICLE PURSUIT POLICY

This policy is expressly written and adopted pursuant to the provisions of Vehicle Code § 17004.7, with additional input from the POST Vehicle Pursuit Guidelines and the Ventura County Joint Pursuit Agreement.

314.10 POLICY

It is the policy of this department to balance the importance of apprehending suspects who unlawfully flee from law enforcement against the risks associated with vehicle pursuits.

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Off-Road Operation of Police Vehicles

315.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the proper use and safe driving of department off-road vehicles. The goal of this policy is to provide a maximum level of safety for the public in off-road driving situations. The effect of this policy is limited to that of an administrative guide for decision-making before the fact and as a standard for administrative judgment of the propriety of the action taken. It is not to be considered a standard for external judgment (civil or criminal litigation) of the propriety of an action taken. This is a matter of established law and also a process for courts and juries reviewing specific facts of a given incident. It is not the intent of the Ventura Police Department that this document in any way have the effect of replacing existing legal standards.

315.2 OPERATION LIMITATION

Only authorized department personnel who have completed department-approved training through the Training Unit may drive vehicles off-road. This limitation is inapplicable to situations involving exigent or life-threatening situations.

315.3 BEACH DRIVING

Rationale

All employees are reminded that vehicles are foreign to the beach environment. The public is not expecting vehicles on the beach. Drivers must therefore utilize extreme caution at all times while operating vehicles on the beach. Safety is of paramount importance in the operation of any vehicle on the beach.

Designated Vehicles

SUV's and trucks will not be used for routine patrol of the beach unless authorized by the Watch Commander, or for emergencies. All-terrain vehicles will be the only authorized motor vehicle used for routine beach patrol.

Driving Guidelines.

(a) Officers shall use designated access points only, where they exist, when entering and exiting beaches except in exigent or life-threatening situations.

(b) Headlights shall be on at all times when driving on the beach, unless exigent circumstances exist.

(c) Prior to entering the beach, the driver shall be responsible to ensure that the forward and backup alert systems on the vehicle, if so equipped, are operational and that the vehicle's 4-WD selector is in the 4-HIGH position for beach driving or 2-HIGH for use on the roadway.

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(d) The driver shall concentrate on driving safely, while the passenger officer should watch the water and area patrolled. If the driver is alone and must watch the water, the vehicle must be stopped to give full attention.

(e) All driving on the beach should be at 10-mph or less, unless operating Code 3. In all instances the vehicle's speed should be limited to what will assure safety to the public and the driver.

(f) Drivers are discouraged from making right turns, as the potential for objects or person(s) being in blind spots is increased.

(g) Drivers should stay as far away from beach goers as possible and stop a safe distance from people who will be crossing the vehicle's path.

(h) Drivers should try to establish and maintain pathways that the public can identify and avoid.

(i) Drivers should avoid driving up or down berms when possible. If it is absolutely necessary to drive over a berm, it is the responsibility of the driver to ensure there are no people or hazards in the path of the vehicle by visibly verifying.

(j) Drivers are encouraged to periodically alert beach goers of the presence of the vehicle by short use of the siren or horn, or by clicking the microphone to the PA.

(k) Drivers should avoid heavy soft sand areas.

(l) If a vehicle gets stuck in the sand and it is possible it will be damaged by water, drivers should safely remove equipment from the vehicle and request the necessary resources to recover the vehicle. If a vehicle gets stuck and is not in danger of water or other immediate damage, drivers should take the necessary time to safely recover the vehicle.

315.4 PARKING AND STOPPING

The following shall apply to the parking and stopping of vehicles off-road and on the beach:

(a) Never leave an unattended vehicle running. If a vehicle must be left unattended, the vehicle must be off with the emergency brake engaged.

(b) Do not park parallel with the fall of a steep decline.

(c) Prior to driving a vehicle which has stopped or been parked on the beach, the driver must visibly check around and under the vehicle for people or objects before driving away.

315.5 TRANSPORTING PEOPLE AND EQUIPMENT

Although it is not prohibited to transport passengers who are not employees of the department while driving off-road, it is discouraged. Driving off-road can be more difficult than driving on streets, and passengers may be a further distraction to the driver. It is recommended that passengers who are not employees of the department actively engaged in assisting the driver with safe vehicle operations not be taken off-road. If passengers and equipment are transported in the vehicle, the following will apply:

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(a) Do not transport anyone not safely restrained with a shoulder harness and seatbelt unless in an emergency situation that would require otherwise.

(b) Equipment must be properly stored and secured before driving to ensure that it does not shift and cause a distraction or injury to the driver or passengers.

315.6 CODE-3 RESPONSE ON THE BEACH

Even though Code 3 means "red lights and siren," the siren is most often ineffective and disruptive to beachgoers as well as the vehicle operator. Heavily populated areas can be cleared with a public address or a short blast of the siren.

(a) Never expect anyone to get out of the way. People are not accustomed to vehicles driving Code 3 on the beach and may not heed the warning.

(b) Use wide-open spots to drive faster, and drive as far away from people as possible. Slow down before reaching a crowded area, warning them with a simple public address as above.

(c) Drivers may have to drive just as slowly as on a routine call. Nothing is so urgent that safe driving practices should not be followed. The vehicle must not be driven faster than is safe.

315.7 OTHER OFF-ROAD DRIVING

Drivers shall use extreme caution when driving off-road and shall not operate a vehicle at speeds unsafe for the conditions present. Drivers shall not operate vehicles in conditions that have not been sufficiently covered through department training.

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Officer Response to Calls

316.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides for the safe and appropriate response to emergency and non-emergency situations whether dispatched or self-initiated.

316.2 RESPONSE TO CALLS

Officers dispatched to an emergency call or responding to a situation that requires an emergency response have the discretion on whether or not to respond "Code 3". Officers responding Code 3 shall continuously operate emergency lighting equipment, including at minimum a steady forward facing red light, and shall sound the siren as reasonably necessary pursuant to Vehicle Code § 21055.

Responding with emergency light(s) and siren does not relieve the officer of the duty to continue to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons. The use of any other warning equipment without a red light and siren does not provide any exemption from the Vehicle Code. Officers should only respond Code 3 when circumstances reasonably indicate an emergency response is required. Officers not authorized to respond Code 3 shall observe all traffic laws and proceed without the use of emergency lights and siren.

316.3 REQUESTING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Requests for emergency assistance should be limited to those situations where the involved personnel reasonably believe that there is an immediate threat to the safety of officers, or assistance is needed to prevent imminent serious harm to a citizen. In any event, where a situation has stabilized and emergency response is not required, the requesting officer shall immediately notify Communications Center.

If circumstances permit, the requesting officer should give the following information:

- The unit number
- The location
- The reason for the request and type of emergency
- The number of units required

316.3.1 NUMBER OF UNITS ASSIGNED

Occasionally, only one unit is needed to respond Code 3 to an emergency call; however, due of the nature of our job, there are situations (i.e. violent or dangerous subjects, major traffic collisions or traffic hazards, felony crimes in progress, other officer's requests for emergency assistance, etc.) that dictate the need for 2 units to respond Code 3. Preferably, the two closest and available units should respond. Should the situation call for more than two units to respond Code 3, the requesting officer or a supervisor, should advise how many additional units are needed to respond

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code 3. Likewise, should the officer on scene realize the need for the second unit to respond Code 3 no longer exists, they should inform communications.

316.4 INITIATING CODE 3 RESPONSE

The decision to respond Code 3 is the discretion of the individual officer, based upon the circumstances of each situation. If an officer believes a Code 3 response to any call is appropriate, the officer shall immediately notify the Communications Center. Should a second unit believe that their response is also needed Code 3, they too shall immediately notify the communications center.

The intent of this policy is to allow for individual discretion on the part of the officers who are dealing with the emergencies at the time; however, should a supervisor have facts that dictate otherwise, they have the ultimate authority to cancel a Code 3 response.

316.5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESPONDING OFFICER(S)

Officers shall exercise sound judgment and care with due regard for life and property when responding to an emergency call. Officers shall reduce speed at all street intersections to such a degree that they shall have complete control of the vehicle. The decision to continue a Code 3 response is at the discretion of the officer. If, in the officer's judgment, the roadway conditions or traffic congestion does not permit such a response without unreasonable risk, the officer may elect to respond to the call without the use of red lights and siren at the legal speed limit. In such an event, the officer should immediately notify the Communications Center. An officer shall also discontinue the Code 3 response when directed by a supervisor. Upon receiving authorization or determining a Code 3 response is appropriate, an officer shall immediately give the location from which he/she is responding.

316.6 COMMUNICATIONS RESPONSIBILITIES

A dispatcher shall assign a Code-3 response when an officer requests emergency assistance or available information reasonably indicates that the public is threatened with serious injury or death and immediate police response is needed. In all other circumstances, the dispatcher shall obtain authorization from the Watch Commander, Communications Supervisor or a field supervisor prior to assigning units Code-3 . The dispatcher shall:

(a) Attempt to assign the closest available unit to the location requiring assistance

(b) Immediately notify the Watch Commander, Communications Supervisor, or Field Supervisor

(c) Confirm the location from which the unit is responding

(d) Notify and coordinate allied emergency services (e.g., fire and ambulance)

(e) Continue to obtain and broadcast information as necessary concerning the response and monitor the situation until it is stabilized or terminated

(f) Control all radio communications during the emergency and coordinate assistance under the direction of the Watch Commander or field supervisor

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316.7 SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon being notified that a Code-3 response has been initiated, the Watch Commander, Communications Supervisor or the field supervisor shall verify the following:

(a) The proper response has been initiated

(b) No more than those units reasonably necessary under the circumstances are involved in the response

(c) Affected outside jurisdictions are being notified as practical

The field supervisor shall monitor the response until it has been stabilized or terminated and assert control by directing units into or out of the response if necessary. If, in the supervisor's judgment, the circumstances require additional units to be assigned a Code-3 response, the supervisor may do so.

It is the supervisor's responsibility to terminate a Code-3 response that, in his/her judgment is inappropriate due to the circumstances.

When making the decision to authorize a Code-3 response, the Watch Commander, Communications Supervisor or the field supervisor should consider the following:

- The type of call
- The necessity of a timely response
- Traffic and roadway conditions
- The location of the responding units

316.8 FAILURE OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

If the emergency equipment on the vehicle should fail to operate, the Officer must terminate the Code-3 response and respond accordingly. In all cases, the Officer shall notify the Communications Center of the equipment failure so that another unit may be assigned to the emergency response.

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GPS Devices Response

317.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Improvements to cell phone and other electronic device technologies that have GPS location features have caused numerous citizens to contact the Command Center in an attempt to locate their missing property. When this occurs, the public expects a response from a law enforcement agency in an attempt to retrieve their cell phone or other GPS enabled device. This policy will establish a response protocol for the Ventura Police Department.

317.2 GPS DEVICE RESPONSE

The request from the public to locate a reported stolen electronic device that has GPS capabilities will generate a CAD priority 4 call. The call will be directed to the on-duty supervisor to establish what type of investigative response will be conducted if necessary.

- It is imperative that the supervisor attempts to gain as much information about the GPS location to ascertain if the device can be localized to a specific location.
- If approved by the supervisor, the officers who respond should use whatever lawful resources are available to assist in recovering the stolen property. (Probation/parole searches, knock and talks, detective consult, etc.)
- If the GPS activity is mobile, supervision approval is not required and should be dispatched as appropriate.
- If the request from the public is for a lost electronic device with GPS capabilities the Ventura Police Department will not respond.
- This policy does not pertain to law enforcement generated “pinged” electronic devices.

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Canines

318.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Police Service Dog Program was established to enhance police services to the community through the professional utilization of highly disciplined canine teams. The mission of the Canine Unit is to supplement the Department's efforts in crime prevention and detection, violent criminal apprehension, officer safety, and service to the community. The emphasis of the Canine Unit is to assist in bringing critical incidents to a safe conclusion with a minimal application of force.

The Canine Unit is capable of assisting in several critical areas including, but not limited to:

- Locating explosives, firearms, and illegal drugs.
- Searching for at-risk missing persons.
- Visual deterrent to suspect aggression.
- Apprehension of violent suspects.
- Searching dangerous areas for threats.

318.2 GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF CANINES

A canine may be used to locate and apprehend a suspect if the canine handler reasonably believes that the individual has either committed or threatened to commit any serious offense and if any of the following conditions exist:

(a) There is a reasonable belief the individual poses an imminent threat of serious violence or serious harm to the public, any officer, or the handler.

(b) The individual is violently resisting or threatening to violently resist arrest, and the use of a canine reasonably appears to be necessary to overcome such resistance.

(c) The individual(s) is/are believed to be concealed in an area where entry by other than the canine would pose a threat to the safety of officers or the public.

It is recognized that situations may arise that do not fall within the provisions set for in this policy. In any such case, a standard of objective reasonableness shall be used to review the decision to use a canine given the totality of the circumstances. Absent reasonable belief that an individual has committed or threatened to commit a serious offense, mere flight from pursuing officer(s) shall not serve as good cause for the use of a canine to apprehend an individual. Once the individual has been located and no longer reasonably appears to represent a threat or risk of escape, the canine should be placed in a down-stay or otherwise secured as soon as it becomes reasonably practical.

318.2.1 PREPARATION FOR UTILIZING A CANINE

Prior to the use of a canine to search for or apprehend any individual, the canine handler and/or the supervisor on scene shall carefully consider all pertinent information reasonably available at the time. The information should include, but is not limited to the following:

(a) The individual's age or estimate thereof

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(b) The severity of the suspected offense

(c) Any potential danger to the public and/or other officers at the scene if the canine is released

(d) The degree of resistance or threatened resistance, if any, the subject has shown

(e) The potential for escape or flight if the police dog is not utilized

(f) The potential for injury to officers or the public caused by the suspect if the police dog is not utilized

(g) When feasible, the canine handler shall objectively assess and exhaust other alternatives before deploying a canine on a suspect.

- Does time allow for de-escalation tactics?
- Is it feasible to attempt potentially less injurious options that will achieve the same objective as effectively and safely?
- Is it practicable to tactically reposition to isolate or contain a suspect?

As circumstances permit, the canine handler should make every reasonable effort to communicate and coordinate with other involved personnel to minimize the risk of unintended injury. A canine handler shall have the ultimate authority not to deploy the dog. The handler will evaluate each situation and determine if the use of a canine is technically feasible. Generally, the decision whether to deploy the dog shall remain with the handler. However, a supervisor sufficiently appraised of the situation may decide not to deploy the dog. It is preferable to take as much time as needed to safely resolve an incident and not force a quick resolution when unnecessary.

318.2.2 WARNINGS GIVEN TO ANNOUNCE THE USE OF A CANINE

Unless it would otherwise increase the risk of injury or escape, a clearly audible warning to announce that a canine will be released if the person does not come forth shall be made prior to releasing a canine. The canine handler, when practical, shall first advise the supervisor of his/her decision if a verbal warning is not given prior to releasing the canine. In the event of an apprehension, the handler shall document in any related report whether or not a verbal warning was given and, if none was given, the reasons why.

318.2.3 USE OF NARCOTICS-DETECTION CANINES

A narcotic detection trained canine may be used in accordance with current law under the following circumstances:

(a) To assist in the search for narcotics during a search warrant service

(b) To obtain a search warrant by using the detection canine in support of probable cause

(c) To search vehicles, buildings, bags, and any other articles deemed necessary

(d) A narcotic detection canine will not be used to search a person for narcotics.

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318.2.4 EXPLOSIVE SUBSTANCE ORDINANCE (EOD) K-9 HANDLER

Due to the high risk of danger to the public and officers when a bomb or other explosive device is suspected, the use of a trained explosive detection dog team may be warranted. When available, a trained explosive detection dog team may be used in accordance with current law and under the following circumstances:

(a) To assist in search of a building, structure, area, vehicle or article where an actual or suspected explosive device has been reported or located.

(b) To conduct preventative searches at locations such as special events, VIP visits, official buildings and other restricted areas. Because a dog sniff may be considered a search, such searches of individuals should remain minimally intrusive and shall be strictly limited to the purpose of detecting explosives.

(c) To assist with searches at transportation facilities and vehicles (e.g., buses, airplanes, and trains).

(d) To assist in search of scenes where an explosion has occurred, and an explosive device or secondary explosive device is suspected.

(e) At no time will a detection dog be used to render a suspected device safe or clear.

318.2.5 EXPLOSIVE SUBSTANCE TRAINING AIDS

Explosive Ordinance Detection (EOD) K-9 handlers may be issued the following explosives:

(a) Data Sheet

(b) Det cord

(c) C-4

(d) TNT flake

(e) Red stick AN

(f) NG Dyno

(g) Water Gel

(h) Black powder

(i) RD smokeless powder

(j) Anfo

(k) Sodium chloride

(l) Potassium chloride

(m) Any other explosive approved by the Chief of Police

The above-mentioned explosives shall be signed out to the respective EOD K-9 handler by the Canine Commander and shall only be used for training purposes under direct supervision of an authorized EOD handler. An incident report shall be completed and document the individual substances and the weight of each of the substances issued to the handler. EOD K-9 handlers receiving explosive material training samples shall maintain custody and control of the explosive

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substances. He/she shall keep records and prepare an incident report (using the original report number) regarding any loss of, or damage to, these explosive substances. In the event that any of the explosives are lost or damaged, the Canine Commander shall be immediately notified. The security of and accountability for issued explosives remain exclusively that of the EOD K-9 handler.

(a) All explosives (when not in use for training purposes) must be securely stored in either the DOT approved safe at the Ventura Police Department or the DOT approved carrying case housed within the K-9 vehicle.

(b) All explosives training shall be documented on the Canine Explosives Detection Training Form and submitted to the Canine Program Coordinator on a weekly basis.

(c) Explosive training materials will be inspected periodically by the Canine Program Sergeant and/or Commander, and at the conclusion of a canine handler's assignment, and during prolonged periods of absence by the canine handler, or at the discretion of the Chief of Police. The results of the inspection shall be recorded and maintained by the Canine Sergeant on a Canine Training Form.

(d) On an annual basis, the assigned explosives shall be turned over to an appropriate law enforcement agency for proper disposal. If the amount of explosives assigned to the EOD K-9 handler does not match the amount being turned in for disposal, a police report must be completed, and an administrative investigation initiated to determine the cause of the discrepancy. Both the Canine Program Commander and the Chief of Police shall be notified immediately of such situations.

318.2.6 GUIDELINES FOR NON-APPREHENSION USE AND DOCUMENTATION

Because canines have senses far superior to those of humans, they may often be effectively utilized to track or search for noncriminals (e.g., lost children, individuals who may be disoriented or in need of medical attention) or even suspects wanted for minor criminal offenses. The canines may also be utilized as a visual deterrent to suspect aggression. In such circumstances, it will be necessary for the handler to evaluate the conditions and ability of the canine to determine the feasibility of such an application.

(a) Absent a change in circumstances which presents an immediate threat to officers, the canine or the public; such applications should be conducted on a leash, at a safe distance, or under such conditions that the canine will not bite or otherwise injure the involved individual.

(b) Throughout the deployment of the canine in such circumstances, the handler should give periodic verbal assurances that the canine will not bite or hurt the person.

(c) Unless otherwise directed by a supervisor, assisting personnel should take direction from the handler in order to minimize interference with the canine.

(d) Once the individual has been located, the situation has been de-escalated, or the efforts to use the canine as a visual deterrent to suspect aggression becomes ineffective, the canine should be placed in a down-stay or otherwise secured as soon as it becomes reasonably practicable.

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Documenting canine non-apprehension use:

A “deployment” is defined as removing the dog from the patrol car for any legitimate law enforcement purpose. Therefore, merely breaking the dog, participating in training, or using the dog in a demo would not be considered a deployment since those activities are not “enforcement” related.

Officers should log each deployment on the canine log with enough detail to establish that the deployment was within the guidelines of Departmental and unit policy.

318.2.7 REPORTING DEPLOYMENTS, BITES AND INJURIES

Whenever a canine is deployed and intentionally bites or otherwise causes injury to a suspect, a supervisor shall be promptly notified and the injuries documented in a Canine Use Report Form. The deployment and injuries should also be included in any related incident or arrest report. The supervising sergeant shall complete a threshold packet.

Any unintended bite or injury caused by the canine during deployments, operations, training, presentations or under any other circumstances, either on or off-duty, shall be promptly reported to the K-9 Commander. Unintended bites or injuries caused by the canine shall be documented in an incident report. The report should include, at a minimum, the following:

(a) In all cases of bites or injury resulting from the use of a canine, photographs shall be taken of the bite or injury after first tending to the immediate needs of the injured party. The photographs will be labeled "Canine Incident - Do Not Destroy," and uploaded into evidence. If the injury requires medical attention, the subject should be transported to an appropriate medical facility. In the event an in-custody suspect requires medical attention, an officer should standby with the suspect until treatment has been rendered.

(b) If a subject alleges an injury that is not visible, notification shall be made to a sergeant, and the location of the alleged injury should be photographed.

318.2.8 REPORTING CANINE INJURIES

In the event that a canine is injured, the injury will be immediately reported to the Watch Commander. Medical care for any injured canine shall follow the protocol established in the Medical Care of the Canine section of this policy. The injury will be documented on an incident report.

318.2.9 ASSIGNMENT OF CANINES

The canine teams shall be assigned to the Patrol Operations Division to supplement and assist the Patrol function. Canine teams should function primarily as a beat unit; however; they may be assigned by the Watch Commander to other functions based on the needs of the watch at the time.

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318.3 REQUESTS FOR USE OF CANINE TEAMS

Personnel within the Department are encouraged to freely solicit the use of the canines. Requests for a canine team from outside of the Patrol Bureau shall go through the Unit Coordinator or the Watch Commander.

318.3.1 REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER AGENCIES

The Watch Commander or the K-9 Commander must approve all requests for canine assistance from outside agencies, subject to the following provisions:

(a) Canine teams shall not be used for any assignment that is not consistent with this policy.

(b) The handler has the ultimate authority to decide whether the canine should be used for any specific assignment.

(c) Canine teams shall not be called out while off-duty or used outside the boundaries of the City of Ventura unless authorized by the Watch Commander or the K9 Commander.

(d) It shall be the responsibility of the canine handler to coordinate operations with agency personnel in order to minimize the risk of unintended injury.

(e) A second/backup officer should be sent with the canine handler whenever any risk to the handler is anticipated based on the nature of the request for assistance (ie. tracking a suspect or dealing with a barricaded suspect).

318.3.2 REQUEST FOR PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS

All public requests for a canine team shall be approved by the K-9 Commander or K-9 Sergeant prior to making any commitment.Handlers shall not demonstrate any apprehension work to the public unless authorized to do so by the K-9 Sergeant.

318.4 SELECTION OF CANINE HANDLERS

The following are the minimum qualifications for the assignment of canine handler:

(a) Ventura Police Department officer (currently off probation)

(b) Reside in an adequately fenced, single-family, residence (minimum five-foot high fence with locking gates)

(c) Have a garage which can be secured and accommodate a canine unit

(d) Live within 60 minutes travel time from the Ventura City limits

(e) Agree to be assigned to the position for a minimum of (4) years

318.5 CANINE HANDLER RESPONSIBILITIES

318.5.1 AVAILABILITY

The handler shall be available for call-out under conditions specified by the K-9 Commander

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318.5.2 CARE FOR THE CANINE AND EQUIPMENT

The handler shall ultimately be responsible for the health and welfare of the canine and shall ensure that the canine receives proper nutrition, grooming, training, medical care, affection, and living conditions. The handler will be responsible for the following:

(a) Unless required by a particular application, the handler shall not expose the canine to any foreseeable and unreasonable risk of harm.

(b) The handler shall maintain all department equipment under his/her control in a clean and serviceable condition and when not on duty shall maintain the canine unit in a garage or kennel, secured from public view.

(c) When a handler takes a vacation or an extended number of days off, the assigned canine vehicle shall be maintained at the Police Department facility. The K9 Sergeant must approve of any variance from this policy.

(d) Handlers shall permit the Unit Coordinator to conduct spontaneous onsite inspections of affected areas of their residence as well as the canine unit, to verify that conditions and equipment conform to this policy.

(e) Any changes in the living status of the handler which may affect the lodging or environment of the canine shall be reported to the Unit Coordinator as soon as possible.

(f) When off duty, canines shall be maintained in kennels, provided by the City, at the homes of their handlers. When a canine is kenneled at the handler's home, the gate shall be secured with a lock. When off duty, canines may be let out of their kennels while under the direct control of their handlers.

(g) The canine should be permitted to socialize in the home with the handler's family for short periods of time and under the direct supervision of the handler.

(h) Under no circumstances will the canine be lodged at another location unless approved by the K9 Sergeant or K9 Commander.

(i) When off duty, handlers shall not involve their canines in any activity or conduct unless approved in advance by the Unit Coordinator or Watch Commander.

(j) Whenever a canine handler anticipates taking a vacation or an extended number of days off, it may be necessary to relocate the canine temporarily. In those situations, the handler shall give reasonable notice to the K9 Sergeant so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The canine may be relocated to an authorized canine kennel or, at the discretion of the Canine Commander or Sergeant, may be cared for by another current canine handler.

318.5.3 CANINE IN PUBLIC AREAS

The canine should be kept on a leash when in areas that allow access to the public. Exceptions to this rule would include specific law enforcement operations for which the canine is trained.

(a) A canine shall not be left unattended in any area to which the public may have access.

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(b) When the canine vehicle is left unattended, all windows and doors shall be secured in such a manner as to prevent unauthorized access to the canine. The handler shall also ensure that the unattended vehicle remains inhabitable for the canine.

318.5.4 HANDLER COMPENSATION
The canine handler shall be compensated for the time spent in the care, feeding, grooming and all other needs of the dog as provided in the Fair Labor Standards Act. The compensation shall be prescribed in the employee's Memorandum of Understanding.

318.6 MEDICAL CARE OF THE CANINE
All medical attention shall be rendered by the designated canine veterinarian, except during an emergency as provided in Policy Manual 318.6.2.

318.6.1 NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE
Non-emergency medical care will be coordinated through the K9 Sergeant.

Any indication that a canine is not in good physical condition shall be reported to the K-9 Sergeant or the K-9 Commander as soon as practical.

All records of medical treatment shall be maintained in the canine handler's personnel file.

318.6.2 EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE
The handler shall notify the K-9 Sergeant as soon as practicable when emergency medical care for the canine is required.

Depending on the severity of the illness, the canine shall either be treated by the designated veterinarian or transported to a designated emergency medical facility for treatment. If the handler and dog are out of the area, the handler may use the nearest available veterinarian.

318.7 TRAINING
Before assignment in the field, each canine team shall be trained and certified to meet current POST guidelines Cross-trained canine teams or those dog teams trained exclusively for the detection of narcotics and/or explosives shall be trained and certified to meet the standards established for such detection dogs by the California Narcotic Canine Association (CNCA) or other recognized and approved certification standards.

The K9 Sergeant shall be responsible for scheduling periodic training for all department personnel in order to familiarize them with how to conduct themselves in the presence of department canines.

318.7.1 CONTINUED TRAINING
Each canine team shall thereafter be recertified to current POST standards and the California Narcotic Canine Association on an annual basis. Additional training considerations are as follows:

(a) Canine teams shall receive training as defined in current contract with the department’s canine training provider.

(b) Canine handlers are encouraged to engage in additional training with approval of the K9 Sergeant.

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(c) To ensure that all training is consistent, no handler, trainer, or outside vendor is authorized to train to a standard that is contrary to the policies of the Ventura Police Department.

(d) All canine training shall be conducted while on duty unless otherwise approved by the K9 Sergeant or K9 Commander.

318.7.2 FAILURE TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE POST TRAINING

Any dog team failing POST canine certification and, if cross-trained, the California Narcotic Canine Association or other recognized and approved certification standards shall not be deployed in the field until certification is achieved. When practical, pending successful certification, the canine handler shall be temporarily reassigned to regular patrol duties.

318.7.3 TRAINING RECORDS

All canine training records shall be maintained in the canine handler's training file.

318.8 CANINE UNIT SERGEANT RESPONSIBILITIES

The K9 Sergeant shall be appointed by staff and shall supervise the Canine Program. The K-9 Sergeant is directly responsible to the K-9 Commander. The K-9 Sergeant shall be responsible for, but not limited to, the following:

(a) Reviewing all Canine Use Reports to ensure compliance with policy and to identify training issues and other needs of the program.

(b) Maintaining a liaison with the vendor kennel.

(c) Maintaining a liaison with command staff and functional supervisors.

(d) Maintaining liaison with other agency canine coordinators.

(e) Maintaining accurate records to document canine activities.

(f) Recommending and overseeing the procurement of needed equipment and services for the unit.

(g) Scheduling all canine related activities.

(h) Ensuring the canine teams are scheduled for regular training to maximize the capabilities of the teams.

(i) Coordinate and track all canine demonstrations.

(j) Supervise VPD's K-9 social media accounts.

318.9 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE TRAINING AIDS

Controlled substance training aids are required to train and maintain drug-detecting dogs effectively. Further, controlled substances can also be an effective training aid during training sessions for law enforcement personnel and the public. Health & Safety Code § 11367.5 provides that any Sheriff, Chief Of Police, the Chief of the Bureau of Controlled Substance Enforcement, or the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol, or a designee thereof may, in his or her discretion, provide controlled substances in his or her possession for training purposes:

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(a) To any duly authorized peace officer or civilian drug detection canine trainer working under the direction of a law enforcement agency

(b) Provided the controlled substances are no longer needed as criminal evidence

(c) Provided the person receiving the controlled substances, if required by the Drug Enforcement Administration, possesses a current and valid Drug Enforcement Administration registration that specifically authorizes the recipient to possess controlled substances while providing substance abuse training to law enforcement or the community or while providing canine drug detection training

318.9.1 PROCEDURES

Due to the responsibilities and liabilities involved with possessing readily usable amounts of controlled substances and the ever-present danger of accidental ingestion of these controlled substances by the canine, the following procedure shall be strictly followed:

(a) All necessary controlled substance training samples shall be acquired from the Ventura Police Department's evidence personnel or from allied agencies authorized by Health & Safety Code § 11367.5 to provide controlled substance training samples. All controlled substance training samples shall be weighed and tested prior to dispensing to the individual canine handler.

(b) The weight and test results shall be recorded and maintained by this department

(c) Any person receiving controlled substance training samples pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 11367.5 shall maintain custody and control of the controlled substances and shall keep records regarding any loss of, or damage to, those controlled substances

(d) All controlled substance training samples will be inspected, weighed, and tested quarterly. The results of the quarterly testing shall be recorded and maintained by the canine coordinator with a copy forwarded to the dispensing agency

(e) All controlled substance training samples will be stored in locked metal boxes at all times, except during training. The locked metal boxes shall be secured in the trunk of the canine handler's assigned patrol unit, or stored in a locked evidence locker. There are no exceptions to this procedure

(f) The K9 Sergeant shall periodically inspect every controlled substance training sample for damage or tampering and take any appropriate action

(g) Any unusable controlled substance training samples shall be returned to the Property and Evidence Room or the dispensing agency

(h) All controlled substance training samples shall be returned to the dispensing agency upon the conclusion of the training or upon demand by the dispensing agency

318.9.2 IMMUNITY

All duly authorized peace officers acting in the performance of their official duties and any person working under their immediate direction, supervision or instruction are immune from prosecution under the Uniform Controlled Substance Act while providing substance abuse training or canine drug detection training (Health & Safety Code § 11367.5(b)).

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318.10 RETIREMENT AND/OR PURCHASE OF POLICE SERVICE DOG (PSD)

The Department shall retire from duty a PSD that is no longer dependable or capable of performing its duties as required. The final decision as to retirement of the PSD shall rest with the Chief of Police. Disposition of the PSD will be at the discretion of the Police Department. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, the sale of the PSD to the handler is the disposition of choice.

The average age of retirement of a police canine has been determined by the department to be approximately eight (8) years of age. If the canine is under eight (8) years of age and still deemed to be dependable and capable of performing its duties, a handler who has fulfilled the four (4) year commitment to the program and wishes to resign from the program and purchase the canine, may be allowed to do so at fair market value.

Fair market value will be determined by the following formula:

- Age of the dog between four (4) and eight (8) years.
- Current cost, at time of replacement, of PSD less 25% for each year between four (4) and Eight (8).

If the handler agrees to this price, he/she may purchase the dog from the department, the same as if the dog was retired from service. If there is no mutual agreement, the police service dog will be retrained with a new handler.

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Domestic Violence

320.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide the guidelines necessary to deter, prevent and reduce domestic violence through vigorous enforcement and to address domestic violence as a serious crime against society. The policy specifically addresses the commitment of this Department to take enforcement action when appropriate, to provide assistance to victims and to guide officers in the investigation of domestic violence.

320.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Court order - All forms of orders related to domestic violence that have been issued by a court of this state or another, whether civil or criminal, regardless of whether service has been made.

320.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department's response to incidents of domestic violence and violations of related court orders shall stress enforcement of the law to protect the victim and shall communicate the philosophy that domestic violence is criminal behavior. It is also the policy of this department to facilitate victims' and offenders' access to appropriate civil remedies and community resources whenever feasible.

320.3 OFFICER SAFETY

The investigation of domestic violence cases often places officers in emotionally charged and sometimes highly dangerous environments. No provision of this policy is intended to supersede the responsibility of all officers to exercise due caution and reasonable care in providing for the safety of any officers and parties involved.

320.4 INVESTIGATIONS

The following guidelines should be followed by officers when investigating domestic violence cases:

(a) Calls of reported, threatened, imminent, or ongoing domestic violence and the violation of any court order are of extreme importance and should be considered among the highest response priorities. This includes incomplete 9-1-1 calls.

(b) When practicable, officers should obtain and document statements from the victim, the suspect, and any witnesses, including children, in or around the household or location of occurrence.

(c) Officers should list the full name and date of birth (and school if available) of each child who was present in the household at the time of the offense. The names of other children who may not have been in the house at that particular time should also be obtained for follow-up.

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(d) When practicable and legally permitted, video or audio record all significant statements and observations.

(e) All injuries should be photographed, regardless of severity, taking care to preserve the victim's personal privacy. Where practicable, photographs should be taken by a person of the same sex. Victims whose injuries are not visible at the time of the incident should be asked to contact the Detective Bureau in the event that the injuries later become visible.

(f) Officers should request that the victim complete and sign an authorization for release of medical records related to the incident when applicable.

(g) If the suspect is no longer at the scene, officers should make reasonable efforts to locate the suspect to further the investigation, provide the suspect with an opportunity to make a statement, and make an arrest or seek an arrest warrant if appropriate.

(h) Seize any firearms or other dangerous weapons in the home, if appropriate and legally permitted, for safekeeping or as evidence. If the domestic violence involved threats of bodily harm, any firearm discovered in plain view or pursuant to consent or other lawful search must be taken into temporary custody (Penal Code § 18250).

(i) When completing an incident or arrest report for violation of a court order, officers should include specific information that establishes that the offender has been served, including the date the offender was served, the name of the agency that served the order, and the provision of the order that the subject is alleged to have violated. When reasonably available, the arresting officer should attach a copy of the order to the incident or arrest report.

(j) Officers should take appropriate enforcement action when there is probable cause to believe an offense has occurred. Factors that should not be used as sole justification for declining to take enforcement action include:

1. Whether the suspect lives on the premises with the victim.
2. Claims by the suspect that the victim provoked or perpetuated the violence.
3. The potential financial or child custody consequences of arrest.
4. The physical or emotional state of either party.
5. Use of drugs or alcohol by either party.
6. Denial that the abuse occurred where evidence indicates otherwise.
7. A request by the victim not to arrest the suspect.
8. Location of the incident (public/private).
9. Speculation that the complainant may not follow through with the prosecution.
10. Actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, age, cultural group, disability, or marital status of the victim or suspect.
11. The social status, community status, or professional position of the victim or suspect.

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320.4.1 IF A SUSPECT IS ARRESTED

If a suspect is arrested, officers should:

(a) Advise the victim that there is no guarantee the suspect will remain in custody.

(b) Upon the victim's request or when it appears reasonably necessary, provide the victim's contact information to the jail staff to enable notification of the victim upon the suspect's release from jail.

(c) Advise the victim whether any type of court order will be in effect when the suspect is released from jail.

320.4.2 IF NO ARREST IS MADE

If no arrest is made, the officer should:

(a) Advise the parties of any options, including but not limited to:

1. Voluntary separation of the parties.
2. Appropriate resource referrals (e.g., counselors, friends, relatives, shelter homes, victim witness unit).

(b) Document the resolution in a report.

320.5 VICTIM ASSISTANCE

Victims may be traumatized or confused. Officers should:

(a) Recognize that a victim's behavior and actions may be affected.

(b) Alert the victim to any available victim advocates, shelters and community resources.

(c) Stand by for a reasonable amount of time when an involved person requests law enforcement assistance while removing essential items of personal property.

(d) Seek medical assistance as soon as practicable for the victim if he/she has sustained injury or complains of pain.

(e) Ask the victim whether he/she has a safe place to stay. Assist in arranging to transport the victim to an alternate shelter if the victim expresses a concern for his/her safety or if the officer determines that a need exists.

(f) Make reasonable efforts to ensure that children or dependent adults who are under the supervision of the suspect or victim are being properly cared for.

(g) Seek or assist the victim in obtaining an emergency order if appropriate.

An officer shall advise an individual protected by a Canadian domestic violence protection order of available local victim services (Family Code § 6452).

320.5.1 MARSY'S CARD

Officers shall provide the victim with a "Marsy's Card" which explains a victim's rights and resources, or provide the victim with access to the resources online via the VPD resource card.

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320.6 DISPATCH ASSISTANCE

All calls of domestic violence, including incomplete 9-1-1 calls, should be dispatched as soon as practicable.

Dispatchers are not required to verify the validity of a court order before responding to a request for assistance. Officers should request that dispatchers check whether any of the involved persons are subject to the terms of a court order.

320.7 FOREIGN COURT ORDERS

Various types of orders may be issued in domestic violence cases. Any foreign court order properly issued by a court of another state, Indian tribe, or territory shall be enforced by officers as if it were the order of a court in this state. An order should be considered properly issued when it reasonably appears that the issuing court has jurisdiction over the parties and reasonable notice and opportunity to respond was given to the party against whom the order was issued (18 USC § 2265). An otherwise valid out-of-state court or foreign order shall be enforced, regardless of whether the order has been properly registered with this state (Family Code § 6403).

Canadian domestic violence protection orders shall also be enforced in the same manner as if issued in this state (Family Code § 6452).

320.8 VERIFICATION OF COURT ORDERS

Determining the validity of a court order, particularly an order from another jurisdiction, can be challenging. Therefore, in determining whether there is probable cause to make an arrest for a violation of any court order, officers should carefully review the actual order when available, and where appropriate and practicable:

(a) Ask the subject of the order about his/her notice or receipt of the order, his/her knowledge of its terms and efforts to respond to the order.

  1. If a determination is made that a valid foreign order cannot be enforced because the subject has not been notified or served the order, the officer shall inform the subject of the order, make a reasonable effort to serve the order upon the subject, and allow the subject a reasonable opportunity to comply with the order before enforcing the order. Verbal notice of the terms of the order is sufficient notice (Family Code § 6403).

(b) Check available records or databases that may show the status or conditions of the order.

  1. Registration or filing of an order in California is not required for the enforcement of a valid foreign order (Family Code § 6403).

(c) Contact the issuing court to verify the validity of the order.

(d) Contact a law enforcement official from the jurisdiction where the order was issued to verify information.

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Officers should document in an appropriate report their efforts to verify the validity of an order, regardless of whether an arrest is made. Officers should contact a supervisor for clarification when needed.

320.9 LEGAL MANDATES AND RELEVANT LAWS

California law provides for the following:

320.9.1 STANDARDS FOR ARRESTS

Officers investigating a domestic violence report should consider the following:

(a) An arrest should be made when there is probable cause to believe that a felony or misdemeanor domestic violence offense has been committed (Penal Code § 13701). Any decision to not arrest an adult when there is reasonable cause to do so requires supervisor approval.

1. Officers are only authorized to make an arrest without a warrant for a misdemeanor domestic violence offense if the officer makes the arrest as soon as probable cause arises (Penal Code § 836).
2. Officers shall arrest a suspect if a domestic violence related misdemeanor occurs in the officer's presence.This includes, but is not limited to, physical violence or a violation of a restraining order or protective order.

(b) An officer responding to a domestic violence call who cannot make an arrest will advise the victim of his/her right to make a private person's arrest. The advisement should be made out of the presence of the suspect and shall include advising the victim how to safely execute the arrest. Officers shall not dissuade victims from making a lawful private person's arrest. Officers should refer to the provisions in the Private Persons Arrests Policy for options regarding the disposition of private person's arrests (Penal Code § 836(b)).

(c) Officers shall not cite and release a person for the following offenses (Penal Code § 853.6(a)(3)):

1. Penal Code § 243(e)(1) (battery against spouse, cohabitant)
2. Penal Code § 273.5 (corporal injury on spouse, cohabitant, fiancé/fiancée, person of a previous dating or engagement relationship, mother/father of the offender's child)
3. Penal Code § 273.6 (violation of protective order) if violence or threats of violence have occurred or the suspect has gone to the workplace or residence of the protected party
4. Penal Code § 646.9 (stalking)
5. Other serious or violent felonies specified in Penal Code § 1270.1

(d) In responding to domestic violence incidents, including mutual protective order violations, officers should generally be reluctant to make dual arrests. Officers shall make reasonable efforts to identify the dominant aggressor in any incident. The dominant aggressor is the person who has been determined to be the most significant,

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rather than the first, aggressor (Penal Code § 13701). In identifying the dominant aggressor, an officer shall consider:

1. The intent of the law to protect victims of domestic violence from continuing abuse.
2. The threats creating fear of physical injury.
3. The history of domestic violence between the persons involved.
4. Whether either person acted in self-defense.

(e) An arrest shall be made when there is probable cause to believe that a violation of a domestic violence court order has been committed (Penal Code § 13701; Penal Code § 836), regardless of whether the offense was committed in the officer's presence. After arrest, the officer shall confirm that a copy of the order has been registered, unless the victim provides a copy (Penal Code § 836).

320.9.2 COURT ORDERS

(a) An officer who obtains an emergency protective order from the court shall serve it on the restrained person if the person can be reasonably located and shall provide the person protected or the person’s parent/guardian with a copy of the order. The officer shall file a copy with the court as soon as practicable and shall have the order entered into the computer database system for protective and restraining orders maintained by the Department of Justice (Family Code § 6271; Penal Code § 646.91).

(b) At the request of the petitioner, an officer at the scene of a reported domestic violence incident shall serve a court order on a restrained person (Family Code § 6383; Penal Code § 13710).

(c) Any officer serving a protective order that indicates that the respondent possesses weapons or ammunition shall request that the firearm/ammunition be immediately surrendered (Family Code § 6389(c)).

(d) During the service of a protective order any firearm discovered in plain view or pursuant to consent or other lawful search shall be taken into temporary custody (Penal Code § 18250).

(e) If a valid Canadian order cannot be enforced because the person subject to the order has not been notified or served with the order, the officer shall notify the protected individual that reasonable efforts shall be made to contact the person subject to the order. The officer shall make a reasonable effort to inform the person subject to the order of the existence and terms of the order and provide the person with a record of the order, if available, and shall allow the person a reasonable opportunity to comply with the order before taking enforcement action (Family Code § 6452).

320.9.3 PUBLIC ACCESS TO POLICY

A copy of this domestic violence policy will be provided to members of the public upon request (Penal Code § 13701).

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320.9.4 REPORTS AND RECORDS

(a) A written report shall be completed on all incidents of domestic violence. All such reports should be documented on the appropriate form, which includes information and notations specific to domestic violence incidents as required by Penal Code § 13730.

(b) Reporting officers should provide the victim with the case number of the report. The case number may be placed in the space provided on the domestic violence victim information handout provided to the victim. If the case number is not immediately available, an explanation should be given regarding how the victim can obtain the information at a later time.

(c) Officers who seize any firearm, ammunition, or other deadly weapon in a domestic violence incident shall issue the individual possessing such weapon a receipt that includes the name and residential mailing address of the owner or person who possessed the weapon and notice of where the weapon may be recovered, along with the applicable time limit for recovery (Penal Code § 18250; Penal Code § 18255; Penal Code § 33800; Family Code § 6389(c)).

320.9.5 RECORD-KEEPING AND DATA COLLECTION

This Department shall maintain records of court orders related to domestic violence and the service status of each (Penal Code § 13710), as well as records on the number of domestic violence-related calls reported to the Department, including whether weapons were used in the incident or whether the incident involved strangulation or suffocation (Penal Code § 13730). This information is to be reported to the Attorney General monthly. It shall be the responsibility of the [recordsHead] to maintain and report this information as required.

320.9.6 DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF BAIL INCREASE

Any officer who makes a warrantless arrest for a felony or misdemeanor violation of a domestic violence restraining order shall evaluate the totality of the circumstances to determine whether reasonable cause exists to seek an increased bail amount. If there is reasonable cause to believe that the scheduled bail amount is insufficient to assure the arrestee’s appearance or to protect the victim or family member of a victim, the officer shall prepare a declaration in support of increased bail (Penal Code § 1269c).

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Search and Seizure

322.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Both the federal and state Constitutions provide every individual with the right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures. This policy provides general guidelines for Ventura Police Department personnel to consider when dealing with search and seizure issues.

322.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department to respect the fundamental privacy rights of individuals. Members of this department will conduct searches in strict observance of the constitutional rights of persons being searched. All seizures by this department will comply with relevant federal and state law governing the seizure of persons and property.

The Department will provide relevant and current training to officers as guidance for the application of current law, local community standards and prosecutorial considerations regarding specific search and seizure situations, as appropriate.

322.3 SEARCHES

The U.S. Constitution generally provides that a valid warrant is required in order for a search to be valid. There are, however, several exceptions that permit a warrantless search.

Examples of law enforcement activities that are exceptions to the general warrant requirement include, but are not limited to, searches pursuant to the following:

- Valid consent
- Incident to a lawful arrest
- Legitimate community caretaking interests
- Vehicle searches under certain circumstances
- Exigent circumstances

Certain other activities are recognized by federal and state courts and by certain statutes as legitimate law enforcement activities that also do not require a warrant. Such activities may include seizure and examination of abandoned property, and observations of activities and property located on open public areas.

Because case law regarding search and seizure is constantly changing and subject to interpretation by the courts, each member of this department is expected to act in each situation according to current training and his/her familiarity with clearly established rights as determined by case law.

Whenever practicable, officers are encouraged to contact a supervisor to resolve questions regarding search and seizure issues prior to electing a course of action.

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322.4 SEARCH PROTOCOL

Although conditions will vary and officer safety and other exigencies must be considered in every search situation, the following guidelines should be followed whenever circumstances permit:

(a) Members of this department will strive to conduct searches with dignity and courtesy.

(b) Officers should explain to the person being searched the reason for the search and how the search will be conducted.

(c) Searches should be carried out with due regard and respect for private property interests and in a manner that minimizes damage. Property should be left in a condition as close as reasonably possible to its pre-search condition.

(d) In order to minimize the need for forcible entry, an attempt should be made to obtain keys, combinations or access codes when a search of locked property is anticipated.

(e) When the person to be searched is of the opposite sex as the searching officer, a reasonable effort should be made to summon an officer of the same sex as the subject to conduct the search. When it is not practicable to summon an officer of the same sex as the subject, the following guidelines should be followed:

1. Another officer or a supervisor should witness the search.
2. The officer should not search areas of the body covered by tight-fitting clothing, sheer clothing or clothing that could not reasonably conceal a weapon.

322.5 DOCUMENTATION

Officers are responsible to document any search and to ensure that any required reports are sufficient including, at minimum, documentation of the following:

- Reason for the search
- Any efforts used to minimize the intrusiveness of any search (e.g., asking for consent or keys)
- What, if any, injuries or damage occurred
- All steps taken to secure property
- The results of the search, including a description of any property or contraband seized
- If the person searched is the opposite sex, any efforts to summon an officer of the same sex as the person being searched and the identification of any witness officer

Supervisors shall review reports to ensure the reports are accurate, that actions are properly documented and that current legal requirements and department policy have been met.

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Search Warrants

323.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The service of a search warrant is an important tool in the investigation of criminal activity and presents hazards to law enforcement as well as members of the public. This policy outlines the procedures to be used in serving search warrants to minimize those hazards and to help ensure a successful prosecution.

323.2 SEARCH WARRANT SERVICE

Officer and citizen safety demand that some basic and simple procedures be followed during the execution of a search warrant. Except with the approval of a supervisor, the following procedures will be followed when serving a search warrant at a residence or place of business:

(a) There will be at least one uniformed officer present during the initial service.

(b) This uniformed officer shall wear protective body armor and will participate in the initial police presence at the point of entry. Any other officers or detectives present on the entry or containment teams shall wear department raid jackets and should also wear protective body armor.

(c) Any officers, who are not dressed in a raid jacket or uniform, are not readily identifiable, and whose appearance may be misleading, shall stay out of the immediate area of the warrant service until service has been executed and the premises secured.

(d) At any location a search warrant is served, a sergeant or above will supervise the service of the warrant.

323.3 SEARCH METHOD

Searches conducted pursuant to a search warrant or any other official search shall be carried out in a responsible and professional manner. Consideration should be given to the manner of search and care should be taken to leave the area searched in as reasonable a condition as possible. The searches shall be carried out in an orderly manner.

323.4 EVIDENCE COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION

At the conclusion of the search all evidence or property seized shall be handled and maintained as required by department policies and rules of evidence. The return of the search warrant shall be done in a timely manner and consistent with legal requirements.

323.5 KNOCK AND NOTICE

The California Penal Code requires police officers to give “knock notice” prior to forcing entry to serve a search or arrest warrant. The only exceptions would be under the following circumstances:

1. A judge approves the search or arrest warrant as a “no knock” warrant.

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2. Officers serving the warrant have articulable facts giving them reasonable suspicion that knocking and announcing their presence would be dangerous, futile or would inhibit the effective investigation of the crime.

If any warrant seeks judicial approval to be served as a “no knock” warrant, prior approval must be obtained from the Assistant Chief.

If there is no judicial approval to serve the warrant as a “no knock” warrant, and the officers serving the warrant wish to forego knock and notice, they must have prior approval from the Assistant Chief. The only exception would be in the instance that an exigency exists and there is no time to obtain prior approval from the Assistant Chief.

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Temporary Custody of Juveniles

324.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines consistent with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act for juveniles taken into temporary custody by members of the Ventura Police Department (34 USC § 11133).

Guidance regarding contacting juveniles at schools or who may be victims is provided in the Child Abuse Policy.

324.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Juvenile non-offender - An abused, neglected, dependent, or alien juvenile who may be legally held for his/her own safety or welfare. This also includes any juvenile who may have initially been contacted for an offense that would not subject an adult to arrest (e.g., fine-only offense) but was taken into custody for his/her protection or for purposes of reuniting the juvenile with a parent, guardian, or other responsible person. Juveniles 11 years of age or younger are considered juvenile non-offenders even if they have committed an offense that would subject an adult to arrest.

Juvenile offender - A juvenile 12 to 17 years of age who is alleged to have committed an offense that would subject an adult to arrest (a non-status offense) (Welfare and Institutions Code § 602). It also includes an offense under Penal Code § 29610 for underage possession of a handgun or concealable firearm (28 CFR 31.303).

Non-secure custody - When a juvenile is held in the presence of an officer or other custody employee at all times and is not placed in a locked room, cell, or behind any locked doors. Juveniles in non-secure custody may be handcuffed but not to a stationary or secure object. Personal supervision, through direct visual monitoring and audio two-way communication is maintained. Monitoring through electronic devices, such as video, does not replace direct visual observation (Welfare and Institutions Code § 207.1; 15 CCR 1150).

Safety checks - Direct, visual observation personally by a member of this department performed at random intervals within time frames prescribed in this policy to provide for the health and welfare of juveniles in temporary custody.

Secure custody - When a juvenile offender is held in a locked room, a set of rooms, or a cell. Secure custody also includes being physically secured to a stationary object (15 CCR 1146).

Examples of secure custody include:

(a) A juvenile left alone in an unlocked room within the secure perimeter of the adult temporary holding area.

(b) A juvenile handcuffed to a rail.

(c) A juvenile placed in a room that contains doors with delayed egress devices that have a delay of more than 30 seconds.

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(d) A juvenile being processed in a secure booking area when a non-secure booking area is available.

(e) A juvenile left alone in a secure booking area after being photographed and fingerprinted.

(f) A juvenile placed in a cell within the adult temporary holding area, whether or not the cell door is locked.

(g) A juvenile placed in a room that is capable of being locked or contains a fixed object designed for cuffing or restricting movement.

Sight and sound separation - Located or arranged to prevent physical, visual, or auditory contact that is more than brief or inadvertent.

Status offender - A juvenile suspected of committing a criminal violation of the law that would not be a criminal violation but for the age of the offender. Examples may include running away, underage possession of tobacco, curfew violation, and truancy. A juvenile in custody on a court order or warrant based upon a status offense is also a status offender. This includes the habitually disobedient or truant juvenile under Welfare and Institutions Code § 601 and any juvenile suspected of an offense that would not subject an adult to arrest (e.g., fine-only offense).

324.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department is committed to releasing juveniles from temporary custody as soon as reasonably practicable and keeping juveniles safe while they are in temporary custody at the Ventura Police Department. Juveniles should be held in temporary custody only for as long as reasonably necessary for processing, transfer, or release.

324.3 JUVENILES WHO SHOULD NOT BE HELD

Juveniles who exhibit any of the following conditions should not be held at the Ventura Police Department:

(a) Unconscious

(b) Seriously injured

(c) A known suicide risk or obviously severely emotionally disturbed

(d) Significantly intoxicated except when approved by the Watch Commander. A medical clearance shall be obtained for minors who are under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or any other intoxicating substance to the extent that they are unable to care for themselves (15 CCR 1151).

(e) Extremely violent or continuously violent

Officers taking custody of a juvenile who exhibits any of the above conditions should take reasonable steps to provide medical attention or mental health assistance and notify a supervisor of the situation (15 CCR 1142; 15 CCR 1151).

These juveniles should not be held at the Ventura Police Department unless they have been evaluated by a qualified medical and/or mental health professional (15 CCR 1142).

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If the officer taking custody of the juvenile believes the juvenile may be a suicide risk, the juvenile shall be under continuous direct supervision until evaluation, release, or a transfer is completed (15 CCR 1142).

324.3.1 EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE OF JUVENILES IN CUSTODY
When emergency medical attention is required for a juvenile, medical assistance will be called immediately. The Watch Commander shall be notified of the need for medical attention for the juvenile. Department members should administer first aid as applicable (15 CCR 1142).

324.3.2 SUICIDE PREVENTION OF JUVENILES IN CUSTODY
Department members should be alert to potential symptoms based upon exhibited behavior that may indicate the juvenile is a suicide risk. These symptoms may include depression, refusal to communicate, verbally threatening to kill him/herself, or any unusual behavior which may indicate the juvenile may harm him/herself while in either secure or non-secure custody (15 CCR 1142).

324.4 CUSTODY OF JUVENILES

Officers should take custody of a juvenile and temporarily hold the juvenile at the Ventura Police Department when there is no other lawful and practicable alternative to temporary custody. Refer to the Child Abuse Policy for additional information regarding detaining a juvenile that is suspected of being a victim.

No juvenile should be held in temporary custody at the Ventura Police Department without authorization of the arresting officer's supervisor or the Watch Commander. Juveniles taken into custody shall be held in non-secure custody unless otherwise authorized by this policy.

Any juvenile taken into custody shall be released to the care of the juvenile’s parent or other responsible adult or transferred to a juvenile custody facility or to other authority as soon as practicable and in no event shall a juvenile be held beyond six hours from the time of his/her entry into the Ventura Police Department (34 USC § 11133; Welfare and Institutions Code § 207.1).

324.4.1 CUSTODY OF JUVENILE NON-OFFENDERS
Non-offenders taken into protective custody in compliance with the Child Abuse Policy should generally not be held at the Ventura Police Department. Custodial arrangements should be made for non-offenders as soon as reasonably possible. Juvenile non-offenders shall not be held in secure custody (34 USC § 11133; Welfare and Institutions Code § 206).

Juveniles 11 years of age or younger who have committed an offense that would subject an adult to arrest may be held in non-secure custody for the offenses listed in Welfare and Institutions Code § 602(b) (murder and the sexual assault offenses) and should be referred to a probation officer for a placement determination (Welfare and Institutions Code § 602.1).

324.4.2 CUSTODY OF JUVENILE STATUS OFFENDERS
Status offenders should generally be released by citation or with a warning rather than taken into temporary custody. However, officers may take custody of a status offender if requested to do so by a parent or legal guardian in order to facilitate reunification (e.g., transported home or to

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the station to await a parent). Juvenile status offenders shall not be held in secure custody (34 USC § 11133).

324.4.3 CUSTODY OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS

Juvenile offenders should be held in non-secure custody while at the Ventura Police Department unless another form of custody is authorized by this policy or is necessary due to exigent circumstances.

Generally, a juvenile offender may be taken into custody when authorized by a court order or when there is probable cause to believe the juvenile has committed an offense that would subject an adult to arrest (Welfare and Institutions Code § 625).

A juvenile offender who is 14 years of age or older and taken into custody for committing or attempting to commit a felony with a firearm shall not be released and be transported to a juvenile facility (Welfare and Institutions Code § 625.3).

A juvenile offender suspected of committing murder, a sex offense described in Welfare and Institutions Code § 602(b) that may subject the juvenile to criminal jurisdiction under Welfare and Institutions Code § 707, or a serious or violent felony should be referred to a probation officer for a decision on further detention.

In all other cases the juvenile offender may be:

(a) Released upon warning or citation.

(b) Released to a parent or other responsible adult after processing at the Department.

(c) Referred to a probation officer for a decision regarding whether to transport the juvenile offender to a juvenile facility.

(d) Transported to his/her home or to the place where the juvenile offender was taken into custody (Welfare and Institutions Code § 207.2).

In determining which disposition is appropriate, the investigating officer or supervisor shall prefer the alternative that least restricts the juvenile's freedom of movement, provided that alternative is compatible with the best interests of the juvenile and the community (Welfare and Institutions Code § 626).

Whenever a juvenile offender under the age of 14 is taken into custody, the officer should take reasonable steps to verify and document the child's ability to differentiate between right and wrong, particularly in relation to the alleged offense (Penal Code § 26).

324.5 ADVISEMENTS

Officers shall take immediate steps to notify the juvenile's parent, guardian, or a responsible relative that the juvenile is in custody, the location where the juvenile is being held, and the intended disposition (Welfare and Institutions Code § 627).

Whenever a juvenile is taken into temporary custody, he/she shall be given the *Miranda* rights advisement regardless of whether questioning is intended. This does not apply to juvenile non-

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offenders taken into temporary custody for their safety or welfare (Welfare and Institutions Code § 625).

Anytime a juvenile offender is placed in secure custody, he/she shall be informed of the purpose of the secure custody, the length of time the secure custody is expected to last, and of the maximum six-hour limitation (Welfare and Institutions Code § 207.1).

Juveniles taken into custody for an offense shall immediately be advised (or at least within one hour from being taken into custody, if possible) that they may make three telephone calls: one call completed to his/her parent or guardian; one to a responsible relative or his/her employer; and another call completed to an attorney. The calls shall be at no expense to the juvenile when completed to telephone numbers within the local calling area. Juveniles should be asked whether they are a caregiver and provided two more phone calls in the same manner as provided to adults in the Temporary Custody of Adults Policy (Welfare and Institutions Code § 627; Penal Code § 851.5).

324.6 JUVENILE CUSTODY LOGS

Any time a juvenile is held in custody at the Department, the custody shall be promptly and properly documented in the juvenile custody log, including:

(a) Identifying information about the juvenile.

(b) Date and time of arrival and release from the Ventura Police Department (15 CCR 1150).

(c) Watch Commander notification and approval to temporarily hold the juvenile.

(d) Any charges for which the juvenile is being held and classification of the juvenile as a juvenile offender, status offender, or non-offender.

(e) Any changes in status (e.g., emergency situations, unusual incidents).

(f) Time of all safety checks.

(g) Any medical and other screening requested and completed (15 CCR 1142).

(h) Circumstances that justify any secure custody (Welfare and Institutions Code § 207.1; 15 CCR 1145).

(i) Any other information that may be required by other authorities, such as compliance inspectors or a local juvenile court authority.

The Watch Commander shall initial the log to approve the custody, including any secure custody, and shall also initial the log when the juvenile is released.

324.7 NO-CONTACT REQUIREMENTS

Sight and sound separation shall be maintained between all juveniles and adults while in custody at the Department (34 USC § 11133; Welfare and Institutions Code § 207.1; Welfare and Institutions Code § 208; 15 CCR 1144). There should also be sight and sound separation between non-offenders and juvenile and status offenders.

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In situations where brief or accidental contact may occur (e.g., during the brief time a juvenile is being fingerprinted and/or photographed in booking), a member of the Ventura Police Department (trained in the supervision of persons in custody) shall maintain a constant, immediate, side-by-side presence with the juvenile or the adult to minimize any contact. If inadvertent or accidental contact does occur, reasonable efforts shall be taken to end the contact (15 CCR 1144).

324.8 TEMPORARY CUSTODY REQUIREMENTS

Members and supervisors assigned to monitor or process any juvenile at the Ventura Police Department shall ensure the following:

(a) The Watch Commander should be notified if it is anticipated that a juvenile may need to remain at the Ventura Police Department more than four hours. This will enable the Watch Commander to ensure no juvenile is held at the Ventura Police Department more than six hours.

(b) A staff member of the same sex shall supervise personal hygiene activities and care, such as changing clothing or using the restroom, without direct observation to allow for privacy.

(c) Personal safety checks and significant incidents/activities shall be noted on the log.

(d) Juveniles in custody are informed that they will be monitored at all times, except when using the toilet.

1. There shall be no viewing devices, such as peep holes or mirrors, of which the juvenile is not aware.

2. This does not apply to surreptitious and legally obtained recorded interrogations.

(e) Juveniles shall have reasonable access to toilets and wash basins (15 CCR 1143).

(f) Food shall be provided if a juvenile has not eaten within the past four hours or is otherwise in need of nourishment, including any special diet required for the health of the juvenile (15 CCR 1143).

(g) Juveniles shall have reasonable access to a drinking fountain or water (15 CCR 1143).

(h) Juveniles shall have reasonable opportunities to stand and stretch, particularly if handcuffed or restrained in any way.

(i) Juveniles shall have privacy during family, guardian, and/or lawyer visits (15 CCR 1143).

(j) Juveniles shall be permitted to remain in their personal clothing unless the clothing is taken as evidence or is otherwise unsuitable or inadequate for continued wear while in custody (15 CCR 1143).

(k) Blankets shall be provided as reasonably necessary (15 CCR 1143).

1. The supervisor should ensure that there is an adequate supply of clean blankets.

(l) Adequate shelter, heat, light, and ventilation should be provided without compromising security or enabling escape.

(m) Juveniles shall have adequate furnishings, including suitable chairs or benches.

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(n) Juveniles shall have the right to the same number of telephone calls as an adult in temporary custody.

(o) No discipline may be administered to any juvenile, nor may juveniles be subjected to corporal or unusual punishment, humiliation, or mental abuse (15 CCR 1142).

324.9 USE OF RESTRAINT DEVICES

Juvenile offenders may be handcuffed in accordance with the Handcuffing and Restraints Policy. A juvenile offender may be handcuffed at the Ventura Police Department when the juvenile presents a heightened risk. However, non-offenders and status offenders should not be handcuffed unless they are combative or threatening (15 CCR 1142).

Other restraints shall only be used after less restrictive measures have failed and with the approval of the Watch Commander. Restraints shall only be used so long as it reasonably appears necessary for the juvenile's protection or the protection of others (15 CCR 1142).

Juveniles in restraints shall be kept away from other unrestrained juveniles or monitored in such a way as to protect the juvenile from abuse (15 CCR 1142).

324.10 PERSONAL PROPERTY

The officer taking custody of a juvenile offender or status offender at the Ventura Police Department shall ensure a thorough search of the juvenile’s property is made and all property is removed from the juvenile, especially those items that could compromise safety, such as pens, pencils, and belts.

The personal property of a juvenile should be placed in a property bag. The property should be inventoried in the juvenile’s presence and sealed into the bag. The property should be kept in a monitored or secure location until the juvenile is released from the custody of the Ventura Police Department.

324.11 SECURE CUSTODY

Only juvenile offenders 14 years of age or older may be placed in secure custody (Welfare and Institutions Code § 207; 15 CCR 1145). Watch Commander approval is required before placing a juvenile offender in secure custody.

Secure custody should only be used for juvenile offenders when there is a reasonable belief that the juvenile is a serious risk of harm to him/herself or others. Factors to be considered when determining if the juvenile offender presents a serious security risk to him/herself or others include the following (15 CCR 1145):

(a) Age, maturity, and delinquent history

(b) Severity of offense for which the juvenile was taken into custody

(c) The juvenile offender’s behavior

(d) Availability of staff to provide adequate supervision or protection of the juvenile offender

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(e) Age, type, and number of other individuals in custody at the facility

Members of this department shall not use secure custody for convenience when non-secure custody is, or later becomes, a reasonable option (15 CCR 1145).

When practicable and when no locked enclosure is available, handcuffing one hand of a juvenile offender to a fixed object while otherwise maintaining the juvenile in non-secure custody should be considered as the method of secure custody. An employee must be present at all times to ensure the juvenile's safety while secured to a stationary object (15 CCR 1148).

Juveniles shall not be secured to a stationary object for more than 60 minutes. Supervisor approval is required to secure a juvenile to a stationary object for longer than 60 minutes and every 30 minutes thereafter (15 CCR 1148). Supervisor approval should be documented.

The decision for securing a minor to a stationary object for longer than 60 minutes and every 30 minutes thereafter shall be based upon the best interests of the juvenile offender (15 CCR 1148).

324.11.1 LOCKED ENCLOSURES

A thorough inspection of the area shall be conducted before placing a juvenile into the enclosure. A second inspection shall be conducted after removing the juvenile. Any damage noted to the room should be photographed and documented in the crime report.

The following requirements shall apply to a juvenile offender who is held inside a locked enclosure:

(a) The juvenile shall constantly be monitored by an audio/video system during the entire custody.

(b) Juveniles shall have constant auditory access to department members (15 CCR 1147).

(c) Initial placement into and removal from a locked enclosure shall be logged (Welfare and Institutions Code § 207.1).

(d) Unscheduled safety checks to provide for the health and welfare of the juvenile by a staff member, no less than once every 15 minutes, shall occur (15 CCR 1147; 15 CCR 1151).

1. All safety checks shall be logged.
2. The safety check should involve questioning the juvenile as to his/her well-being (sleeping juveniles or apparently sleeping juveniles should be awakened).
3. Requests or concerns of the juvenile should be logged.

(e) Males and females shall not be placed in the same locked room (15 CCR 1147).

(f) Juvenile offenders should be separated according to severity of the crime (e.g., felony or misdemeanor).

(g) Restrained juveniles shall not be mixed in a cell or room with unrestrained juveniles.

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324.12 SUICIDE ATTEMPT, DEATH, OR SERIOUS INJURY OF A JUVENILE

The Watch Commander will ensure procedures are in place to address the suicide attempt, death, or serious injury of any juvenile held at the Ventura Police Department (15 CCR 1142; 15 CCR 1047). The procedures will address:

(a) Immediate notification of the on-duty supervisor, Chief of Police, and Investigation Division Supervisor.

(b) Notification of the parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis of the juvenile.

(c) Notification of the appropriate prosecutor.

(d) Notification of the City attorney.

(e) Notification to the coroner.

(f) Notification of the juvenile court.

(g) In the case of a death, providing a report to the Attorney General under Government Code § 12525 within 10 calendar days of the death, and forwarding the same report to the Board of State and Community Corrections within the same time frame (15 CCR 1046).

(h) A medical and operational review of deaths and suicide attempts pursuant to 15 CCR 1046.

(i) Evidence preservation.

324.13 INTERVIEWING OR INTERROGATING JUVENILE SUSPECTS

No interview or interrogation of a juvenile should occur unless the juvenile has the apparent capacity to consent, and does consent to an interview or interrogation.

Prior to conducting a custodial interrogation, including the waiver of *Miranda* rights, an officer shall permit a juvenile 17 years of age or younger to consult with legal counsel in person, by telephone, or by video conference. The consultation may not be waived by the juvenile. The requirement to consult with legal counsel does not apply when (Welfare and Institutions Code § 625.6):

(a) Information is necessary to protect life or property from an imminent threat.

(b) The questions are limited to what is reasonably necessary to obtain the information relating to the threat.

324.14 FORMAL BOOKING

No juvenile offender shall be formally booked without the authorization of the arresting officer's supervisor, or in his/her absence, the Watch Commander.

Any juvenile 14 years of age or older who is taken into custody for a felony, or any juvenile whose acts amount to a sex crime, shall be booked, fingerprinted, and photographed.

For all other acts defined as crimes, juveniles may be booked, fingerprinted or photographed upon the approval from the Watch Commander or Detective Bureau supervisor, giving due consideration to the following:

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(a) The gravity of the offense

(b) The past record of the offender

(c) The age of the offender

324.15 RELEASE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING JUVENILES

Court decisions and legislation have combined to carefully specify situations in which information may be given out or exchanged when a case involves a juvenile. Members of this department shall not divulge any information regarding juveniles unless they are certain of the legal authority to do so.

A copy of the current policy of the juvenile court concerning authorized release of information and appropriate acknowledgment forms shall be kept with copies of this procedure in the Ventura Police Department Policy Manual. Such releases are authorized by Welfare and Institutions Code § 827.

Welfare and Institutions Code § 828 authorizes the release of certain information to other agencies. It shall be the responsibility of the Records Supervisor and the appropriate Detective Bureau supervisors to ensure that personnel of those bureaus act within legal guidelines.

324.16 BOARD OF STATE AND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS CERTIFICATION

The Patrol Assistant Chief shall coordinate the procedures related to the custody of juveniles held at the Ventura Police Department and ensure any required certification is maintained (Welfare and Institution Code § 210.2).

324.17 RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION

Juveniles have the right to the same religious accommodation as adults in temporary custody (see the Temporary Custody of Adults Policy).

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Senior and Disability Victimization

326.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the investigation and reporting of suspected abuse of certain adults who may be more vulnerable than others. This policy also addresses mandatory notification for Ventura Police Department members as required by law (Penal Code § 368.6).

The Ventura Police Department is committed to providing equal protection and demonstrating respect for all persons regardless of age or disabilities, and to conscientiously enforcing all criminal laws protecting elders, and adults and children with disabilities, regardless of whether these crimes also carry civil penalties (Penal Code § 368.6) (see Child Abuse Policy for child abuse investigations and reporting).

326.2 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Adult Abuse - Any offense or attempted offense involving violence or neglect of adults over the age of 65 or any offense or attempted offense involving a dependent adult victim committed by a caregiver. This also includes any other act that would mandate notification to a social service/licensing agency or law enforcement related to the abuse of an adult (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15610.07; Welfare and Institutions Code § 15610.27; Welfare and Institutions Code § 15610.23).

Dependent Adult - Any person residing in this state, between 18 and 64 years of age, who has physical or mental limitations that restrict his/her ability to carry out normal activities or to protect his/her rights including, but not limited to, persons who have physical or developmental disabilities or whose physical or mental abilities have diminished because of age. This includes any person between 18 and 64 years of age who is admitted as an inpatient to a 24-hour health facility, as defined in state law (Health and Safety Code § 1250; Health and Safety Code § 1250.2; Health and Safety Code § 1250.3).

326.3 MANDATORY NOTIFICATION

Any member who has observed or has knowledge of an incident that reasonably appears to be adult abuse, is told by an elder or dependent adult that he/she has experienced abuse or who reasonably suspects abuse, shall report to the county adult protective services agency as soon as practicable as provided in Welfare and Institutions Code § 15630.

For purposes of notification, abuse is physical abuse, abandonment, abduction, isolation, financial abuse or neglect. Physical abuse includes any assault or sex crime (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15610.63). Financial abuse includes taking personal or real property by undue influence or intent to defraud (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15610.30). Notification is also made in cases of abandonment, abduction, isolation and neglect (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15610.05;

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Welfare and Institutions Code § 15610.06; Welfare and Institutions Code § 15610.43; Welfare and Institutions Code § 15610.57).

Notification should also be made to the following agencies as soon as practicable or as provided below (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15630):

(a) If the abuse is physical abuse and occurred in a long-term care facility (not a state mental health hospital or a state developmental center) notification shall be made as follows (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15630(b)(1)):

1. If there is serious bodily injury, notification shall be made by telephone and, within two hours, a written report shall be made to the local ombudsman and the corresponding licensing agency.
2. If there is physical abuse and no serious bodily injury, notification shall be made by telephone and, within 24 hours, a written report shall be made to the local ombudsman and the corresponding licensing agency.
3. If the abuse is allegedly caused by a resident with dementia and there is no serious bodily injury, notification shall be made by telephone and a written report to the local ombudsman within 24 hours.

(b) If the abuse is in a long-term care facility (not a state mental health or a state developmental center) and is other than physical abuse, a telephone report and a written report shall be made to the local ombudsman.

(c) The State Department of Public Health shall be notified of all known or suspected abuse occurring in a long-term facility.

(d) The Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse shall be notified of all abuse that constitutes criminal activity in a long-term care facility.

(e) The District Attorney's office shall be notified of all cases of physical abuse and financial abuse in a long-term care facility.

(f) If the abuse occurred at a state mental hospital or a state developmental center, notification shall be made to the designated investigators of the State Department of State Hospitals or the State Department of Developmental Services as soon as practicable but no later than two hours after law enforcement becomes aware of the abuse.

(g) If the abuse occurred at a residential care facility for the elderly or adult day program, the State Department of Social Services shall be notified.

(h) If the abuse occurred in an adult day health care center, the State Department of Public Health and the California Department of Aging shall be notified.

Failure to make a report within two working days or as provided is a misdemeanor (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15630(h)).

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The Detective Bureau supervisor is responsible for ensuring that proper notifications have occurred to the District Attorney's Office and any other regulatory agency that may be applicable based upon where the abuse took place (e.g., care facility, hospital) per Welfare and Institutions Code § 15630(b).

326.3.1 RECORDS UNIT RESPONSIBILITY
The Records Unit is responsible for the following:

(a) Provide a copy of the elder/dependent abuse report to Adult Protective Services. This requirement is applicable even if the initial call was received from Adult Protective Services.

(b) Retain the original elder/dependent abuse report with the initial case file.

326.4 OFFICER'S RESPONSE

All incidents involving actual or suspected adult abuse shall be fully investigated and appropriately documented.

326.4.1 INITIAL RESPONSE
Officers may be called upon to effect a forced entry as the first responder to the scene of suspected adult abuse. Entry should be immediate when it appears reasonably necessary to protect life or property. When the need for an emergency entry is not evident, officers should seek supervisory approval. Officers must be prepared to provide emergency care pending the arrival of medical personnel, if not already present.

326.4.2 STABILIZE THE SITUATION
Officers must quickly assess the situation in an effort to ensure the immediate safety of all persons. Officers shall also consider taking the following actions:

(a) Attempt to identify the victim, suspect and witnesses as well as the roles and relationships of all parties. Parties should be interviewed separately when possible.

(b) Preserve the crime scene where evidence may be present. All persons should be removed from the scene until it has been photographed and processed. Any evidence that may change in appearance (e.g., injuries) should be photographed as soon as practicable.

(c) Assess and define the nature of the problem. Officers should assess the available information to determine the type of abuse that may have taken place or the potential for abuse in the future that may be eliminated by intervention.

(d) Make on-scene arrests when appropriate. Officers may arrest a person without a warrant when probable cause exists to believe that the person has committed an assault or battery, whether or not the assault or battery has in fact been committed, upon an adult to whom the suspect is related by blood or legal guardianship, provided the arrest is made at the time probable cause arises (Penal Code § 836).

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If an arrest is not otherwise required by law, officers should consider the consequences that the immediate arrest of a sole supporting family caretaker might have on the victim. The decision to arrest should be based on the best interests and caretaking needs of the elderly or dependent adult victim. The present and future safety of the victim is of utmost importance.

326.4.3 SUPPORT PERSONNEL

The following persons should be considered for notification if it appears an in-depth investigation is appropriate:

- Patrol supervisor
- Detective personnel
- Evidence collection personnel
- Protective Services Agency personnel
- Ombudsman shall be called if the abuse is in a long-term care facility, to coordinate efforts to provide the most immediate and appropriate response (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15630(b)).
- Investigation efforts shall be coordinated with the designated investigators of the State Department of State Hospitals or the State Department of Developmental Services if the abuse occurred in a state mental hospital or state developmental center (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15630(b)).

326.4.4 EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE ORDERS

In any situation which an officer reasonably believes that an elder or dependent adult is in immediate and present danger of abuse based on an allegation of a recent incident of abuse or threat of abuse (other than financial abuse alone), the officer may seek an emergency protective order against the person alleged to have committed or threatened such abuse (Family Code § 6250(d)).

326.5 ADULT ABUSE REPORTING

Every allegation of adult abuse shall be documented in a report. When documenting elder/dependent abuse cases the following information should also be included in the report:

- Current location of the victim
- Victim's condition/nature and extent of injuries, neglect or loss
- Names of agencies and personnel requested and on scene

Reporting cases of adult abuse is confidential and will only be released in accordance with the Release of Records and Information Policy.

Officers investigating adult abuse shall complete a State of California form SOC 341 (Report of Suspected Dependent Adult/Elder Abuse).

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326.6 RECORDS BUREAU RESPONSIBILITIES

The Records Unit is responsible for:

(a) Providing a copy of the elder or dependent adult abuse report to the APS, ombudsman, or other agency as applicable within two working days or as required by law (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15630; Welfare and Institutions Code § 15640(c)).

(b) Retaining the original elder or dependent adult abuse report with the initial case file.

326.7 JURISDICTION

The Ventura Police Department has concurrent jurisdiction with state law enforcement agencies when investigating elder and dependent adult abuse and all other crimes against elder victims and victims with disabilities (Penal Code § 368.5).

Adult protective services agencies and local long-term care ombudsman programs also have jurisdiction within their statutory authority to investigate elder and dependent adult abuse and criminal neglect and may assist in criminal investigations upon request, if consistent with federal law, in such cases. However, this department will retain responsibility for the criminal investigations (Penal Code § 368.5).

Additional jurisdiction responsibilities for investigations of abuse involving various facilities and agencies may be found in Welfare and Institutions Code § 15650.

326.8 ELDER AND DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE LIAISON

A department member appointed by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee will serve as the Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Liaison. Responsibilities of the liaison include but are not limited to (Penal Code § 368.6):

(a) Acting as a liaison to other responsible agencies (defined by Penal Code § 368.6(b)(15)) to increase cooperation and collaboration among them while retaining the law enforcement agency's exclusive responsibility for criminal investigations (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15650).

(b) Reaching out to the senior and disability communities and to the public to encourage prevention and reporting of senior and disability victimization.

326.9 CHIEF OF POLICE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee responsibilities include but are not limited to (Penal Code § 368.6):

(a) Taking leadership within the Department and in the community, including by speaking out publicly in major cases of senior and disability victimization, to assure the community of department support for the victims and their families and for others in the community who are terrorized and traumatized by the crimes, and to encourage victims and witnesses to the crimes or similar past or future crimes to report those crimes to help bring the perpetrators to justice and prevent further crimes.

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(b) Developing and including department protocols in this policy, including but not limited to the following:

1. Protocols for seeking emergency protective orders by phone from a court at any time of day or night pursuant to Family Code § 6250(d).

2. Protocols for arrest warrants and arrests for senior and disability victimization for matters other than domestic violence and consistent with the requirements of Penal Code § 368.6(c)(9)(B) that include the following:

   (a) In the case of a senior and disability victimization committed in an officer's presence, including but not limited to a violation of a relevant protective order, the officer shall make a warrantless arrest based on probable cause when necessary or advisable to protect the safety of the victim or others.

   (b) In the case of a felony not committed in an officer's presence, the officer shall make a warrantless arrest based on probable cause when necessary or advisable to protect the safety of the victim or others.

   (c) In the case of a misdemeanor not committed in the officer's presence, including but not limited to misdemeanor unlawful interference with a mandated report or a misdemeanor violation of a relevant protective order, or when necessary or advisable to protect the safety of the victim or others, the agency shall seek an arrest warrant based on probable cause.

   (d) Protocol for seeking arrest warrants based on probable cause for crimes for which no arrest has been made.

3. Procedures for first responding officers to follow when interviewing persons with cognitive and communication disabilities until officers, or staff of other responsible agencies with more advanced training, are available. The procedure shall include an instruction to avoid repeated interviews whenever possible.

(c) For each department protocol, include either a specific title-by-title list of officer responsibilities or a specific office or unit in the Department responsible for implementing the protocol.

(d) Ensure an appendix is created and attached to this policy that describes requirements for elder and dependent adult abuse investigations consistent with Penal Code § 368.6(c)(8)(B).

(e) Ensure a detailed checklist is created and attached to this policy regarding first responding responsibilities that includes but is not limited to the requirements of Penal Code § 368.6(c)(23).

(f) Ensuring that all members carry out their responsibilities under this policy.

(g) Verifying a process is in place for transmitting and periodically retransmitting this policy and related orders to officers, including a simple and immediate way for officers to access the policy in the field when needed.

(h) Ensure this policy is available to the Protection and Advocacy Agency upon request.

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Discriminatory Harassment

328.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to prevent department members from being subjected to discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment and retaliation. Nothing in this policy is intended to create a legal or employment right or duty that is not created by law.

328.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to creating and maintaining a work environment that is free of all forms of discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment and retaliation (Government Code § 12940(k); 2 CCR 11023). The Department will not tolerate discrimination against a member in hiring, promotion, discharge, compensation, fringe benefits and other privileges of employment. The Department will take preventive and corrective action to address any behavior that violates this policy or the rights it is designed to protect.

The nondiscrimination policies of the Department may be more comprehensive than state or federal law. Conduct that violates this policy may not violate state or federal law but still could subject a member to discipline.

328.3 DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED

328.3.1 DISCRIMINATION

The Department prohibits all forms of discrimination, including any employment-related action by a member that adversely affects an applicant or member and is based on actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and any other classification or status protected by law.

Discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment, is verbal or physical conduct that demeans or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual based upon that individual's protected class. It has the effect of interfering with an individual's work performance or creating a hostile or abusive work environment.

Conduct that may, under certain circumstances, constitute discriminatory harassment can include making derogatory comments; making crude and offensive statements or remarks; making slurs or off-color jokes, stereotyping; engaging in threatening acts; making indecent gestures, pictures, cartoons, posters, or material; making inappropriate physical contact; or using written material or department equipment and/or systems to transmit or receive offensive material, statements, or pictures. Such conduct is contrary to department policy and to a work environment that is free of discrimination.

328.3.2 SEXUAL HARASSMENT

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The Department prohibits all forms of discrimination and discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment. It is unlawful to harass an applicant or an employee because of that person's sex.

Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

(a) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment, position or compensation.

(b) Submission to, or rejection of, such conduct is used as the basis for any employment decisions affecting the member.

(c) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a member's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

328.3.3 ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Discrimination and discriminatory harassment do not include actions that are in accordance with established rules, principles, or standards, including:

(a) Acts or omission of acts based solely upon bona fide occupational qualifications under the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the California Fair Employment and Housing Council guidelines.

(b) Bona fide requests or demands by a supervisor that the member improve the member's work quality or output, that the member report to the job site on time, that the member comply with City or department rules or regulations, or any other appropriate work-related communication between supervisor and member.

328.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

This policy applies to all department personnel. All members shall follow the intent of these guidelines in a manner that reflects department policy, professional standards, and the best interest of the Department and its mission.

Members are encouraged to promptly report any discriminatory, retaliatory, or harassing conduct or known violations of this policy to a supervisor. Any member who is not comfortable with reporting violations of this policy to the member's immediate supervisor may bypass the chain of command and make the report to a higher-ranking supervisor or manager. Complaints may also be filed with the Chief of Police, the Director of Human Resources, or the City Manager.

Any member who believes, in good faith, that the member has been discriminated against, harassed, or subjected to retaliation, or who has observed harassment, discrimination, or retaliation, is encouraged to promptly report such conduct in accordance with the procedures set forth in this policy.

Supervisors and managers receiving information regarding alleged violations of this policy shall determine if there is any basis for the allegation and shall proceed with resolution as stated below.

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328.4.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of supervisors and managers shall include but are not limited to:

(a) Continually monitoring the work environment and striving to ensure that it is free from all types of unlawful discrimination, including harassment or retaliation.

(b) Taking prompt, appropriate action within their work units to avoid and minimize the incidence of any form of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.

(c) Ensuring that their subordinates understand their responsibilities under this policy.

(d) Ensuring that members who make complaints or who oppose any unlawful employment practices are protected from retaliation and that such matters are kept confidential to the extent possible.

(e) Making a timely determination regarding the substance of any allegation based upon all available facts.

(f) Notifying the Chief of Police or the Director of Human Resources in writing of the circumstances surrounding any reported allegations or observed acts of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation no later than the next business day.

328.4.2 SUPERVISOR'S ROLE

Supervisors and managers shall be aware of the following:

(a) Behavior of supervisors and managers should represent the values of the Department and professional standards.

(b) False or mistaken accusations of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation can have negative effects on the careers of innocent members.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent supervisors or managers from discharging supervisory or management responsibilities, such as determining duty assignments, evaluating or counseling members, or issuing discipline, in a manner that is consistent with established procedures.

328.5 INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS

Various methods of resolution exist. During the pendency of any such investigation, the supervisor of the involved member should take prompt and reasonable steps to mitigate or eliminate any continuing abusive or hostile work environment. It is the policy of the Department that all complaints of discrimination, retaliation or harassment shall be fully documented and promptly and thoroughly investigated.

328.5.1 SUPERVISOR RESOLUTION

Members who believe they are experiencing discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should be encouraged to inform the individual that the behavior is unwelcome, offensive, unprofessional, or inappropriate. However, if the member feels uncomfortable or threatened or has difficulty expressing the member's concern, or if this does not resolve the concern, assistance should be sought from a supervisor or manager who is a rank higher than the alleged transgressor.

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328.5.2 FORMAL INVESTIGATION

If the complaint cannot be satisfactorily resolved through the supervisory resolution process, a formal investigation will be conducted.

The person assigned to investigate the complaint will have full authority to investigate all aspects of the complaint. Investigative authority includes access to records and the cooperation of any members involved. No influence will be used to suppress any complaint and no member will be subject to retaliation or reprisal for filing a complaint, encouraging others to file a complaint, or for offering testimony or evidence in an investigation.

Formal investigation of the complaint will be confidential to the extent possible and will include but is not limited to details of the specific incident, frequency and dates of occurrences, and names of any witnesses. Witnesses will be advised regarding the prohibition against retaliation, and that a disciplinary process, up to and including termination, may result if retaliation occurs.

Members who believe they have been discriminated against, harassed, or retaliated against because of their protected status, are encouraged to follow the chain of command but may also file a complaint directly with the Chief of Police, the Director of Human Resources, or the City Manager.

328.5.3 ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCESS

No provision of this policy shall be construed to prevent any member from seeking legal redress outside the Department. Members who believe that they have been harassed, discriminated against, or retaliated against are entitled to bring complaints of employment discrimination to federal, state, and/or local agencies responsible for investigating such allegations. Specific time limitations apply to the filing of such charges. Members are advised that proceeding with complaints under the provisions of this policy does not in any way affect those filing requirements.

328.6 DOCUMENTATION OF COMPLAINTS

All complaints or allegations shall be thoroughly documented on forms and in a manner designated by the Chief of Police. The outcome of all reports shall be:

(a) Approve by the Chief of Police, the City Manager, or the Director of Human Resources, depending on the ranks of the involved parties.

(b) Maintained in accordance with the department's established records retention schedule.

328.7 DOCUMENTATION OF COMPLAINTS

All complaints or allegations shall be thoroughly documented on forms and in a manner designated by the Chief of Police. The outcome of all reports shall be:

- Approved by the Chief of Police, the City Manager or the Director of Human Resources if more appropriate
- Maintained for the period established in the department's records retention schedule

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328.8 TRAINING

All new members shall be provided with a copy of this policy as part of their orientation. The policy shall be reviewed with each new member. The member shall certify by signing the prescribed form that the member has been advised of this policy, is aware of and understands its contents, and agrees to abide by its provisions during the member's term with the Department.

All members shall receive annual training on the requirements of this policy and shall certify by signing the prescribed form that they have reviewed the policy, understand its contents, and agree that they will continue to abide by its provisions.

328.8.1 QUESTIONS REGARDING DISCRIMINATION OR SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Members with questions regarding discrimination or sexual harassment are encouraged to contact a supervisor, manager, the Chief of Police, Director of Human Resources or the City Manager, or they may contact the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing.

328.9 WORKING CONDITIONS

The Administrative Operations Assistant Chief or the authorized designee should be responsible for reviewing facility design and working conditions for discriminatory practices. This person should collaborate with other City employees who are similarly tasked (2 CCR 11034).

328.10 REQUIRED POSTERS

The Department shall display the required posters regarding discrimination, harassment and transgender rights in a prominent and accessible location for members (Government Code § 12950).

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Child Abuse

330.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the investigation of suspected child abuse. This policy also addresses when Ventura Police Department members are required to notify the county Child Protective Services (CPS) of suspected child abuse.

330.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Child - Unless otherwise specified by a cited statute, a child is any person under the age of 18 years.

Child abuse - Any offense or attempted offense involving violence or neglect with a child victim when committed by a person responsible for the child's care or any other act that would mandate notification to a social service agency or law enforcement (Penal Code § 11165.9; Penal Code § 11166).

330.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department will investigate all reported incidents of alleged criminal child abuse and ensure CPS is notified as required by law.

330.3 MANDATORY NOTIFICATION

The child protection agency shall be notified when (Penal Code § 11166):

(a) There is a known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect reported, which is alleged to have occurred as a result of the action of a person responsible for the child's welfare, or

(b) A person responsible for the child's welfare fails to adequately protect the child from abuse when the person knew or reasonably should have known that the child was in danger of abuse.

The District Attorney's office shall be notified in all instances of known or suspected child abuse or neglect reported to this department. Notification of the District Attorney is not required for reports only involving neglect by a person, who has the care or custody of a child, to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision where no physical injury to the child has occurred (Penal Code § 11166).

When the abuse or neglect occurs at a licensed facility or is alleged to have resulted from the actions of a person who is required to have a state license (e.g., foster homes, group homes, day care), notification shall also be made to the California Department of Social Services or other applicable licensing authority. When the alleged abuse or neglect involves a child of a minor parent or a dependent adult, notification shall also be made to the attorney of the minor or the dependent adult within 36 hours (Penal Code 11166.1; Penal Code 11166.2).

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For purposes of notification, the abuse or neglect includes physical injury or death inflicted by other than accidental means upon a child by another person; sexual abuse (Penal Code § 11165.1); neglect (Penal Code § 11165.2); the willful harming or injuring of a child or the endangering of the person or health of a child (Penal Code § 11165.3); and unlawful corporal punishment or injury (Penal Code § 11165.4). Child abuse or neglect does not include a mutual affray between minors, nor does it include an injury caused by the reasonable and necessary force used by a peace officer acting within the course and scope of the peace officer's employment as a peace officer.

330.3.1 NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Notification should occur as follows (Penal Code § 11166):

(a) Notification shall be made immediately, or as soon as practicable, by telephone, fax or electronic transmission.

(b) A written follow-up report should be forwarded within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident.

330.4 QUALIFIED INVESTIGATORS

Qualified investigators should be available for child abuse investigations. These investigators should:

(a) Conduct interviews in child appropriate interview facilities.

(b) Be familiar with forensic interview techniques specific to child abuse investigations.

(c) Present all cases of alleged child abuse to the prosecutor for review.

(d) Coordinate with other enforcement agencies, social service agencies and school administrators as needed.

(e) Provide referrals to therapy services, victim advocates, guardians and support for the child and family as appropriate.

(f) Participate in or coordinate with multidisciplinary investigative teams as applicable (Welfare and Institutions Code § 18961.7).

330.5 INVESTIGATIONS AND REPORTING

In all reported or suspected cases of child abuse, a report will be written. Officers shall write a report even if the allegations appear unfounded or unsubstantiated.

Investigations and reports related to suspected cases of child abuse should address, as applicable:

(a) The overall basis for the contact. This should be done by the investigating officer in all circumstances where a suspected child abuse victim was contacted.

(b) The exigent circumstances that existed if officers interviewed the child victim without the presence of a parent or guardian.

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(c) Any relevant statements the child may have made and to whom he/she made the statements.

(d) If a child was taken into protective custody, the reasons, the name and title of the person making the decision, and why other alternatives were not appropriate.

(e) Documentation of any visible injuries or any injuries identified by the child. This should include photographs of such injuries, if practicable.

(f) Whether the child victim was transported for medical treatment or a medical examination.

(g) Whether the victim identified a household member as the alleged perpetrator, and a list of the names of any other children who may reside in the residence.

(h) Identification of any prior related reports or allegations of child abuse, including other jurisdictions, as reasonably known.

(i) Previous addresses of the victim and suspect.

(j) Other potential witnesses who have not yet been interviewed, such as relatives or others close to the victim's environment.

All cases of the unexplained death of a child should be investigated as thoroughly as if it had been a case of suspected child abuse (e.g., a sudden or unexplained death of an infant).

330.5.1 EXTRA JURISDICTIONAL REPORTS

If a report of known or suspected child abuse or neglect that is alleged to have occurred outside this jurisdiction is received, department members shall ensure that the caller is immediately transferred to the agency with proper jurisdiction for the investigation of the case. If the caller cannot be successfully transferred to the appropriate agency, a report shall be taken and immediately referred by telephone, fax or electronic transfer to the agency with proper jurisdiction (Penal Code 11165.9).

330.6 PROTECTIVE CUSTODY

Before taking any child into protective custody, the officer should make reasonable attempts to contact CPS. Generally, removal of a child from his/her family, guardian or other responsible adult should be left to the child welfare authorities when they are present or have become involved in an investigation.

Generally, members of this department should remove a child from his/her parent or guardian without a court order only when no other effective alternative is reasonably available and immediate action reasonably appears necessary to protect the child. Prior to taking a child into protective custody, the officer should take reasonable steps to deliver the child to another qualified parent or legal guardian, unless it reasonably appears that the release would endanger the child or result in abduction. If this is not a reasonable option, the officer shall ensure that the child is delivered to CPS.

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Whenever practicable, the officer should inform a supervisor of the circumstances prior to taking a child into protective custody. If prior notification is not practicable, officers should contact a supervisor promptly after taking a child into protective custody.

Children may only be removed from a parent or guardian in the following situations when a court order cannot reasonably be obtained in a timely manner (Welfare and Institutions Code § 305):

(a) The officer reasonably believes the child is a person described in Welfare and Institutions Code § 300, or a commercially exploited child under Penal Code § 647 and Penal Code § 653.22, and further has good cause to believe that any of the following conditions exist:

1. The child has an immediate need for medical care.
2. The child is in immediate danger of physical or sexual abuse.
3. The physical environment or the fact that the child is left unattended poses an immediate threat to the child's health or safety. In the case of a child left unattended, the officer shall first attempt to locate and determine if a responsible parent or guardian is available and capable of assuming custody before taking the child into protective custody.

(b) The officer reasonably believes the child requires protective custody under the provisions of Penal Code § 279.6, in one of the following circumstances:

1. It reasonably appears to the officer that a person is likely to conceal the child, flee the jurisdiction with the child or, by flight or concealment, evade the authority of the court.
2. There is no lawful custodian available to take custody of the child.
3. There are conflicting custody orders or conflicting claims to custody and the parties cannot agree which party should take custody of the child.
4. The child is an abducted child.

(c) The child is in the company of, or under the control of, a person arrested for Penal Code § 278 (Detainment or concealment of child from legal custodian) or Penal Code § 278.5 (Deprivation of custody of a child or right to visitation) (Penal Code § 279.6).

A child taken into protective custody shall be delivered to CPS unless otherwise directed by court order.

330.6.1 CALIFORNIA SAFELY SURRENDERED BABY LAW

An individual having lawful custody of an infant less than 72 hours old is not guilty of abandonment if the individual voluntarily surrenders physical custody of the infant to personnel on-duty at a safe-surrender site, such as a hospital or fire department (Penal Code § 271.5). The law requires the surrender site to notify CPS.

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330.6.2 NEWBORNS TESTING POSITIVE FOR DRUGS
Under certain circumstances, officers can be prohibited from taking a newborn who is the subject of a proposed adoption into protective custody, even when the newborn has tested positive for illegal drugs or the birth mother tested positive for illegal drugs.

Officers shall instead follow the provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code § 305.6 to ensure that the newborn is placed with the adoptive parents when it is appropriate.

330.7 INTERVIEWS

330.7.1 PRELIMINARY INTERVIEWS
Absent extenuating circumstances or impracticality, officers should record the preliminary interview with suspected child abuse victims. Officers should avoid multiple interviews with a child victim and should attempt to gather only the information necessary to begin an investigation. When practicable, investigating officers should defer interviews until a person who is specially trained in such interviews is available. Generally, child victims should not be interviewed in the home or location where the alleged abuse occurred.

330.7.2 DETAINING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE VICTIMS FOR AN INTERVIEW
An officer should not detain a child involuntarily who is suspected of being a victim of child abuse solely for the purpose of an interview or physical exam without the consent of a parent or guardian unless one of the following applies:

(a) Exigent circumstances exist, such as:

1. A reasonable belief that medical issues of the child need to be addressed immediately.
2. A reasonable belief that the child is or will be in danger of harm if the interview or physical exam is not immediately completed.
3. The alleged offender is the custodial parent or guardian and there is reason to believe the child may be in continued danger.

(b) A court order or warrant has been issued.

330.7.3 INTERVIEWS AT A SCHOOL
Any student at school who is a suspected victim of child abuse shall be afforded the option of being interviewed in private or selecting any qualified available adult member of the school staff to be present. The purpose of the staff member's presence is to provide comfort and support. The staff member shall not participate in the interview. The selection of a staff member should be such that it does not burden the school with costs or hardship (Penal Code § 11174.3).

330.8 MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS
If the child has been the victim of abuse that requires a medical examination, the investigating officer should obtain consent for such examination from the appropriate parent, guardian or agency

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having legal custody of the child. The officer should also arrange for the child's transportation to the appropriate medical facility.

In cases where the alleged offender is the custodial parent or guardian and is refusing consent for the medical examination, officers should notify a supervisor before proceeding. If exigent circumstances do not exist or if state law does not provide for officers to take the child for a medical examination, the notified supervisor should consider obtaining a court order for such an examination.

330.9 DRUG-ENDANGERED CHILDREN

A coordinated response by law enforcement and social services agencies is appropriate to meet the immediate and longer-term medical and safety needs of children exposed to the manufacturing, trafficking or use of narcotics.

330.9.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Detective Bureau supervisor should:

(a) Work with professionals from the appropriate agencies, including CPS, other law enforcement agencies, medical service providers and local prosecutors to develop community specific procedures for responding to situations where there are children endangered by exposure to methamphetamine labs or the manufacture and trafficking of other drugs.

(b) Activate any available interagency response when an officer notifies the Detective Bureau supervisor that the officer has responded to a drug lab or other narcotics crime scene where a child is present or where evidence indicates that a child lives there.

(c) Develop a report format or checklist for use when officers respond to drug labs or other narcotics crime scenes. The checklist will help officers document the environmental, medical, social and other conditions that may affect the child.

330.9.2 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Officers responding to a drug lab or other narcotics crime scene where a child is present or where there is evidence that a child lives should:

(a) Document the environmental, medical, social and other conditions of the child using photography as appropriate and the checklist or form developed for this purpose.

(b) Notify the Detective Bureau supervisor so an interagency response can begin.

330.10 STATE MANDATES AND OTHER RELEVANT LAWS

California requires or permits the following:

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330.10.1 RELEASE OF REPORTS

Information related to incidents of child abuse or suspected child abuse shall be confidential and may only be disclosed pursuant to state law and the Release of Records and Information Policy (Penal Code 841.5; Penal Code § 11167.5).

330.10.2 REQUESTS FOR REMOVAL FROM THE CHILD ABUSE CENTRAL INDEX (CACI)

Any person whose name has been forwarded to the California Department of Justice (DOJ) for placement in California's CACI, as a result of an investigation, may request that his/her name be removed from the CACI list. Requests shall not qualify for consideration if there is an active case, ongoing investigation or pending prosecution that precipitated the entry to CACI (Penal Code § 11169). All requests for removal shall be submitted in writing by the requesting person and promptly routed to the CACI hearing officer.

330.10.3 CACI HEARING OFFICER

The Detective Bureau supervisor will normally serve as the hearing officer but must not be actively connected with the case that resulted in the person's name being submitted to CACI. Upon receiving a qualified request for removal, the hearing officer shall promptly schedule a hearing to take place during normal business hours and provide written notification of the time and place of the hearing to the requesting party.

330.10.4 CACI HEARING PROCEDURES

The hearing is an informal process where the person requesting removal from the CACI list will be permitted to present relevant evidence (e.g., certified copy of an acquittal, factual finding of innocence) as to why his/her name should be removed. The person requesting the hearing may record the hearing at his/her own expense.

Formal rules of evidence will not apply and the hearing officer may consider, in addition to evidence submitted by the person requesting the hearing, any relevant information including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) Case reports including any supplemental reports

(b) Statements by investigators

(c) Statements from representatives of the District Attorney's Office

(d) Statements by representatives of a child protective agency who may be familiar with the case

After considering all information presented, the hearing officer shall make a determination as to whether the requesting party's name should be removed from the CACI list. Such determination shall be based on a finding that the allegations in the investigation are not substantiated (Penal Code § 11169).

If, after considering the evidence, the hearing officer finds that the allegations are not substantiated, he/she shall cause a request to be completed and forwarded to the DOJ that the

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person's name be removed from the CACI list. A copy of the hearing results and the request for removal will be attached to the case reports.

The findings of the hearing officer shall be considered final and binding.

330.10.5 CHILD DEATH REVIEW TEAM

This department should cooperate with any interagency child death review team investigation. Written and oral information relating to the death of a child that would otherwise be subject to release restrictions may be disclosed to the child death review team upon written request and approval of a supervisor (Penal Code § 11174.32).

330.11 TRAINING

The Department should provide training on best practices in child abuse investigations to members tasked with investigating these cases. The training should include:

(a) Participating in multidisciplinary investigations, as appropriate.

(b) Conducting forensic interviews.

(c) Availability of therapy services for children and families.

(d) Availability of specialized forensic medical exams.

(e) Cultural competence (including interpretive services) related to child abuse investigations.

(f) Availability of victim advocate or guardian ad litem support.

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Missing Persons

332.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance for handling missing person investigations.

332.1.1 DEFINITIONS

At risk - Includes, but is not limited to (Penal Code § 14213) the following:

- A victim of a crime or foul play
- A person missing and in need of medical attention
- A missing person with no pattern of running away or disappearing
- A missing person who may be the victim of parental abduction
- A mentally impaired missing person

Missing Person - Any person who is reported missing to law enforcement when the person's location is unknown. This includes a child who has been taken, detained, concealed, enticed away or kept by a parent in violation of the law (Penal Code § 277 et seq.). It also includes any child who is missing voluntarily, involuntarily or under circumstances that do not conform to his/her ordinary habits or behavior, and who may be in need of assistance (Penal Code § 14213).

Missing person networks - Those databases or computer networks available to law enforcement and that are suitable for information related to missing persons investigations. These include the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS), Missing Person System (MPS) and the Unidentified Persons System (UPS).

332.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department does not consider any report of a missing person to be routine and assumes that the missing person is in need of immediate assistance until an investigation reveals otherwise. The Ventura Police Department gives missing person cases priority over property-related cases and will not require any time frame to pass before beginning a missing person investigation (Penal Code § 14211).

332.3 REQUIRED FORMS AND BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE COLLECTION KITS

The Investigation supervisor should ensure the forms and kits are developed and available in accordance with this policy, state law, federal law and the California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Missing Persons Investigations guidelines, including:

- Department report form for use in missing person cases

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- Missing person investigation checklist that provides investigation guidelines and resources that could be helpful in the early hours of a missing person investigation (Penal Code § 13519.07)
- Missing person school notification form
- Medical records release form from the California Department of Justice
- California DOJ missing person forms as appropriate
- Biological sample collection kits

332.4 ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

Any employee encountering a person who wishes to report a missing person or runaway shall render assistance without delay (Penal Code § 14211). This can be accomplished by accepting the report via telephone or in-person and inintiating the investigation. Those employees who do not take such reports or who are unable to render immediate assistance shall promptly dispatch or alert an employee who can take the report. A report shall be accepted in all cases and regardless of where the person was last seen, where the person resides or any other question of jurisdiction (Penal Code § 14211).

In all cases involving a person at-risk or a child under 13 years of age, the handling employee shall ensure that a patrol supervisor and major crimes supervisor are notified.

332.5 INITIAL INVESTIGATION

Officers or other employees conducting the initial investigation of a missing person should take the following investigative actions, as applicable:

(a) Respond to a dispatched call for service as soon as practicable.

(b) Interview the reporting person and any witnesses to determine whether the person qualifies as a missing person and, if so, whether the person may be at risk.

(c) Notify a supervisor immediately if there is evidence that a missing person is either at risk or may qualify for a public alert, or both (see the Public Alerts Policy).

(d) Broadcast a “Be on the Look-Out” (BOLO) bulletin if the person is under 16 years of age or there is evidence that the missing person is at risk. The BOLO should be broadcast as soon as practicable but in no event more than one hour after determining the missing person is under 16 or may be at risk (Penal Code § 14211).

(e) Ensure that entries are made into the appropriate missing person networks as follows:

1. Immediately, when the missing person is at risk.
2. In all other cases, as soon as practicable, but not later than two hours from the time of the initial report.

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(f) Complete the appropriate report forms accurately and completely and initiate a search as applicable under the facts.

(g) Collect and/or review the following:

1. A photograph and a fingerprint card of the missing person, if available.
2. A voluntarily provided biological sample of the missing person, if available (e.g., toothbrush, hairbrush).
3. Any documents that may assist in the investigation, such as court orders regarding custody.
4. Any other evidence that may assist in the investigation, including personal electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, computers).

(h) When circumstances permit and if appropriate, attempt to determine the missing person's location through their telecommunications carrier.

(i) Contact the appropriate agency if the report relates to a previously made missing person report and another agency is actively investigating that report. When this is not practical, the information should be documented in an appropriate report for transmission to the appropriate agency. If the information relates to an at-risk missing person, the officer should notify a supervisor and proceed with reasonable steps to locate the missing person.

332.6 REPORT PROCEDURES AND ROUTING

Employees should complete all missing person reports and forms promptly and advise the appropriate supervisor as soon as a missing person report is ready for review.

332.6.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The supervisor shall review and approve missing person reports upon receipt and ensure resources are deployed as appropriate. The reports should be promptly sent to Records Unit.

The supervisor shall also ensure applicable notifications and public alerts are made and documented and that records have been entered into the appropriate missing person networks.

The supervisor should also take reasonable steps to identify and address any jurisdictional issues to ensure cooperation between agencies.

332.6.2 RECORDS UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

The receiving member shall:

(a) As soon as reasonable under the circumstances, notify and forward a copy of the report to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the missing person’s residence in cases where the missing person is a resident of another jurisdiction (Penal Code § 14211).

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(b) Notify and forward a copy of the report to the law enforcement agency in whose jurisdiction the missing person was last seen (Penal Code § 14211).

(c) Notify and forward a copy of the report to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the missing person's intended or possible destination, if known.

(d) Forward a copy of the report to the Detective Bureau.

(e) Coordinate with the NCIC Terminal Contractor for California to have the missing person record in the NCIC computer networks updated with additional information obtained from missing person investigations (34 USC § 41308).

332.7 DETECTIVE BUREAU FOLLOW-UP

In addition to completing or continuing any actions listed above, the investigator assigned to a missing person investigation:

(a) Shall ensure that the missing person's school is notified within 10 days if the missing person is a juvenile.

1. The notice shall be in writing and should also include a photograph (Education Code § 49068.6).

2. The investigator should meet with school officials regarding the notice as appropriate to stress the importance of including the notice in the child's student file, along with contact information if the school receives a call requesting the transfer of the missing child's files to another school.

(b) Should recontact the reporting person and/or other witnesses within 30 days of the initial report and within 30 days thereafter to determine if any additional information has become available via the reporting party.

(c) Should consider contacting other agencies involved in the case to determine if any additional information is available.

(d) Shall verify and update CLETS, NCIC, and any other applicable missing person networks within 30 days of the original entry into the networks and every 30 days thereafter until the missing person is located (34 USC § 41308).

(e) Should continue to make reasonable efforts to locate the missing person and document these efforts at least every 30 days.

(f) Shall maintain a close liaison with state and local child welfare systems and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children® (NCMEC) if the missing person is under the age of 21 and shall promptly notify NCMEC when the person is missing from a foster care family home or childcare institution (34 USC § 41308).

(g) Should make appropriate inquiry with the Coroner.

(h) Should obtain and forward medical and dental records, photos, X-rays, and biological samples pursuant to Penal Code § 14212 and Penal Code § 14250.

(i) Shall attempt to obtain the most recent photograph for persons under 18 years of age if it has not previously been obtained and forward the photograph to California DOJ (Penal Code § 14210) and enter the photograph into applicable missing person networks (34 USC § 41308).

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(j) Should consider making appropriate entries and searches in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs).

(k) In the case of an at-risk missing person or a person who has been missing for an extended time, should consult with a supervisor regarding seeking federal assistance from the FBI and the U.S. Marshals Service (28 USC § 566).

332.8 WHEN A MISSING PERSON IS FOUND

When any person reported missing is found, the assigned investigator shall document the location of the missing person in the appropriate report, notify the relatives and/or reporting party, as appropriate, and other involved agencies and refer the case for additional investigation if warranted.

The Records Supervisor shall ensure that, upon receipt of information that a missing person has been located, the following occurs (Penal Code § 14213):

(a) Notification is made to California DOJ.

(b) The missing person's school is notified.

(c) Entries are made in the applicable missing person networks.

(d) Immediately notify the Attorney General's Office.

(e) Notification shall be made to any other law enforcement agency that took the initial report or participated in the investigation within 24 hours.

332.8.1 UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS

Department members investigating a case of an unidentified person who is deceased or a living person who cannot assist in identifying him/herself should:

(a) Obtain a complete description of the person.

(b) Enter the unidentified person's description into the NCIC Unidentified Person File.

(c) Use available resources, such as those related to missing persons, to identify the person.

332.9 CASE CLOSURE

The Detective Bureau supervisor may authorize the closure of a missing person case after considering the following:

(a) Closure is appropriate when the missing person is confirmed returned or evidence has matched an unidentified person or body.

(b) If the missing person is a resident of Ventura or this department is the lead agency, the case should be kept under active investigation for as long as the person may still be alive. Exhaustion of leads in the investigation should not be a reason for closing a case.

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(c) If this department is not the lead agency, the case can be made inactivate if all investigative leads have been exhausted, the lead agency has been notified and entries are made in the applicable missing person networks as appropriate.

(d) A missing person case should not be closed or reclassified because the person would have reached a certain age or adulthood or because the person is now the subject of a criminal or civil warrant.

332.10 TRAINING

Subject to available resources, the Professional Standards Sergeant should ensure that members of this department whose duties include missing person investigations and reports receive regular training that includes:

(a) The initial investigation:

1. Assessments and interviews
2. Use of current resources, such as Mobile Audio Video (MAV)
3. Confirming missing status and custody status of minors
4. Evaluating the need for a heightened response
5. Identifying the zone of safety based on chronological age and developmental stage

(b) Briefing of department members at the scene.

(c) Identifying NCIC Missing Person File categories (e.g., disability, endangered, involuntary, juvenile and catastrophe).

(d) Verifying the accuracy of all descriptive information.

(e) Initiating a neighborhood investigation.

(f) Investigating any relevant recent family dynamics.

(g) Addressing conflicting information.

(h) Key investigative and coordination steps.

(i) Managing a missing person case.

(j) Additional resources and specialized services.

(k) Update procedures for case information and descriptions.

(l) Preserving scenes.

(m) Internet and technology issues (e.g., Internet use, cell phone use).

(n) Media relations.

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Public Alerts

334.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for alerting the public to important information and soliciting public aid when appropriate.

334.2 POLICY

Public alerts may be employed using the Emergency Alert System (EAS), local radio, television and press organizations and other groups to notify the public of incidents, or enlist the aid of the public, when the exchange of information may enhance the safety of the community. Various types of alerts may be available based upon each situation and the alert system's individual criteria.

334.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

334.3.1 EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Employees of the Ventura Police Department should notify their supervisor, Watch Commander or Detective Bureau Supervisor as soon as practicable upon learning of a situation where public notification, a warning or enlisting the help of the media and public could assist in locating a missing person, apprehending a dangerous person or gathering information.

334.3.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

A supervisor apprised of the need for a public alert is responsible to make the appropriate notifications based upon the circumstances of each situation. The supervisor shall promptly notify the Chief of Police, the appropriate Assistant Chief and the Public Information Officer when any public alert is generated.

The supervisor in charge of the investigation to which the alert relates is responsible for the following:

(a) Updating alerts

(b) Canceling alerts

(c) Ensuring all appropriate reports are completed

(d) Preparing an after-action evaluation of the investigation to be forwarded to the Assistant Chief

334.4 AMBER ALERTS

The AMBER Alert™ Program is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, transportation agencies and the wireless industry, to activate urgent bulletins in child abduction cases.

334.4.1 CRITERIA FOR AMBER ALERT

The following conditions must be met before activating an AMBER Alert (Government Code § 8594(a)):

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(a) A child has been abducted or taken by anyone, including but not limited to a custodial parent or guardian.

(b) The victim is 17 years of age or younger, or has a proven mental or physical disability.

(c) The victim is in imminent danger of serious injury or death.

(d) There is information available that, if provided to the public, could assist in the child's safe recovery.

334.4.2 PROCEDURE FOR AMBER ALERT

The supervisor in charge will ensure the following:

(a) An initial press release is prepared that includes all available information that might aid in locating the child:

1. The child's identity, age and description
2. Photograph if available
3. The suspect's identity, age and description, if known
4. Pertinent vehicle description
5. Detail regarding location of incident, direction of travel, potential destinations, if known
6. Name and telephone number of the Public Information Officer or other authorized individual to handle media liaison
7. A telephone number for the public to call with leads or information

(b) The local California Highway Patrol communications center should be contacted to initiate a multi-regional or statewide EAS broadcast, following any policies and procedures developed by CHP (Government Code § 8594).

(c) The press release information is forwarded to the Sheriff's Department Emergency Communications Bureau so that general broadcasts can be made to local law enforcement agencies.

(d) Information regarding the missing person should be entered into the California Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (CLETS).

(e) Information regarding the missing person should be entered into the California Department of Justice Missing and Unidentified Persons System (MUPS)/National Crime Information Center (NCIC).

(f) The following resources should be considered as circumstances dictate:

1. The local FBI office
2. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

334.5 BLUE ALERTS

Blue Alerts may be issued when an officer is killed, injured or assaulted and the suspect may pose a threat to the public or other law enforcement personnel.

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334.5.1 CRITERIA FOR BLUE ALERTS

All of the following conditions must be met before activating a Blue Alert (Government Code § 8594.5):

(a) A law enforcement officer has been killed, suffered serious bodily injury or has been assaulted with a deadly weapon, and the suspect has fled the scene of the offense.

(b) The investigating law enforcement agency has determined that the suspect poses an imminent threat to the public or other law enforcement personnel.

(c) A detailed description of the suspect's vehicle or license plate is available for broadcast.

(d) Public dissemination of available information may help avert further harm or accelerate apprehension of the suspect.

334.5.2 PROCEDURE FOR BLUE ALERT

The supervisor in charge should ensure the following:

(a) An initial press release is prepared that includes all available information that might aid in locating the suspect:

1. The license number and/or any other available description or photograph of the vehicle
2. Photograph, description and/or identification of the suspect
3. The suspect's identity, age and description, if known
4. Detail regarding location of incident, direction of travel, potential destinations, if known
5. Name and telephone number of the Public Information Officer or other authorized individual to handle media liaison
6. A telephone number for the public to call with leads or information

(b) The local California Highway Patrol communications center is contacted to initiate a multi-regional or statewide EAS broadcast.

(c) The information in the press release is forwarded to the Sheriff's Department Emergency Communications Bureau so that general broadcasts can be made to local law enforcement agencies.

(d) The following resources should be considered as circumstances dictate:

1. Entry into the California Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (CLETS)
2. The FBI local office

334.6 SILVER ALERTS

Silver Alerts® is an emergency notification system for people who are 65 years of age or older, developmentally disabled or cognitively impaired and have been reported missing (Government Code § 8594.10).

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334.6.1 CRITERIA FOR SILVER ALERTS

All of the following conditions must be met before activating a Silver Alert (Government Code § 8594.10):

(a) The missing person is 65 years of age or older, developmentally disabled or cognitively impaired.

(b) The department has utilized all available local resources.

(c) The investigating officer or supervisor has determined that the person is missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances.

(d) The investigating officer or supervisor believes that the person is in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, environment or weather conditions, that the person is in the company of a potentially dangerous person, or that there are other factors indicating that the person may be in peril.

(e) There is information available that, if disseminated to the public, could assist in the safe recovery of the missing person.

334.6.2 PROCEDURE FOR SILVER ALERT

Requests for a Silver Alert shall be made through the California Highway Patrol (Government Code § 8594.10).

334.7 MUTUAL AID

The experiences of other law enforcement jurisdictions that have implemented similar plans indicate a public alert will generate a high volume of telephone calls to the handling agency.

The Sheriff's Department emergency communications facilities and staff can be made available in the event of a high call volume.

If the Watch Commander or Detective Bureau Supervisor elects to use the services of the Sheriff's Department, the following will apply:

(a) Notify the Sheriff's Department Watch Commander of the incident and the request for assistance. He/she will provide you with a telephone number for the public to call.

(b) In the press release, direct the public to the telephone number provided by the Sheriff's Department Watch Commander.

(c) The Public Information Officer will continue to handle all press releases and media inquiries. Any press inquiries received by the Sheriff's Department will be referred back to this department.

The Ventura Police Department shall assign a minimum of two detectives/officers to respond to the Sheriff's Department emergency communications facility to screen and relay information and any clues received from incoming calls. As circumstances dictate, more staff resources from the handling law enforcement agency may be necessary to assist the staff at the emergency communications facility.

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Victim and Witness Assistance

336.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that crime victims and witnesses receive appropriate assistance, that they are provided with information from government and private resources, and that the agency meets all related legal mandates.

336.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department is committed to providing guidance and assistance to the victims and witnesses of crime. The employees of the Ventura Police Department will show compassion and understanding for victims and witnesses and will make reasonable efforts to provide the support and information identified in this policy.

336.3 CRIME VICTIM LIAISON

The Chief of Police shall appoint a member of the Department to serve as the crime victim liaison (2 CCR 649.36). The crime victim liaison will be the point of contact for individuals requiring further assistance or information from the Ventura Police Department regarding benefits from crime victim resources. This person shall also be responsible for maintaining compliance with all legal mandates related to crime victims and/or witnesses.

336.3.1 CRIME VICTIM LIAISON DUTIES

The crime victim liaison is specifically tasked with the following:

(a) Developing and implementing written procedures for notifying and providing forms for filing with the California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB) to crime victims, their dependents, or family. Access to information or an application for victim compensation shall not be denied based on the victim's or derivative victim's designation as a gang member, associate, or affiliate, or on the person's documentation or immigration status (Government Code § 13962; 2 CCR 649.35; 2 CCR 649.36).

(b) Responding to inquiries concerning the procedures for filing a claim with CalVCB (2 CCR 649.36).

(c) Providing copies of crime reports requested by CalVCB or victim witness assistance centers. Disclosure of reports must comply with the Records Maintenance and Release Policy.

(d) Annually providing CalVCB with his/her contact information (Government Code § 13962).

(e) Developing in consultation with sexual assault experts a sexual assault victim card explaining the rights of victims under California law (Penal Code § 680.2).

    1. Ensuring that sufficient copies of the rights of sexual assault victim card are provided to each provider of medical evidentiary examinations or physical examinations arising out of sexual assault in the Ventura Police Department jurisdiction (Penal Code § 680.2).

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336.4 CRIME VICTIMS

Officers should provide all victims with the applicable victim information handouts.

Officers should never guarantee a victim's safety from future harm but may make practical safety suggestions to victims who express fear of future harm or retaliation. Officers should never guarantee that a person qualifies as a victim for the purpose of compensation or restitution but may direct him/her to the proper written department material or available victim resources.

336.4.1 VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Officers investigating or receiving a report involving a victim of human trafficking shall inform the victim, or the victim's parent or guardian if the victim is a minor, that upon the request of the victim the names and images of the victim and his/her immediate family members may be withheld from becoming a matter of public record until the conclusion of the investigation or prosecution (Penal Code § 293).

336.5 VICTIM INFORMATION

The Administrative Operations Supervisor shall ensure that victim information handouts are available and current. These should include as appropriate:

(a) Shelters and other community resources for victims of domestic violence.

(b) Community resources for victims of sexual assault.

(c) Assurance that sexual assault victims will not incur out-of-pocket expenses for forensic medical exams, and information about evidence collection, storage, and preservation in sexual assault cases (34 USC § 10449; 34 USC § 20109; Penal Code § 13823.95(a)).

(d) An explanation that victims of sexual assault who seek a standardized medical evidentiary examination shall not be required to participate or agree to participate in the criminal justice system, either prior to the examination or at any other time (Penal Code § 13823.95(b)).

(e) An advisement that a person who was arrested may be released on bond or some other form of release and that the victim should not rely upon an arrest as a guarantee of safety.

(f) A clear explanation of relevant court orders and how they can be obtained.

(g) Information regarding available compensation for qualifying victims of crime (Government Code § 13962).

(h) VINE® information (Victim Information and Notification Everyday), including the telephone number and whether this free service is available to allow victims to check on an offender's custody status and to register for automatic notification when a person is released from jail.

(i) Notice regarding U visa and T visa application processes.

(j) Resources available for victims of identity theft.

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(k) A place for the officer's name, badge number, and any applicable case or incident number.

(l) The "Victims of Domestic Violence" card containing the names, phone numbers, or local county hotlines of local shelters for battered women and rape victim counseling centers within the county and their 24-hour counseling service telephone numbers (Penal Code § 264.2).

(m) The rights of sexual assault victims card with the required information as provided in Penal Code § 680.2.

(n) Any additional information required by state law (Penal Code § 13701; Penal Code § 679.02; Penal Code § 679.04; Penal Code § 679.05; Penal Code § 679.026).

336.6 WITNESSES

Officers should never guarantee a witness' safety from future harm or that his/her identity will always remain confidential. Officers may make practical safety suggestions to witnesses who express fear of future harm or retaliation.

Officers should investigate allegations of witness intimidation and take enforcement action when lawful and reasonable.

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Hate Crimes

337.1 POLICY

It is the policy of this department to safeguard the rights of all individuals irrespective of their disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and/or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. Any acts or threats of violence, property damage, harassment, intimidation, or other crimes motivated by hate or bias should be viewed very seriously and given high priority.

This department will employ reasonably available resources and vigorous law enforcement action to identify and arrest hate crime perpetrators. Also, recognizing the particular fears and distress typically suffered by victims, the potential for reprisal and escalation of violence, and the far-reaching negative consequences of these crimes on the community, this department should take all reasonable steps to attend to the security and related concerns of the immediate victims and their families as feasible.

All officers are required to be familiar with the policy and use reasonable diligence to carry out the policy unless directed by the Chief of Police or other command-level officer to whom the Chief of Police formally delegates this responsibility.

337.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy is designed to assist in identifying and handling crimes motivated by hate or other bias toward individuals and groups with legally defined protected characteristics, to define appropriate steps for assisting victims, and to provide a guide to conducting related investigations. It outlines the general policy framework for prevention, response, accessing assistance, victim assistance and follow-up, and reporting as related to law enforcement's role in handling hate crimes. It also serves as a declaration that hate crimes are taken seriously and demonstrates how the Ventura Police Department may best use its resources to investigate and solve an offense, in addition to building community trust and increasing police legitimacy (Penal Code § 13519.6).

337.1.1 DEFINITION AND LAWS

In accordance with Penal Code § 422.55; Penal Code § 422.56; Penal Code § 422.6; and Penal Code § 422.87, for purposes of all other state law, unless an explicit provision of law or the context clearly requires a different meaning, the following shall apply:

Bias motivation - Bias motivation is a pre-existing negative attitude toward actual or perceived characteristics referenced in Penal Code § 422.55. Depending on the circumstances of each case, bias motivation may include but is not limited to hatred, animosity, discriminatory selection of victims, resentment, revulsion, contempt, unreasonable fear, paranoia, callousness, thrill-seeking, desire for social dominance, desire for social bonding with those of one's "own kind," or a perception of the vulnerability of the victim due to the victim being perceived as being weak, worthless, or fair game because of a protected characteristic, including but not limited to disability or gender.

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Disability - Disability includes mental disability and physical disability as defined in Government Code § 12926, regardless of whether those disabilities are temporary, permanent, congenital, or acquired by heredity, accident, injury, advanced age, or illness.

Disability bias - In recognizing suspected disability-bias hate crimes, officers should consider whether there is any indication that the perpetrator was motivated by hostility or other bias, occasioned by factors such as but not limited to dislike of persons who arouse fear or guilt, a perception that persons with disabilities are inferior and therefore “deserving victims,” a fear of persons whose visible traits are perceived as being disturbing to others, or resentment of those who need, demand, or receive alternative educational, physical, or social accommodations.

In recognizing suspected disability-bias hate crimes, officers should consider whether there is any indication that the perpetrator perceived the victim to be vulnerable and, if so, if this perception is grounded, in whole or in part, in anti-disability bias. This includes but is not limited to situations where a perpetrator targets a person with a particular perceived disability while avoiding other vulnerable-appearing persons, such as inebriated persons or persons with perceived disabilities different from those of the victim. Such circumstances could be evidence that the perpetrator’s motivations included bias against persons with the perceived disability of the victim and that the crime must be reported as a suspected hate crime and not a mere crime of opportunity.

Gender - Gender means sex and includes a person's gender identity and gender expression.

Gender expression - Gender expression means a person's gender-related appearance and behavior, regardless of whether it is stereotypically associated with the person's assigned sex at birth.

Gender identity - Gender identity means each person's internal understanding of their gender, or the perception of a person's gender identity, which may include male, female, a combination of male and female, neither male nor female, a gender different from the person's sex assigned at birth, or transgender (2 CCR § 11030).

Hate crime - “Hate crime” includes but is not limited to a violation of Penal Code § 422.6, and means a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim:

(a) Disability

(b) Gender

(c) Nationality

(d) Race or ethnicity

(e) Religion

(f) Sexual orientation

(g) Association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics:

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1. “Association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics" includes advocacy for, identification with, or being on the premises owned or rented by, or adjacent to, any of the following: a community center, educational facility, family, individual, office, meeting hall, place of worship, private institution, public agency, library, or other entity, group, or person that has, or is identified with people who have, one or more of the characteristics listed in the definition of “hate crime” under paragraphs 1 to 6, inclusive, of Penal Code § 422.55(a).

Note: A “hate crime” need not be motivated by hate but may be motivated by any bias against a protected characteristic.

Hate incident - A hate incident is an action or behavior motivated by hate or bias but legally protected by the First Amendment right to freedom of expression. Examples of hate incidents include:

- Name-calling
- Insults and epithets
- Distributing hate material in public places
- Displaying hate material on your own property

Hate speech - The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects most speech, even when it is disagreeable, offensive, or hurtful. The following types of speech are generally not protected:

- Fighting words
- True threats
- Perjury
- Blackmail
- Incitement to lawless action
- Conspiracy
- Solicitation to commit any crime

In whole or in part - “In whole or in part because of” means that the bias motivation must be a cause in fact of the offense whether or not other causes also exist. When multiple concurrent motives exist, the prohibited bias must be a substantial factor in bringing about the particular result. There is no requirement that the bias be a main factor, or that a crime would not have been committed but for the actual or perceived characteristic.

Nationality - Nationality means country of origin, immigration status, including citizenship, and national origin.

Race or ethnicity - Race or ethnicity includes ancestry, color, and ethnic background.

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Religion - Religion includes all aspects of religious belief, observance, and practice and includes agnosticism and atheism.

Sexual orientation - Sexual orientation means heterosexuality, homosexuality, or bisexuality.

Victim - Victim includes but is not limited to:

- Community center
- Educational facility
- Entity
- Family
- Group
- Individual
- Office
- Meeting hall
- Person
- Place of worship
- Private institution
- Public agency
- Library
- Other victim or intended victim of the offense

337.2 PLANNING AND PREVENTION

In order to facilitate the guidelines contained within this policy, department members will continuously work to build and strengthen relationships with the community, engage in dialogue, and provide education to the community about this policy. Department personnel are also encouraged to learn about the inherent issues concerning their communities in relation to hate crimes.

Although hate incidents are not criminal events, they can be indicators of, or precursors to, hate crimes. Hate incidents should be investigated and documented as part of an overall strategy to prevent hate crimes.

337.2.1 HATE CRIMES COORDINATOR

The Investigations Commander will serve as the Hate Crimes Coordinator. Underreporting of hate crimes is caused by victims not reporting hate crimes or hate incidents due to a number of factors, including fear of reprisal. There is also an extreme underreporting of anti-disability and anti-gender hate crimes. The responsibilities of the Hate Crimes Coordinator intend to build and strengthen relationships with the community, engage in dialogue, and provide education to the community

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about this policy to help reduce the underreporting of hate crimes. The responsibilities of the Hate Crimes Coordinator should include but not be limited to (Penal Code § 422.87):

(a) Meeting with residents in target communities to allay fears; emphasizing the department's concern over hate crimes and related incidents; reducing the potential for counter-violence; and providing safety, security, and crime-prevention information. Cultural diversity education and immersion programs (if available) could facilitate this process.

(b) Finding, evaluating, and monitoring public social media sources to identify possible suspects in reported hate crimes; to identify suspects or suspect groups in future hate crimes or hate incidents affecting individuals, groups, or communities that may be victimized; and to predict future hate-based events.

(c) Providing direct and referral assistance to the victim and the victim's family.

(d) Conducting public meetings on hate crime threats and violence in general.

(e) Establishing relationships with formal community-based organizations and leaders.

(f) Expanding, where appropriate, preventive programs such as hate, bias, and crime-reduction seminars for students.

(g) Reviewing the Attorney General's latest opinion on hate crime statistics and targets in order to prepare and plan for future crimes, specifically for Arab/Middle Eastern and Muslim communities (Penal Code § 13519.6(b)(8)).

(h) Providing orientation of and with communities of specific targeted victims such as immigrants, Muslims, Arabs, LGBTQ, black or African-American, Jewish, Sikh, and persons with disabilities.

(i) Coordinating with the Professional Standards Sergeant to include in a training plan recognition of hate crime bias characteristics, including information on general underreporting of hate crimes.

(j) Verifying a process is in place to provide this policy and related orders to officers in the field; and taking reasonable steps to rectify the situation if such a process is not in place.

(k) Taking reasonable steps to ensure hate crime data is provided to the Records Unit for mandated reporting to the Department of Justice.

(l) Reporting any suspected multi-mission extremist crimes to the agency Terrorism Liaison Officer, the assigned designee, or other appropriate resource; and verifying that such data is transmitted to the Joint Regional Information Exchange System in accordance with the protocols of the Records Unit Policy.

(m) Maintaining the department's supply of up-to-date hate crimes brochures (Penal Code § 422.92; Penal Code § 422.87).

(n) Annually assessing this policy, including:

1. Keeping abreast of the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) model policy framework for hate crimes for revisions or additions,

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including definitions, responsibilities, training resources, and planning and prevention methods.

2. Analysis of the department's data collection as well as the available outside data (e.g., annual California Attorney General's report on hate crime) in preparation for and response to future hate crimes.

337.2.2 RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Establishing a relationship with stakeholders, before any incident occurs, to develop a network and protocol for disclosure often assists greatly in any disclosure.

The benefit of public disclosure of hate crime incidents includes:

(a) Dissemination of correct information.

(b) Assurance to affected communities or groups that the matter is being properly and promptly investigated.

(c) The ability to request information regarding the commission of the crimes from the victimized community.

Information or records relating to hate crimes subject to public disclosure shall be released as provided by the Records Maintenance and Release Policy or as allowed by law. In accordance with the Media Relations Policy, the supervisor, public information officer, or the authorized designee should be provided with information that can be responsibly reported to the media. When appropriate, the department spokesperson should reiterate that hate crimes will not be tolerated, will be investigated seriously, and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

The Department should consider the following when releasing information to the public regarding hate crimes and hate incidents that have been reported within the jurisdiction:

- Inform community organizations in a timely manner when a community group has been the target of a hate crime.
- Inform the community of the impact of these crimes on the victim, the victim's family, and the community, and of the assistance and compensation available to victims.
- Inform the community regarding hate crime law and the legal rights of, and remedies available to, victims of hate crimes.
- Provide the community with ongoing information regarding hate crimes and/or hate incidents.

337.3 RESPONSE, VICTIM ASSISTANCE, AND FOLLOW-UP

337.3.1 INITIAL RESPONSE

First responding officers should know the role of all department personnel as they relate to the department's investigation of hate crimes and/or incidents. Responding officers should evaluate the need for additional assistance and, working with supervision and/or investigations, access needed assistance if applicable.

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At the scene of a suspected hate crime, bias crime, or hate incident, officers should take preliminary actions reasonably deemed necessary, including but not limited to the following:

(a) Use agency checklist (per Penal Code § 422.87) to assist in the investigation of any hate crime or hate incident (see Appendix).

(b) Stabilize the victims and request medical attention when necessary.

(c) Properly protect the safety of victims, witnesses, and perpetrators.

1. Assist victims in seeking a Temporary Restraining Order (if applicable).

(d) Notify other appropriate personnel in the chain of command, depending on the nature and seriousness of the offense and its potential inflammatory and related impact on the community. A sergeant shall be notified of any hate crime or hate incident.

(e) Properly protect, preserve, and process the crime scene, and remove all physical evidence of the incident as soon as possible after the offense is documented. If evidence of an inflammatory nature cannot be physically removed, the property owner should be contacted to facilitate removal or covering as soon as reasonably possible. Department personnel should follow up with the property owner to determine if this was accomplished in a timely manner.

(f) Collect and photograph physical evidence or indicators of hate crimes such as:

1. Hate literature.
2. Spray paint cans.
3. Threatening letters.
4. Symbols used by hate groups.

(g) Identify criminal evidence on the victim.

(h) Request the assistance of translators or interpreters when needed to establish effective communication with witnesses, victims, or others as appropriate.

(i) Conduct a preliminary investigation and record pertinent information including but not limited to:

1. Identity of suspected perpetrators.
2. Identity of witnesses, including those no longer at the scene.
3. The offer of victim confidentiality per Government Code § 6254.
4. Prior occurrences in this area or with this victim.
5. Statements made by suspects; exact wording is critical.
6. The victim's protected characteristics and determine if bias was a motivation “in whole or in part” in the commission of the crime.

(j) Adhere to Penal Code § 422.93, which protects hate crime victims and witnesses from being reported to federal immigration authorities if they have not committed any crime under state law.

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(k) Provide information regarding immigration remedies available to victims of crime (e.g., U-Visa, T-Visa, S-Visa).

(l) Provide the department's Hate Crimes Brochure (per Penal Code § 422.92) if asked, if necessary, or per policy.

(m) Utilize proper techniques for interviewing people with disabilities and be aware of and provide appropriate accommodations (e.g., ADA standards, Braille, visuals, translators for the deaf or hard of hearing).

(n) Document any suspected multi-mission extremist crimes.

(o) Document any hate crime or hate incident in a report.

337.3.2 INVESTIGATION

Investigators at the scene of, or performing follow-up investigation on, a suspected hate or bias crime or hate incident should take all actions deemed reasonably necessary, including but not limited to the following:

(a) Consider typologies of perpetrators of hate crimes and incidents, including but not limited to thrill, reactive/defensive, and mission (hard core).

(b) Utilize investigative techniques and methods to handle hate crimes or hate incidents in a professional manner.

(c) Utilize proper techniques for interviewing people with disabilities and be aware of and provide appropriate accommodations (e.g., ADA standards, Braille, visuals, translators for the deaf or hard of hearing).

(d) Properly investigate any report of a hate crime committed under the color of authority per Penal Code § 422.6 and Penal Code § 13519.6.

(e) Document physical evidence or indicators of hate crimes, in accordance with the provisions of the Property and Evidence Policy, such as:

1. Hate literature.
2. Spray paint cans.
3. Threatening letters.
4. Symbols used by hate groups.
5. Desecration of religious symbols, objects, or buildings.

(f) Request the assistance of translators or interpreters when needed to establish effective communication.

(g) Conduct a preliminary investigation and record information regarding:

1. Identity of suspected perpetrators.
2. Identity of witnesses, including those no longer at the scene.
3. Offer of victim confidentiality per Government Code § 6254.
4. Prior occurrences, in this area or with this victim.

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5. Statements made by suspects; exact wording is critical.
6. Document the victim's protected characteristics.

(h) Provide victim assistance and follow-up.

(i) Canvass the area for additional witnesses.

(j) Examine suspect's social media activity for potential evidence of bias motivation.

(k) Coordinate the investigation with department, state, and regional intelligence operations. These sources can provide the investigator with an analysis of any patterns, organized hate groups, and suspects potentially involved in the offense.

(l) Coordinate the investigation with the crime scene investigation unit (if applicable) or other appropriate units of the Department.

(m) Determine if the incident should be classified as a hate crime.

(n) Take reasonable steps to provide appropriate assistance to hate crime victims, including the following measures:

1. Contact victims periodically to determine whether they are receiving adequate and appropriate assistance.
2. Provide ongoing information to victims about the status of the criminal investigation.
3. Provide victims and any other interested persons the brochure on hate crimes per Penal Code § 422.92 and information on any local advocacy groups (if asked).

(o) Document any suspected multi-mission extremist crimes.

(p) Coordinate with other law enforcement agencies in the area to assess patterns of hate crimes and/or hate incidents, and determine if organized hate groups are involved.

337.3.3 SUPERVISION

The supervisor shall confer with the initial responding officer and take reasonable steps to ensure that necessary preliminary actions have been taken. The supervisor shall request any appropriate personnel necessary to accomplish the following:

(a) Provide immediate assistance to the crime victim by:

1. Expressing the department's official position on the importance of these cases and the measures that will be taken to apprehend the perpetrators.
2. Expressing the department's interest in protecting victims' anonymity (confidentiality forms, Government Code § 6254) to the extent reasonably possible. Allow the victims to convey their immediate concerns and feelings.
3. Identifying individuals or agencies that may provide victim assistance and support. Local victim assistance resources may include family members or close acquaintances, clergy, or a department chaplain, as well as community service agencies that provide shelter, food, clothing, child care, or other related services (per Penal Code § 422.92).

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(b) Take reasonable steps to ensure that all relevant facts are documented on an incident and/or arrest report and make an initial determination as to whether the incident should be classified as a hate crime for federal and state bias-crimes reporting purposes.

(c) Notify other appropriate personnel in the chain of command, depending on the nature and seriousness of the offense and its potential inflammatory and related impact on the community.

(d) In cases of large-scale hate crime waves, or in circumstances where the potential exists for subsequent hate crimes or incidents, consider directing resources to protect vulnerable sites (such as assigning an officer to specific locations that could become targets).

(e) Verify hate crimes are being properly reported, including reporting to the Department of Justice, pursuant to Penal Code § 13023.

(f) Verify adherence to Penal Code § 422.93, which protects hate crime victims and witnesses from being reported to federal immigration authorities if they have not committed any crime under state law. Supervisors should also be aware of the immigration remedies available to victims of crime (e.g., U-Visa, T-Visa, S-Visa).

(g) Respond to and properly initiate an investigation of any reports of hate crimes committed under the color of authority.

(h) Provide appropriate assistance, including activating the California Department of Justice hate crime rapid response protocol if necessary. For additional information refer to the California Department of Justice website.

(i) Verify reporting of any suspected multi-mission extremist crimes to the agency Hate Crimes Coordinator.

(j) Make a final determination as to whether the incident should be classified as a hate crime and forward to the Chief of Police for approval.

337.4 TRAINING

All members of this department will receive POST-approved training on hate crime recognition and investigation as provided by Penal Code § 13519.6. Training should include (Penal Code § 422.87):

(a) Recognition of bias motivators such as ranges of attitudes and perceptions toward a specific characteristic or group, including disability bias, gender bias, and religion bias.

(b) Accurate reporting by officers, including information on the general underreporting of hate crimes.

(c) Distribution of hate crime brochures.

337.5 APPENDIX

See attachments:

Statutes and Legal Requirements.pdf

Hate Crime Checklist.pdf

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Supervision

339.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Supervisors share in the accountability for the department achieving its overall mission. Supervisors should utilize the resources available to them in the most efficient manner in achieving this mission.

339.2 DEFINITION

Supervisor: A supervisor is defined as any member assigned to oversee any shift, team, detail, or other working group.

339.3 DUTIES

A primary responsibility of a supervisor is the development of subordinates. The department must be prepared to staff vacant supervisory positions with well-trained qualified candidates. The department must also be staffed with highly trained competent members in all other positions. This can be accomplished through an on-going assessment of the quality and quantity of a subordinate's work performance. The supervisor must communicate clear expectations to subordinates. These expectations should be in alignment with the Department's Mission Statement and Values.

Supervisors need to hold members accountable to the policies and procedures contained within the department Manual. Supervisors are required to document both superior and unsatisfactory work performance according to Department policy and forward the documentation via the chain-of-command.

339.4 EVALUATIONS

All department members are subject to periodic evaluation of their work performance. Members will be rated by their immediate supervisor and/or past supervisors as required by department policy. If a supervisor has had less than three months time as the primary supervisor of an employee, then the employee's most recent previous supervisor will have the primary responsibility of rating and completing the employee evaluation form.

The goal of the evaluation process is to identify and assess employee strengths and weaknesses and to recognize the employee's performance as well as to identify and correct areas that need improvement. The goal of the evaluator should be to accurately and impartially evaluate the performance of each employee

339.5 INFORMING AND INSPECTING

Supervisors shall meet with all members assigned to their work unit as the members report for duty. They shall inform them of any special assignments or orders, as well as checking their personal appearance, dress, punctuality, and fitness for duty.

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339.6 AUTHORITY

Supervisors shall exercise the authority of their position under all conditions as required, in a manner serving the best interests of the Department.

339.6.1 ARREST AND REPORT REVIEW

Supervisors shall be responsible for the review of all arrests made by officers assigned to their shift to insure a legal arrest was made and proper procedures were followed. Supervisors shall also be responsible for reviewing all reports completed by officers assigned to their shift to insure the reports are complete, properly prepared, and that proper procedure was followed in investigating and completing the report.

339.6.2 CHAIN-OF-COMMAND

Members shall not take matters directly to the Chief of Police or other supervisors which should ordinarily be taken up with their own immediate supervisor. In respect to alleged unfair decisions, members may, as a matter of recourse, request of their immediate supervisor that they be granted an interview with the next ranking supervisor.

339.7 STAFFING AND DEPLOYMENT

Supervisors will ensure that their work units are adequately staffed to accomplish their needs. Patrol sergeants will preview their deployment rosters and ensure that they are staffed according to department policy and procedure. A Watch Commander can make exceptions to staffing depending on extenuating circumstances and/or the needs of the department.

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Standards of Conduct

340.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes standards of conduct that are consistent with the values and mission of the Ventura Police Department and are expected of all department members. The standards contained in this policy are not intended to be an exhaustive list of requirements and prohibitions but they do identify many of the important matters concerning conduct. In addition to the provisions of this policy, members are subject to all other provisions contained in this manual, as well as any additional guidance on conduct that may be disseminated by this department or a member's supervisors.

340.2 DISCIPLINE POLICY

The continued employment of every employee of this department shall be based on conduct that reasonably conforms to the guidelines set forth herein. Failure of any employee to meet the guidelines set forth in this policy, whether on-duty or off-duty, may be cause for disciplinary action.

An employee's off-duty conduct shall be governed by this policy to the extent that it is related to act(s) that may materially affect or arise from the employee's ability to perform official duties or to the extent that it may be indicative of unfitness for his/her position.

340.3 CONDUCT WHICH MAY RESULT IN DISCIPLINE

The following list of causes for disciplinary action constitutes a portion of the disciplinary standards of this department. This list is not intended to cover every possible type of misconduct and does not preclude the recommendation of disciplinary action for specific action or inaction that is detrimental to efficient department service. Member shall comply with lawful directives and orders from any department supervisor or person in a position of authority, absent a reasonable and bona fide justification.

340.3.1 ATTENDANCE

(a) Leaving job to which assigned during duty hours without reasonable excuse and proper permission and approval.

(b) Unexcused or unauthorized absence or tardiness on scheduled day(s) of work.

(c) Failure to report to work or to place of assignment at time specified and fully prepared to perform duties without reasonable excuse.

(d) Failure to notify the Department within 24 hours of any change in residence address, home phone number, or marital status.

340.3.2 CONDUCT

(a) Unauthorized or unlawful fighting, threatening or attempting to inflict unlawful bodily injury on another.

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(b) Initiating any civil action for recovery of any damages or injuries incurred in the course and scope of employment without first notifying the Chief of Police of such action.

(c) Using department resources in association with any portion of an independent civil action. These resources include, but are not limited to, personnel, vehicles, equipment and non-subpoenaed records.

(d) Engaging in horseplay resulting in injury or property damage or the reasonable possibility thereof.

(e) Unauthorized possession of, loss of or damage to department property or the property of others, or endangering it through unreasonable carelessness or maliciousness.

(f) Failure of any employee to promptly and fully report activities on their own part or the part of any other employee where such activities may result in criminal prosecution or discipline under this policy.

(g) Failure of any employee to promptly and fully report activities that have resulted in official contact by any other law enforcement agency.

(h) Using or disclosing one's status as an employee with the Department in any way that could reasonably be perceived as an attempt to gain influence or authority for non-department business or activity.

(i) The use of any information, photograph, video or other recording obtained or accessed as a result of employment with the Department for personal or financial gain or without the express authorization of the Chief of Police or a designee may result in discipline under this policy.

(j) Seeking restraining orders against individuals encountered in the line of duty without the express permission of the Chief of Police.

(k) Discourteous, disrespectful or discriminatory treatment of any member of the public or any member of this department.

(l) Unwelcome solicitation of a personal or sexual relationship while on-duty or through the use of one's official capacity.

(m) Engaging in on-duty sexual relations including, but not limited to, sexual intercourse, excessive displays of public affection or other sexual contact.

340.3.3 DISCRIMINATION

(a) Discriminate against any person because of age, race, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, marital status, physical or mental disability or medical condition during the course and scope of employment

340.3.4 INTOXICANTS

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(a) Reporting for work or being at work following the use of intoxicants where such use may impair the employee's ability to perform assigned duties or where there is an immediate suspicion of ineffectiveness during public contact resulting from the use of intoxicants

(b) Unauthorized possession or use of, or attempting to bring intoxicants to the work site, except as authorized in the performance of an official assignment. An employee who is authorized to consume intoxicants is not permitted to do so to such a degree that it may impair on-duty performance

(c) Reporting for work or being at work following the use of a "controlled substance" or any drug (whether legally prescribed or otherwise) where such use may impair the employee's ability to perform assigned duties

(d) Unauthorized possession, use of, or attempting to bring controlled substance or other illegal drug to any work site

340.3.5 PERFORMANCE

(a) Unauthorized sleeping during on-duty time or assignments.

(b) Careless workmanship resulting in spoilage or waste of materials or work of an unacceptable nature as applicable to the nature of the work assigned.

(c) Unsatisfactory work performance including, but not limited to, failure, incompetence, inefficiency or delay in performing and/or carrying out proper orders, work assignments or instructions of supervisors without a reasonable and bona fide excuse.

(d) Concealing, attempting to conceal, removing or destroying defective or incompetent work.

(e) Disobedience or insubordination to constituted authorities, including refusal or deliberate failure to carry out or follow lawful directives and orders from any supervisor or person in a position of authority.

(f) The wrongful or unlawful exercise of authority on the part of any employee for malicious purpose, personal gain, willful deceit or any other improper purpose.

(g) Disparaging remarks or conduct concerning duly constituted authority to the extent that such conduct disrupts the efficiency of the Department or subverts the good order, efficiency and discipline of the Department or which would tend to discredit any member thereof.

(h) Knowingly making false, misleading or malicious statements that are reasonably calculated to harm or destroy the reputation, authority or official standing of the Department or members thereof.

(i) The falsification of any work-related records, the making of misleading entries or statements with the intent to deceive, or the willful and unauthorized destruction and/or mutilation of any department record, book, paper or document.

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(j) Wrongfully loaning, selling, giving away or appropriating any department property for the personal use of the employee or any unauthorized person.

(k) The unauthorized use of any badge, uniform, identification card or other department equipment or property for personal gain or any other improper purpose.

(l) The receipt or acceptance of a reward, fee or gift from any person for service incident to the performance of the employee's duties (lawful subpoena fees and authorized work permits excepted).

(m) Any knowing or negligent violation of the provisions of the department manual, operating procedures or other written directive of an authorized supervisor. The Department shall make this manual available to all employees. Employees shall familiarize themselves with this manual and be responsible for compliance with each of the policies contained herein.

(n) Work-related dishonesty, including attempted or actual theft of department property, services or the property of others, or the unauthorized removal or possession of department property or the property of another person.

(o) Criminal, dishonest, infamous or disgraceful conduct adversely affecting the employee/employer relationship, whether on- or off-duty.

(p) Failure to disclose or misrepresenting material facts, or the making of any false or misleading statement on any application, examination form, or other official document, report or form during the course of any work-related investigation.

(q) Failure to take reasonable action while on-duty and when required by law, statute, resolution or approved department practices or procedures.

(r) Associating with or joining a criminal gang, organized crime and/or criminal syndicate when a department member knew or reasonably should have known of the criminal nature of the organization. This includes any organization involved in a definable criminal activity or enterprise, except as specifically directed and authorized by the Department.

(s) Offer or acceptance of a bribe or gratuity.

(t) Misappropriation or misuse of public funds, property, personnel or services.

(u) Exceeding lawful peace officer powers by unreasonable, unlawful or excessive conduct.

(v) Unlawful gambling or unlawful betting at any time or any place. Legal gambling or betting under any of the following conditions: while on department premises; at any work site; while on-duty or while in uniform; or while using any department equipment or system. Gambling activity undertaken as part of an officer's official duties and with the express knowledge and permission of a direct supervisor is exempt from this prohibition.

(w) Substantiated, active, continuing association on a personal rather than official basis with a person or persons who engage in or are continuing to engage in serious violations of state or federal laws, where the employee has or reasonably should

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have knowledge of such criminal activities, except where specifically directed and authorized by the Department.

(x) Solicitations, speeches or distribution of campaign literature for or against any political candidate or position while on-duty, on department property or while in any way representing him/herself as a member of this agency, except as expressly authorized by the Chief of Police.

(y) Engaging in political activities during assigned working hours except as expressly authorized by the Chief of Police.

(z) Violating any misdemeanor or felony statute.

(aa) Any other on-duty or off-duty conduct which any employee knows or reasonably should know is unbecoming a member of the Department or which is contrary to good order, efficiency or morale, or which tends to reflect unfavorably upon the Department or its members.

(ab) Any failure or refusal of an employee to properly perform the function and duties of an assigned position.

(ac) Failure to maintain required and current licenses (e.g. driver's license) and certifications (e.g., first aid).

(ad) Giving false or misleading statements, or misrepresenting or omitting material information to a supervisor, or other person in a position of authority, in connection with any investigation or in the reporting of any department-related business.

(ae) Acceptance of fees, gifts, or money contrary to the rules of this department and/or laws of the state.

(af) Any other failure to abide by the standards of ethical conduct.

340.3.6 SAFETY

(a) Failure to observe posted rules, signs and written or oral safety instructions while on duty and/or within department facilities or to use required protective clothing or equipment.

(b) Knowingly failing to report any on-the-job or work-related accident or injury within 24 hours.

(c) Substantiated employee record of unsafe or improper driving habits or actions in the course of employment.

(d) Failure to maintain good physical condition sufficient to adequately and safely perform law enforcement duties.

(e) Any personal action contributing to involvement in a preventable traffic collision, or other unsafe or improper driving habits or actions in the course of employment.

(f) Violating departmental safety standards or safe working practices.

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340.3.7 SECURITY

(a) Unauthorized, intentional release of designated confidential information, materials, data, forms or reports

340.3.8 SUPERVISION RESPONSIBILITY

(a) Failure of a supervisor to take appropriate action to ensure that employees adhere to the policies and procedures of this department and the actions of all personnel comply with all laws

(b) Failure of a supervisor to timely report known misconduct of an employee to his or her immediate supervisor or to document such misconduct appropriately or as required by policy

(c) The unequal or disparate exercise of authority on the part of a supervisor toward any employee for malicious or other improper purpose

340.3.9 UNLAWFUL OR CONFLICTING ORDERS

Supervisors shall not knowingly issue orders or directives that, if carried out, would result in a violation of any law or [department/office] policy. Supervisors should not issue orders that conflict with any previous order without making reasonable clarification that the new order is intended to countermand the earlier order.

No member is required to obey any order that appears to be in direct conflict with any federal law, state law or local ordinance. Following a known unlawful order is not a defense and does not relieve the member from criminal or civil prosecution or administrative discipline. If the legality of an order is in doubt, the affected member shall ask the issuing supervisor to clarify the order or shall confer with a higher authority. The responsibility for refusal to obey rests with the member, who shall subsequently be required to justify the refusal.

Unless it would jeopardize the safety of any individual, members who are presented with a lawful order that is in conflict with a previous lawful order, [department/office] policy or other directive shall respectfully inform the issuing supervisor of the conflict. The issuing supervisor is responsible for either resolving the conflict or clarifying that the lawful order is intended to countermand the previous lawful order or directive, in which case the member is obliged to comply. Members who are compelled to follow a conflicting lawful order after having given the issuing supervisor the opportunity to correct the conflict, will not be held accountable for disobedience of the lawful order or directive that was initially issued.

The person countermanding the original order shall notify, in writing, the person issuing the original order, indicating the action taken and the reason.

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340.3.10 GENERAL STANDARDS

Members shall conduct themselves, whether on- or off-duty, in accordance with the United States and California constitutions and all applicable laws, ordinances, and rules enacted or established pursuant to legal authority.

Members shall familiarize themselves with policies and procedures and are responsible for compliance with each. Members should seek clarification and guidance from supervisors in the event of any perceived ambiguity or uncertainty.

Discipline may be initiated for any good cause. It is not mandatory that a specific policy or rule violation be cited to sustain discipline. This policy is not intended to cover every possible type of misconduct.

340.4 PROVIDING IDENTIFICATION UPON REQUEST

Employees shall provide their name and Department identification number verbally, or in writing, if requested in the course of their duties. Employees may use a department-issued business card that contains their name to satisfy the request for the information.

Exception- Employees are not required to immediately identify themselves if any of the following apply:

- It will jeopardize an investigation.
- It will hinder a police function.
- There is a specific safety consideration.

340.5 INVESTIGATION OF DISCIPLINARY ALLEGATIONS

Regardless of the source of an allegation of misconduct, all such matters will be investigated in accordance with Personnel Complaint Procedure Policy Manual § 1020. Pursuant to Government Code §§ 3304(d) and 3508.1, the investigation should be completed within one year of the discovery of the allegation unless such investigation falls within one of the exceptions delineated within those provisions.

340.6 CAUSES FOR DISCIPLINE

The following are illustrative of causes for disciplinary action. This list is not intended to cover every possible type of misconduct and does not preclude the recommendation of disciplinary action for violation of other rules, standards, ethics and specific action or inaction that is detrimental to efficient [department/office] service:

(a) Violation of, or ordering or instructing a subordinate to violate any policy, procedure, rule, order, directive, requirement or failure to follow instructions contained in [department/office] or City manuals.

(b) Disobedience of any legal directive or order issued by any [department/office] member of a higher rank.

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(c) Violation of federal, state, local or administrative laws, rules or regulations.

340.7 POST INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES

340.7.1 DIVISION COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon receipt of any completed personnel investigation, the Assistant Chief of the involved employee shall review the entire investigative file, the employee's personnel file and any other relevant materials.

The Assistant Chief may make recommendations regarding the disposition of any allegations and the amount of discipline, if any, to be imposed.

(a) Prior to forwarding recommendations to the Chief of Police, the Assistant Chief may return the entire investigation to the assigned detective or supervisor for further investigation or action

(b) When forwarding any written recommendation to the Chief of Police, the Assistant Chief shall include all relevant materials supporting the recommendation. Actual copies of an employee's existing personnel file need not be provided and may be incorporated by reference

340.7.2 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Upon receipt of any written recommendation for disciplinary action, the Chief of Police shall review the recommendation and all accompanying materials.

The Chief of Police may modify any recommendation and/or may return the file to the Assistant Chief for further investigation or action.

Once the Chief of Police is satisfied that no further investigation or action is required by staff, the Chief of Police shall determine the amount of discipline, if any, to be recommended.

In the event disciplinary action is recommended, the Chief of Police shall provide the employee with written (*Skelly*) notice of the following information within one year of the date of the discovery of the alleged misconduct (absent an exception set forth in Government Code § 3304(d) or Government Code § 3508.1):

(a) Specific charges set forth in separate counts, describing the conduct underlying each count.

(b) A separate recommendation of proposed discipline for each charge.

(c) A statement that the employee has been provided with or given access to all of the materials considered by the Chief of Police in recommending the proposed discipline.

(d) An opportunity to respond orally or in writing to the Chief of Police within five days of receiving the *Skelly* notice.

1. Upon a showing of good cause by the employee, the Chief of Police may grant a reasonable extension of time for the employee to respond.

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2. If the employee elects to respond orally, the presentation shall be recorded by the Department. Upon request, the employee shall be provided with a copy of the recording.

340.8 EMPLOYEE RESPONSE

The pre-discipline process is intended to provide the accused employee with an opportunity to present a written or oral response to the Chief of Police after having had an opportunity to review the supporting materials and prior to imposition of any recommended discipline. The employee shall consider the following:

(a) This *Skelly* response is not intended to be an adversarial or formal hearing.

(b) Although the employee may be represented by an uninvolved representative or legal counsel, the *Skelly* response is not designed to accommodate the presentation of testimony or witnesses.

(c) The employee may suggest that further investigation could be conducted or the employee may offer any additional information or mitigating factors for the Chief of Police to consider.

(d) In the event that the Chief of Police elects to cause further investigation to be conducted, the employee shall be provided with the results of such subsequent investigation prior to the imposition of any discipline.

(e) The employee may thereafter have the opportunity to further respond orally or in writing to the Chief of Police on the limited issues of information raised in any subsequent materials.

(f) Once the employee has completed his/her *Skelly* response or, if the employee has elected to waive any such response, the Chief of Police shall consider all information received in regard to the recommended discipline. Once the Chief of Police determines that discipline will be imposed, a timely written decision shall be provided to the employee within 30 days, imposing, modifying or rejecting the recommended discipline. In the event of a termination, the final notice of discipline shall also inform the employee of the reason for termination and the process to receive all remaining fringe and retirement benefits.

(g) Once the Chief of Police has issued a written decision, the discipline shall become effective.

340.9 RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS PRIOR TO DISCIPLINE

In the event that an employee tenders a written retirement or resignation prior to the imposition of discipline, it shall be noted in the file.

The tender of a retirement or resignation by itself shall not serve as grounds for the termination of pending discipline.

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340.10 POST SKELLY PROCEDURE

In situations resulting in the imposition of a suspension, punitive transfer, demotion, termination of a non-probationary employee, the employee shall have the right to an evidentiary appeal of the Chief of Police's imposition of discipline pursuant to the operative Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or collective bargaining agreement and personnel rules.

During any post-Skelly administrative appeal, evidence that an officer has been placed on a *Brady* list or is otherwise subject to *Brady* restrictions may not be introduced unless the underlying allegations of misconduct have been independently established. Thereafter, such *Brady* evidence shall be limited to determining the appropriateness of penalty. (Government Code § 3305.5).

340.11 DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES

In the event that a probationary employee is terminated solely for unsatisfactory performance or the failure to meet department standards, the employee shall have no right to appeal and the following shall be considered:

(a) Termination of a probationary employee for such failure to pass probation shall be so reflected in the employee's personnel file

(b) In the event that a probationary employee is disciplined or terminated for misconduct, the employee shall only be entitled to appeal the decision in the same manner as set forth in the *Skelly* procedure as set forth above. This appeal process may be held prior to or within a reasonable time after the imposition of discipline

(c) At all times during any investigation of allegations of misconduct involving a probationary officer, such officer shall be afforded all procedural rights set forth in Government Code § 3303 and applicable Department policies

(d) A probationary employee's appeal of disciplinary action shall be limited to an opportunity for the employee to attempt to establish that the underlying allegations should not be sustained. Nothing in this policy or procedure, however, should be construed to establish any sort of property interest in or right to the employee's continuation of employment

(e) The burden of proof for any probationary employee's appeal of disciplinary action shall rest with the employee and will require proof by a preponderance of the evidence

(f) In the event that a probationary employee meets his or her burden of proof in such a disciplinary appeal, the Department shall remove all reference to the underlying allegations of misconduct from the employee's personnel file

(g) In the event that a probationary employee fails to meet his or her burden of proof in such a disciplinary appeal, the employee shall have no further right to appeal beyond the Chief of Police

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Information Technology Use

342.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the proper use of department information technology resources, including computers, electronic devices, hardware, software and systems.

342.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Computer system - All computers (on-site and portable), electronic devices, hardware, software, and resources owned, leased, rented or licensed by the Ventura Police Department that are provided for official use by its members. This includes all access to, and use of, Internet Service Providers (ISP) or other service providers provided by or through the Department or department funding.

Hardware - Includes, but is not limited to, computers, computer terminals, network equipment, electronic devices, telephones, including cellular and satellite, pagers, modems or any other tangible computer device generally understood to comprise hardware.

Software - Includes, but is not limited to, all computer programs, systems and applications, including shareware. This does not include files created by the individual user.

Temporary file, permanent file or file - Any electronic document, information or data residing or located, in whole or in part, on the system including, but not limited to, spreadsheets, calendar entries, appointments, tasks, notes, letters, reports, messages, photographs or videos.

342.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department that members shall use information technology resources, including computers, software and systems, that are issued or maintained by the Department in a professional manner and in accordance with this policy.

342.3 PRIVACY EXPECTATION

Members forfeit any expectation of privacy with regard to emails, texts, or anything published, shared, transmitted, or maintained through file-sharing software or any internet site that is accessed, transmitted, received, or reviewed on any department computer system.

The Department reserves the right to access, audit, and disclose, for whatever reason, any message, including attachments, and any information accessed, transmitted, received, or reviewed over any technology that is issued or maintained by the Department, including the department email system, computer network, and/or any information placed into storage on any department system or device. This includes records of all keystrokes or Web-browsing history made at any department computer or over any department network. The fact that access to a database, service, or website requires a username or password will not create an expectation of privacy if it is accessed through department computers, electronic devices, or networks.

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The Department shall not require a member to disclose a personal username or password for accessing personal social media or to open a personal social website; however, the Department may request access when it is reasonably believed to be relevant to the investigation of allegations of work-related misconduct (Labor Code § 980).

342.4 AGENCY PROPERTY

All information, data, documents, communications, and other entries initiated on, sent to or from, or accessed on any department computer, or through the department computer system on any other computer, whether downloaded or transferred from the original department computer, shall remain the exclusive property of the Department and shall not be available for personal or non-departmental use without the expressed authorization of an employee's supervisor.

342.5 PROTECTION OF AGENCY SYSTEMS AND FILES

All members have a duty to protect the computer system and related systems and devices from physical and environmental damage and are responsible for the correct use, operation, care, and maintenance of the computer system.

Members shall ensure department computers and access terminals are not viewable by persons who are not authorized users. Computers and terminals should be secured, users logged off and password protections enabled whenever the user is not present. Access passwords, logon information, and other individual security data, protocols, and procedures are confidential information and are not to be shared. Password length, format, structure, and content shall meet the prescribed standards required by the computer system or as directed by a supervisor and shall be changed at intervals as directed by IT staff or a supervisor.

It is prohibited for a member to allow an unauthorized user to access the computer system at any time or for any reason. Members shall promptly report any unauthorized access to the computer system or suspected intrusion from outside sources (including the internet) to a supervisor.

342.6 INSPECTION OR REVIEW

A supervisor or the authorized designee has the express authority to inspect or review the computer system, all temporary or permanent files, related electronic systems or devices, and any contents thereof, whether such inspection or review is in the ordinary course of his/her supervisory duties or based on cause.

Reasons for inspection or review may include, but are not limited to, computer system malfunctions, problems or general computer system failure, a lawsuit against the Department involving one of its members or a member's duties, an alleged or suspected violation of any department policy, a request for disclosure of data, or a need to perform or provide a service.

The IT staff may extract, download or otherwise obtain any and all temporary or permanent files residing or located in or on the department computer system when requested by a supervisor or during the course of regular duties that require such information.

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342.7 LINX DATABASE USAGE

LInX is an information sharing system designed and provided by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service that links the record management systems of participating agencies. LInX allows users to search its collection of contributed data through the use of several search and analysis tools.

Access to LInX may be granted to sworn or civilian law enforcement employees who have successfully completed an agency background investigation and the basic user training. The Ventura Police Department will authorize its employees to access LInX based on need demonstrated by the employee's function and/or assignment. Access to LInX is subject to the approval of the Police Chief or the affected employee's division commander.

It is imperative that each user of LInX acknowledge their receipt of this information and accept responsibility to include training to prevent misuse and potential consequences which could be imposed for misuse. All Ventura Police Department users who are granted access are required to complete LInX training and sign a user access agreement. Signed hardcopies of these agreements shall be maintained on file by the Training Sergeant.

Employees accessing the LInX database may only do so for official law enforcement investigative purposes.

All Ventura Police Department LInX users must use their own user logion / I.D. and passwords to gain access to the system. Employees are strictly prohibited from loaning their login information to other persons, or using another person's LInX account. Normal access to the LInx database should be restricted through department computers and workstations, but outside computers may be used with the approval of the Police Chief or a division commander.

An annual audit of LInX usage activity shall be conducted by the Professional Standards Division.

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Report Preparation

344.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Report preparation is a major part of each officer's job. The purpose of reports is to document sufficient information to refresh the officer's memory and to provide sufficient information for follow-up investigation and successful prosecution. Report writing is the subject of substantial formalized training and on-the-job training.

344.1.1 REPORT PREPARATION

Employees should ensure that reports are sufficiently detailed for their purpose and free from errors prior to submission. It is the responsibility of the assigned employee to complete and submit all reports taken during the shift before going off-duty unless permission to hold the report has been approved by a supervisor. Generally, reports requiring prompt follow-up action on active leads, or arrest reports where the suspect remains in custody should not be held.

Handwritten reports must be prepared legibly. If the report is not legible, the submitting employee will be required by the reviewing supervisor to promptly make corrections and resubmit the report. Employees who dictate reports shall use appropriate grammar, as content is not the responsibility of the typist. Employees who generate reports on computers are subject to all requirements of this policy.

All reports shall accurately reflect the identity of the persons involved, all pertinent information seen, heard or assimilated by any other sense, and any actions taken. Employees shall not suppress, conceal or distort the facts of any reported incident, nor shall any employee make a false report orally or in writing. Generally, the reporting employee's opinions should not be included in reports unless specifically identified as such.

344.2 REQUIRED REPORTING

Written reports are required in all of the following situations on the appropriate department approved form unless otherwise approved by a supervisor.

344.2.1 CRIMINAL ACTIVITY REPORTING

When an employee responds to a call for service, or as a result of self-initiated activity becomes aware of any activity where a crime has occurred, the employee is required to document the activity. The fact that a victim is not desirous of prosecution is not an exception to documenting a report.

In situations involving multiple victims within close proximity to each other, a separate report number and crime report shall be completed for each victim. If an arrest for one or more of these crimes occurs at the same time, the report number for the arrest shall be referenced in the appropriate box on each of the related crime reports. The following are examples of required documentation:

(a) In every instance where a felony has occurred, the documentation shall take the form of a written crime report

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(b) In every instance where a misdemeanor crime has occurred and the victim desires a report, the documentation shall take the form of a written crime report. If the victim does not desire a report, the incident will be recorded on the dispatcher's log

(c) In every case where any force is used against any person by police personnel

(d) All incidents involving domestic violence

(e) All arrests

(f) Situations covered by separate policy. These include:

1. Use of Force Policy
2. Domestic Violence Policy
3. Child Abuse Policy
4. Adult Abuse Policy
5. Hate Crimes Policy
6. Suspicious Activity Reporting Policy

344.2.2 NON-CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

The following incidents shall be documented using the appropriate approved report:

(a) Anytime an officer points a firearm at any person

(b) Any use of force against any person by a member of this department (see the Use of Force Policy)

(c) Any firearm discharge (see the Firearms Policy)

(d) Anytime a person is reported missing, regardless of jurisdiction (see the Missing Persons Policy)

(e) Any found property or found evidence

(f) Any traffic collisions above the minimum reporting level (see Traffic Collision Reporting Policy)

(g) Suspicious incidents that may indicate a potential for crimes against children or that a child's safety is in jeopardy

(h) All protective custody detentions

(i) Suspicious incidents that may place the public or others at risk

(j) Whenever the employee believes the circumstances should be documented or at the direction of a supervisor

344.2.3 DEATH CASES

Death investigations require specific investigation methods depending on circumstances and should be handled in accordance with Policy § 360 Death Investigations. The handling officer should notify and apprise a supervisor of the circumstances surrounding the incident to determine

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how to proceed. The following cases shall be appropriately investigated and documented using the approved report:

(a) Sudden or accidental deaths.

(b) Suicides.

(c) Homicide or suspected homicide.

(d) Unattended deaths (No physician or qualified hospice care in the 20 days preceding death).

(e) Found dead bodies or body parts.

344.2.4 INJURY OR DAMAGE BY CITY PERSONNEL
Reports shall be taken if an injury occurs that is a result of an act of a City employee. Additionally, reports shall be taken involving damage to City property or City equipment.

344.2.5 MISCELLANEOUS INJURIES
Any injury that is reported to this department shall require a report when:

(a) The injury is a result of drug overdose

(b) Attempted suicide

(c) The injury is major/serious, whereas death could result

(d) The circumstances surrounding the incident are suspicious in nature and it is desirable to record the event

The above reporting requirements are not intended to be all-inclusive. A supervisor may direct an employee to document any incident he/she deems necessary.

344.2.6 MANDATORY REPORTING OF JUVENILE GUNSHOT INJURIES
A report shall be taken when any incident in which a child 18 years or younger suffered an unintentional or self-inflicted gunshot wound. The Records Unit shall notify the California State Department of Health Services of the incident, including the nature of the injury, on a form provided by the state. Forms may be obtained from DHS Epidemiology and Prevention for Injury Control (EPIC) Branch, Tel: (910) 552-9849 (Penal Code § 23685).

344.3 GENERAL POLICY OF EXPEDITIOUS REPORTING

In general, all officers and supervisors shall act with promptness and efficiency in the preparation and processing of all reports. An incomplete report, unorganized reports or reports delayed without supervisory approval are not acceptable. Reports shall be processed according to established priorities or according to special priority necessary under exceptional circumstances.

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344.3.1 GENERAL POLICY OF HANDWRITTEN REPORTS
Some incidents and report forms lend themselves to block print rather than typing. In general, the narrative portion of those reports where an arrest is made or when there is a long narrative should be typed or dictated.

Supervisors may require, with the foregoing general policy in mind, block printing or typing of reports of any nature for departmental consistency.

344.3.2 GENERAL USE OF OTHER HANDWRITTEN FORMS
County, state and federal agency forms may be block printed as appropriate. In general, the form itself may make the requirement for typing apparent.

344.4 REPORT CORRECTIONS

Supervisors shall review reports for content and accuracy. If a correction is necessary, the reviewing supervisor should complete the Report Correction form stating the reasons for rejection. The original report and the correction form should be returned to the reporting employee for correction as soon as practical. It shall be the responsibility of the originating officer to ensure that any report returned for correction is processed in a timely manner.

344.5 REPORT CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS

Reports that have been approved by a supervisor and submitted to the Records Unit for filing and distribution shall not be modified or altered except by way of a supplemental report. Reviewed reports that have not yet been submitted to the Records Unit may be corrected or modified by the authoring officer only with the knowledge and authorization of the reviewing supervisor.

344.6 ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

The Ventura Police Department has established an electronic signature procedure for use by all employees of the Ventura Police Department. The Patrol Assistant Chief shall be responsible for maintaining the electronic signature system and ensuring that each employee creates a unique, confidential password for his/her electronic signature.

- Employees may only use their electronic signature for official reports or other official communications.
- Each employee shall be responsible for the security and use of his/her electronic signature and shall promptly notify a supervisor if the electronic signature has or may have been compromised or misused.

344.7 ONLINE REPORTS

PURPOSE AND SCOPE To establish guidelines and procedures to determine when the Online Reporting and Telephone Reporting System will be utilized. It shall be the policy of the Ventura Police Department to provide Online Reporting Services to the Community.

344.7.1 ONLINE REPORTS

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The Ventura Police Department will respond to all in progress incidents and all crimes with evidence or information, which may lead to the identity and/or apprehension of a suspect. Officers will also respond to incidents, which have just occurred, and there is a reasonable likelihood the suspect may still be in the area or the reporting person fears for their safety. The department can modify the types of reports that can be filed on line. The following crimes are examples of reports that are referred to the Online Reporting System:

(a) Petty or Grand theft report where the loss is under $10,000.00 and there is no identifying suspect information, which can lead to an arrest. This does not include thefts of firearms or materials threatening to public safety, such as explosives or highly toxic substances.

(b) Auto burglaries lacking suspect information that can lead to an arrest.

(c) Vandalisms with no identifying suspect information. If a vandalism occurs that is determined to be a Hate Crime, an officer shall be dispatched to the scene to conduct an investigation.

(d) Graffiti Vandalism.

(e) Annoying telephone calls with no identifying suspect information.

(f) Defrauding an Innkeeper.

(g) Non-Injury Hit and Run that resulted in property damage only.

(h) Custody Order Violation that includes a disobedience of custody terms outlined in a court order.

(i) Identity Theft.

(j) Fraudulent Use of Credit Card.

(k) Lost property reports. Even if the victim can not determine if the property was lost or stolen, the report can be taken online, as long as there is no suspect information.

(l) Supplemental Report where the reporting party needs to add information to an existing report filed with the department.

344.7.2 NON-REFERRALS FOR ONLINE REPORTS

Citizens should not be referred to the Online Reporting System under the following circumstances:

(a) Physical evidence is present at the scene that could lead to the identification of a suspect.

(b) Suspects that are known to the victim.

(c) Any investigation involving serialized property where the numbers are provided by the victim will not be taken online. For the purpose of this directive, credit cards and miscellaneous identification, such as medical cards, driver's licenses or social security cards will not be considered serialized property.

(d) Missing person reports shall never be taken online.

344.7.3 DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE USE OF THE ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM

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Members of the department can utilize the Online reporting system if the citizen's report meets the Online reporting criteria.

344.7.4 COMMUNICATIONS CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES

When a Communications Operator receives a call from a citizen wishing to report an incident, the dispatcher will determine if the call falls within the scope of an online report. If so, the communications operator shall:

(a) Ask the citizen if they have access to the Internet.

(b) Inform the caller their report can be taken online, which will allow them access to file the report immediately, as well as obtain a copy of their report for free.

(c) Direct the caller to the Ventura Police Department's website address, so they can file the report online. Advise them that once they gain access to our website, they will be guided through the online report writing process. If the dispatcher determines the report is not suitable for online reporting based on the listed criteria, they will prioritize the call and either have an officer respond, assign it to the Desk Officer to take the report or utilize the short form report. If a citizen demands to file a report with an officer, or if they call back and state they are having difficulty filing the report online, an officer will be dispatched.

344.7.5 REPORT REVIEW AND APPROVAL

The Ventura Police Department's Communications Center supervisors will be responsible for reviewing the reports submitted online. It will be their responsibility to check the website daily and pull up all reports submitted to the system.

(a) If an Online report has been misclassified, such as an auto burglary being reported as a theft, then the supervisor can reclassify the report according to the elements outlined in the report.

(b) Reviewing supervisor should refrain from making grammatical corrections to the Online reports.

(c) An Online report can be rejected by the reviewing supervisor. If the report is rejected, the reason for the rejection shall be noted in an appropriate and professional manner in the rejection box on the form. The report will then be sent back to the citizen via email.

(d) If appropriate, the reviewing supervisor can request a patrol response when they believe the circumstances of the Online report warrant further investigation. If this occurs, the reviewing supervisor shall reject the report and return it to the citizen. The supervisor will document in the rejection box that the report has been rejected and that an employee will be contacting them to take the report in person. The reviewing supervisor will ensure that a CAD entry is made for a police response.

344.7.6 PROGRAM SUPERVISION

The Online Report System shall be managed by a designated Watch Commander and supervised by all Patrol Sergeants.

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Media Relations

346.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for media releases and media access to scenes of disasters, criminal investigations, emergencies and other law enforcement activities.

346.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

The ultimate authority and responsibility for the release of information to the media shall remain with the Chief of Police, however, in situations not warranting immediate notice to the Chief of Police and in situations where the Chief of Police has given prior approval, Assistant Chiefs, Watch Commanders and designated Public Information Officer(s) may prepare and release information to the media in accordance with this policy and the applicable law.

346.2.1 MEDIA REQUEST

Any media request for information or access to a law enforcement situation shall be referred to the designated department media representative, or if unavailable, to the first available supervisor. Prior to releasing any information to the media, employees shall consider the following:

(a) At no time shall any employee of this department make any comment or release any official information to the media without prior approval from a supervisor or the designated department media representative;

(b) In situations involving multiple law enforcement agencies, every reasonable effort should be made to coordinate media releases with the authorized representative of each involved agency prior to the release of any information by this department;

(c) Under no circumstance should any member of this department make any comment(s) to the media regarding any law enforcement incident not involving this department without prior approval of the Chief of Police.

346.3 MEDIA ACCESS

Authorized members of the media shall be provided access to scenes of disasters, criminal investigations, emergencies and other law enforcement activities subject to the following conditions (Penal Code § 409.5(d)):

(a) The media representative shall produce valid press credentials that shall be prominently displayed at all times while in areas otherwise closed to the public.

(b) Media representatives may be prevented from interfering with emergency operations and criminal investigations.

1. Reasonable effort should be made to provide a safe staging area for the media that is near the incident and that will not interfere with emergency or criminal investigation operations. All information released to the media should

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be coordinated through the department Public Information Officer or other designated spokesperson.

2. Whenever the presence of media or other aircraft pose a threat to public or officer safety or significantly hampers incident operations, the field supervisor should consider requesting a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR). All requests for a TFR should be routed through the Watch Commander. The TFR request should include specific information regarding the perimeter and altitude necessary for the incident and should be requested through the appropriate control tower. If the control tower is not known, the Federal Aviation Administration should be contacted (14 CFR 91.137).

(c) No member of this department who is under investigation shall be subjected to media visits or interviews without the consent of the involved employee (Government Code § 3303(e)).

(d) Media interviews with individuals who are in custody should not be permitted without the approval of the Chief of Police and the express consent of the person in custody.

A tactical operation should be handled in the same manner as a crime scene, except the news media shall be permitted within the outer perimeter of the scene, subject to any restrictions as determined by the supervisor in charge. Department members shall not jeopardize a tactical operation in order to accommodate the news media. All comments to the media shall be coordinated through a supervisor or the Public Information Officer.

346.3.1 PROVIDING ADVANCE INFORMATION

To protect the safety and rights of officers and other persons, advance information about planned actions by law enforcement personnel, such as movement of persons in custody or the execution of an arrest or search warrant, should not be disclosed to the news media, nor should media representatives be invited to be present at such actions except with the prior approval of the Chief of Police.

Any exceptions to the above should only be considered for the furtherance of legitimate law enforcement purposes. Prior to approving any exception the Chief of Police will consider, at minimum, whether the release of information or presence of the media would unreasonably endanger any individual, prejudice the rights of any person or is otherwise prohibited by law.

346.4 SCOPE OF INFORMATION SUBJECT TO RELEASE

The Department will maintain a daily information log of significant law enforcement activities that shall be made available, upon request, to media representatives through the Watch Commander. This log will generally contain the following information:

(a) The date, time, location, case number, type of crime, extent of injury or loss, and names of individuals (except confidential informants) involved in crimes occurring within this jurisdiction unless the release of such information would endanger the

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safety of any individual or jeopardize the successful completion of any ongoing investigation

(b) The date, time, location, case number, name, birth date and charges for each person arrested by this department unless the release of such information would endanger the safety of any individual or jeopardize the successful completion of any ongoing investigation

(c) The time and location of other significant law enforcement activities or requests for service with a brief summary of the incident subject to the restrictions of this policy and applicable law

At no time shall identifying information pertaining to a juvenile arrestee (13 years of age and under), victim or witness be publicly released without prior approval of a competent court. The identity of a minor 14 years of age or older shall not be publicly disclosed unless the minor has been arrested for a serious felony and the release of such information has been approved by the Watch Commander (Welfare and Institutions Code § 827.5).

Information concerning incidents involving certain sex crimes and other offenses set forth in Government Code § 6254(f) shall be restricted in accordance with applicable statutory provisions.

Identifying information concerning deceased individuals shall not be released to the media until notification of next of kin or otherwise cleared through the Coroner's Office.

Any requests for copies of related reports or additional information not contained in this log shall be referred to the designated department media representative, the custodian of records, or if unavailable, to the Watch Commander. Such requests will generally be processed in accordance with the provisions of the Public Records Act (Government Code § 6250, et seq.).

346.4.1 RESTRICTED INFORMATION

It shall be the responsibility of the authorized employee dealing with media requests to ensure that restricted information is not inappropriately released to the media by this department. When in doubt, authorized and available legal counsel should be obtained. Examples of such restricted information include, but are not limited to:

(a) Confidential peace officer personnel information (See Policy Manual § 1026)

1. The identities of officers involved in shootings or other major incidents may only be released to the media pursuant to consent of the involved officer or upon a formal request filed and processed in accordance with the Public Records Act.

(b) Copies of traffic collision reports (except to the involved parties and their authorized representatives) (Vehicle Code § 20012)

(c) Criminal history information

(d) Information that would tend to endanger the safety of any individual or jeopardize the successful completion of any ongoing investigation

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(e) Information pertaining to pending litigation involving this department

(f) Information obtained in confidence

(g) Any information that is otherwise privileged or restricted under state or federal law. (Government Code § 6254(k)).

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Subpoenas and Court Appearances

348.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This procedure has been established to provide for the acceptance of subpoenas and to ensure that employees appear when subpoenaed, or are available to appear in court when requested and present a professional appearance.

348.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Standby - When an employee has appeared in court, or is at the time on-duty, and has been told by a member of the court that he/she is free to leave the court or return to duty, subject to being available by phone if called back.

On-Call - When an employee receives a subpoena of a type which allows him or her to not appear in court, but remain available by phone so that he or she may be directed to appear in court within the time allowed by this policy.

Trailing Status - When an employee remains on standby or on-call status for additional court sessions until notified otherwise.

Mandatory Appearance - Subpoenas marked as mandatory appearance require an employee's physical appearance in the specified court. Failure to timely appear in the specified court, either intentionally or by negligence, may result in disciplinary action.

348.2 COURT SUBPOENAS

Employees who receive subpoenas related to their employment with this department are subject to the provisions of this policy. Court appearances are mandatory on all cases where the court issues an order to appear. Willful or negligent absences or failure to attend required court appearances will result in disciplinary action.

(a) Prosecution or defense attorneys may retain a subpoenaed employee on an on-call status without an additional subpoena or court order.

(b) Officers shall cooperate with the prosecution to insure the successful conclusion of a case, with or without a subpoena.

(c) There are three basic court appearance requests that result in an appearance order:

1. Subpoena: an order to appear before a court. There are criminal and/or administrative sanctions for failure to comply.
2. Subpoena Memorandum: a request for a court appearance by a member. It does not carry the same sanctions as a subpoena but is a Department order, and willful or negligent failure to appear will result in disciplinary action.
3. Pro Per Memorandum: a request by the court to appear on a matter where counsel represents neither party. The criteria and sanctions are the same as a subpoena memorandum.

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This policy applies to civil and criminal subpoenas. Employees are expected to cooperate with the prosecution to ensure the successful conclusion of a case.

348.2.1 SERVICE OF SUBPOENA

Service of a subpoena requiring the appearance of any department employee in connection with a matter arising out of the employee's course and scope of official duties may be accomplished by personal service on the employee or by delivery of two copies of the subpoena on the employee's supervisor or other authorized departmental agent (Government Code § 68097.1; Penal Code § 1328(c)). Subpoena service is also acceptable by courier or court liaison from the court to this department.

348.2.2 VALID SUBPOENAS

No subpoena shall be accepted for an employee of this department unless it has been properly served and verified to have originated from a recognized legal authority.

348.2.3 ACCEPTANCE OF SUBPOENA

(a) Only the employee named in a subpoena, his/her immediate supervisor or the department subpoena clerk shall be authorized to accept service of a subpoena. (Penal Code § 1328(c)). Any authorized employee accepting a subpoena shall immediately provide a copy of the subpoena to the department subpoena clerk. The subpoena clerk shall maintain a chronological log of all department subpoenas and provide a copy of the subpoena to each involved employee.

(b) Prior to any supervisor or other authorized individual accepting a subpoena on behalf of another employee, they shall check available schedules to determine the availability of the named employee for the date listed on the subpoena.

(c) Once a subpoena has been received by a supervisor or other authorized individual, a copy of the subpoena shall be promptly provided to the subpoena clerk as well as a copy to the individually named employee.

348.2.4 REFUSAL OF SUBPOENA

Employees may not refuse a subpoena that has already been accepted by an authorized employee. However, the employee may contact the D.A. and attempt to resolve scheduling conflicts after a subpoena has been accepted. The employee shall notify the Subpoena Clerk if there is a scheduling change after speaking with the D.A. If, due to illness or injury, the named employee is unable to appear in court as directed by a previously served subpoena, he/she shall, at least one hour before the appointed date and time, inform the Watch Commander of his/her absence. It shall then be the responsibility of the Watch Commander to notify the issuing authority of the employee's unavailability to appear.

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If the immediate supervisor or other authorized individual knows that he/she will be unable to deliver a copy of the subpoena to the named employee within sufficient time for the named employee to comply with the subpoena, the supervisor or other authorized individual may refuse to accept service (Penal Code § 1328(d)).

If a subpoena is presented for service to an immediate supervisor or other authorized individual less than five working days prior to the date listed for an appearance, and the supervisor or other authorized individual is not reasonably certain that the service can be completed, he/she may refuse to accept service (Penal Code § 1328(e)).

If, after initially accepting service of a subpoena, a supervisor or other authorized individual determines that he/she will be unable to deliver a copy of the subpoena to the individually named employee within sufficient time for the named employee to comply with the subpoena, the supervisor or the subpoena clerk shall notify the server or the attorney named on the subpoena of such not less than 48 hours prior to the date listed for the appearance (Penal Code § 1328(f)).

348.2.5 COURT STANDBY

Members receiving a court appearance order shall be responsible for the following:

(a) On-Call/Standby/Trailed Court Appearance:

1. If the order designates an "on-call" status for the date of appearance, the department will compensate members if they have not been called off by 1900 hours of the day prior to the court appearance.
2. Once placed on-call, the members must be available and prepared to respond to an assigned court location within one hour from time of notification.
3. The Department will compensate members experiencing multiple same-day on-call court appearance orders for only one on-call status day regardless of the number of on-call cases.
4. Members shall notify the subpoena clerk as soon as possible if they arrange an on-call status or if they are released by the subpoenaing attorney from an on-call status.

(b) Trailed Cases:

1. When the court trails a case to another date, the member shall use the same subpoena that is valid on the date and time indicated as on-call, unless otherwise specified.
2. The member shall remain on-call during the trailed dates if they are on consecutive court days.
3. If there is a break between days, then the member shall start on-call on the next trailed date.
4. The Department will not compensate a member for the break of days between the trailed dates.

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5. If the Department does not receive call-offs by the end of the day, the on-call court case will automatically be trailed to the next working day.
6. The member shall remain on-call until the subpoena clerk sends a disposition by e-mail.

(c) On-Call/Standby Compensation: Members eligible for on-call compensation will place the information on the Court Appearance Order and a supervisor will approve it.

1. When a member is scheduled to be on-call for court and the Department does not receive notification of a call-off prior to 1900 hours of the preceding court day, the Department will compensate the officer for being on standby. The Department will compensate in accordance with the M.O.U. regarding standby on a duty day versus standby on an off-duty day.
2. There is no requirement for the member to call the subpoena clerk prior to the scheduled standby. However, the Department will not compensate the member if the court notifies the Department of a call-off prior to 1900 hours of the preceding court day, even though the member may not have been notified of the call-off.
3. In the event a member is on standby for a case and that member appears in court on that day for that case, the Department will only compensate the officer for call-out pay and not the standby pay. Members who appear in court for a case in the morning session and are then subsequently placed on-call for the same case during the afternoon session shall be entitled to on-call compensation for the afternoon session as well the morning call-out pay. The member placed on call shall notify the subpoena clerk of their on call status.
4. If a member is scheduled to appear in court on one case and is on standby for another case the same day, the member shall not be eligible for both standby and call-out pay unless any portion of the time they are required to be on standby is in the opposite court session from the appearance session. A court day has two sessions: 0800 - 1200hours (morning) 1300 - 1700 hours (afternoon)
5. The Department will not compensate a member for standby pay if the member receives call-out pay for the morning and afternoon court sessions.

(d) Specific Time Appearance Orders

1. If a member receives a court appearance order that indicates a specific appearance time, the member shall appear at the scheduled time. However, members shall, if they have not been previously notified of a call-off, contact the subpoena clerk within one hour of the scheduled appearance time to ascertain whether an appearance is still necessary. Trailed cases are on-call from 0900.
2. The Department will compensate members experiencing same day multiple court appearance orders for specific times for each appearance only if a break of two hours occurs between the conclusion of one and the beginning of the second.
3. Members requesting compensation for overtime court appearances shall complete those sections of the court appearance order entitled, "Request for Overtime Payment Only." Members shall have a supervisor sign the form. The

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member will then return the completed form to the payroll/account clerk no later than the next scheduled duty day.

4. Members having arranged for a continuance or call-off with a subpoenaing attorney shall notify the subpoena clerk as soon as possible.

348.2.6 OFF-DUTY RELATED SUBPOENAS

Employees receiving valid subpoenas for actions taken off-duty not related to their employment with Ventura Police Department shall comply with the requirements of the subpoena. Employees receiving these subpoenas are not compensated for their appearance and arrangements for time off shall be coordinated through their immediate supervisor.

348.2.7 FAILURE TO APPEAR

Any employee who fails to comply with the terms of any valid and properly served subpoena may be subject to discipline as well as court imposed civil and/or criminal sanctions.

348.3 CIVIL SUBPOENAS

The Department will compensate employees who appear in their official capacity on civil matters arising out of the employee's official duties as directed by the current Memorandum of Understanding. In such situations, the Department will also reimburse any officer for reasonable and necessary travel expenses.

The Department will receive reimbursement for the officer's compensation through the civil attorney of record who subpoenaed the officer.

348.3.1 PROCEDURE

To ensure that the officer is able to appear when required, that the officer is compensated for such appearance, and to protect the Department's right to reimbursement, officers shall follow the established procedures for the receipt of a civil subpoena.

348.3.2 CIVIL SUBPOENA ACCEPTANCE

Subpoenas shall not be accepted in a civil action in which the officer or Department is not a party without properly posted fees pursuant to Government Code § 68097.6.

348.3.3 PARTY MUST DEPOSIT FUNDS

The party in the civil action that seeks to subpoena an officer must deposit the statutory fee of $275 (Government Code § 68097.2) for each appearance before such subpoena will be accepted. Parties seeking to have the officer make multiple appearances must make an additional deposit in advance.

348.4 OVERTIME APPEARANCES

If the officer appeared on his/her off-duty time, he/she will be compensated in accordance with the current employee Memorandum of Understanding.

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The overtime on such appearance will be paid from the time the officer arrives at the court facility or location of appearance until that time he/she leaves the court facility or location of appearance.

348.5 COURTROOM PROTOCOL

Employees must be punctual when appearing in court and shall be prepared to proceed immediately with the case for which they are subpoenaed.

348.5.1 PREPARATION FOR TESTIMONY

Before the date of testifying, the subpoenaed officer shall request a copy of relevant reports and become familiar with their content in order to be prepared for court.

348.5.2 COURTROOM ATTIRE

Employees shall dress in uniform or business attire. Suitable business attire for men would consist of a coat, tie, and dress pants. Suitable business attire for female employees would consist of a dress jacket, dress blouse, and skirt or slacks.

348.6 COURTHOUSE DECORUM

Employees shall observe all rules of the court in which they are appearing, refrain from smoking or chewing gum in the courtroom, and shall remain alert to changes in the assigned courtroom where their matter is to be heard.

348.7 TESTIFYING AGAINST THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE

Any member or employee who is subpoenaed to testify, who has agreed to testify, or who anticipates testifying or providing information on behalf of or at the request of any party other than the People of the State of California, any county, any city, or any of their officers and employees in which any of those entities are parties, will notify their immediate supervisor without delay. The supervisor will then notify the Chief of Police, District Attorney's Office in criminal cases, County Counsel or City Attorney, as may be indicated by the case.

This includes, but is not limited to the following situations:

(a) Providing testimony or information for the defense in any criminal trial or proceeding;

(b) Providing testimony or information for the plaintiff in a civil proceeding against any county, any city, or their officers and employees; or

(c) Providing testimony or information on behalf of or at the request of any party other than any County, city, or any county or city official in any administrative proceeding, including but not limited to personnel and/or disciplinary matter.

348.8 JURY DUTY

Employees summoned for jury duty should inform the shift supervisor with at least 40 duty hours advance notice. The Department will adjust a member's duty schedule to accommodate the jury duty as regular duty. Jury duty or standby in the jury pool is on an hour-for-hour basis. Members released from jury duty early shall report to the Watch Commander for assignment.

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This policy applies only to jury trials.

348.9 OUT OF COUNTY COURT APPEARANCES

When a member receives a duty related subpoena requiring out of county travel, the member should notify his/her immediate supervisor. Whenever possible, arrangements should be made for a city vehicle for travel to the appearance. Reimbursement for travel costs will be through the department's travel reimbursement process.

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Outside Agency Assistance

352.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to officers in the request of or answering the request for assistance involving another law enforcement agency.

It is the policy of this department to provide assistance whenever possible, consistent with the applicable laws of arrest and detention policies of this department, when another law enforcement agency requests assistance with an arrest or detention of any person. This department may also request an outside agency to provide assistance.

352.1.1 ASSISTING OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Generally, calls for assistance from other agencies are routed to the Watch Commander's office for approval. When an authorized employee of an outside agency requests the assistance of this department in taking a person into custody, available officers shall respond and assist in making a lawful arrest. If an officer receives a request in the field for assistance, that officer shall notify a supervisor. Arrestees may be temporarily detained by our agency until arrangements for transportation are made by the outside agency. Only in exceptional circumstances will this department provide transportation of arrestees to other county facilities.

When such assistance is rendered, a case number will be issued to report action taken by Ventura Police Department Personnel. Probation violators temporarily detained by this department will not ordinarily be booked at this department.

352.1.2 REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM OUTSIDE AGENCIES

If assistance is needed from another agency, the employee requesting assistance shall first notify a supervisor of his/her intentions. The handling officer or supervisor should direct assisting personnel to where they are needed and to whom they should report when they arrive.

The requesting officer should secure radio frequencies for use by all involved agencies so that communication can be coordinated as needed. If necessary, reasonable effort should be taken to provide radio equipment capable of communicating on the assigned frequency to any personnel who do not have compatible radios.

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Registered Offender Information

356.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines by which the Ventura Police Department will address issues associated with certain offenders who are residing in the jurisdiction and how the Department will disseminate information and respond to public inquiries for information about registered sex, arson and drug offenders.

356.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department to identify and monitor registered offenders living within this jurisdiction and to take reasonable steps to address the risks those persons may pose.

356.3 REGISTRATION

The Detective Bureau supervisor shall establish a process to reasonably accommodate registration of certain offenders. The process should rebut any allegation on the part of the offender that the registration process was too confusing, burdensome, or difficult for compliance. If it is reasonable to do so, an investigator assigned to related investigations should conduct the registration in order to best evaluate any threat the person may pose to the community. Those assigned to register offenders should receive appropriate training regarding the registration process.

Upon conclusion of the registration process, the investigator shall ensure that the registration information is provided to the California Department of Justice (DOJ) in accordance with applicable law (Penal Code § 457.1; Penal Code § 290 et seq.).

The refusal of a registrant to provide any of the required information or complete the process should initiate a criminal investigation for failure to register.

356.3.1 CONTENTS OF REGISTRATION

The information collected from the registering offenders shall include a signed statement as required by the California DOJ, fingerprints and a photograph, and any other information required by applicable law (Penal Code § 457.1; Penal Code § 290 et seq.).

356.4 MONITORING OF REGISTERED OFFENDERS

The Detective Bureau supervisor should establish a system to periodically, and at least once annually, verify that a registrant remains in compliance with his/her registration requirements after the initial registration. This verification should include:

(a) Efforts to confirm residence using an unobtrusive method, such as an internet search or drive-by of the declared residence.

(b) Review of information on the California DOJ website for sex offenders.

(c) Contact with a registrant's parole or probation officer.

Any discrepancies should be reported to the California DOJ.

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The Detective Bureau supervisor should also establish a procedure to routinely disseminate information regarding registered offenders to Ventura Police Department personnel, including timely updates regarding new or relocated registrants.

356.5 DISSEMINATION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Members will not unilaterally make a public notification advising the community of a particular registrant's presence in the community. Members who identify a significant risk or other public safety issue associated with a registrant should promptly advise their supervisor. The supervisor should evaluate the request and forward the information to the Chief of Police if warranted. A determination will be made by the Chief of Police, with the assistance of legal counsel as necessary, whether such a public alert should be made.

Members of the public requesting information on sex registrants should be provided the Megan's Law website or the Ventura Police Department's website. Information on sex registrants placed on the Ventura Police Department's website shall comply with the requirements of Penal Code § 290.46.

The Records Supervisor may release local registered offender information to residents only in accordance with applicable law (Penal Code § 290.45; Penal Code § 290.46; Penal Code § 457.1), and in compliance with a California Public Records Act (Government Code § 6250-6276.48) request.

356.5.1 LIMITED RELEASE WITHIN COLLEGE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

California law allows the following additional information regarding a registered sex offender on campus, whose information is not available to the public via the internet website, to be released to a campus community (Penal Code § 290.01(d)):

(a) The offender's full name

(b) The offender's known aliases

(c) The offender's sex

(d) The offender's race

(e) The offender's physical description

(f) The offender's photograph

(g) The offender's date of birth

(h) Crimes resulting in the registration of the offender under Penal Code § 290

(i) The date of last registration

For purposes of this section, campus community shall be defined as those persons present at or regularly frequenting any place constituting campus property, satellite facilities, laboratories, public areas contiguous to the campus and other areas set forth in Penal Code § 290.01(d).

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356.5.2 RELEASE NOTIFICATIONS

Registrant information that is released should include notification that:

(a) The offender registry includes only those persons who have been required by law to register and who are in compliance with the offender registration laws.

(b) The information is provided as a public service and may not be current or accurate.

(c) Persons should not rely solely on the offender registry as a safeguard against offenses in their communities.

(d) The crime for which a person is convicted may not accurately reflect the level of risk.

(e) Anyone who uses information contained in the registry to harass registrants or commit any crime may be subject to criminal prosecution.

(f) The purpose of the release of information is to allow members of the public to protect themselves and their children from sex offenders (Penal Code 290.45).

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Major Incident Notification

358.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to members of this department in determining when, how and to whom notification of major incidents should be made.

358.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department recognizes that certain incidents should be brought to the attention of supervisors or other specified personnel of this department to facilitate the coordination of activities and ensure that inquiries from the media and the public may be properly addressed.

358.3 MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR NOTIFICATION

Most situations where the media show a strong interest are also of interest to the Chief of Police and the affected Assistant Chief. The following list of incident types is provided as a guide for notification and is not intended to be all inclusive:

- Homicides
- Traffic accidents with fatalities
- Officer-involved shooting - on or off duty (see Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths Policy for special notifications)
- Significant injury or death to employee - on or off duty
- Death of a prominent Ventura official
- Arrest of a department employee or prominent Ventura official
- Aircraft crash with major damage and/or injury or death
- In-custody deaths

358.4 WATCH COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITY

The Watch Commander is responsible for making the appropriate notifications. The Watch Commander shall make reasonable attempts to obtain as much information on the incident as possible before notification. The Watch Commander shall attempt to make the notifications as soon as practicable. Notification should be made by calling the home telephone number first and then by any other available contact numbers.

358.4.1 STAFF NOTIFICATION

In the event an incident occurs described in Policy Manual § 358.2, the Chief of Police shall be notified along with the affected Division Commander and the Detective Commander if that division is affected.

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358.4.2 DETECTIVE NOTIFICATION

If the incident requires that a detective respond from home, the immediate supervisor of the appropriate detail shall be contacted who will then contact the appropriate detective.

358.4.3 TRAFFIC BUREAU NOTIFICATION

In the event of a traffic fatality or major injury, the Traffic Sergeant shall be notified who will then contact the appropriate accident investigator. The Traffic Sergeant will notify the Traffic Commander.

358.4.4 PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER (PIO)

The Public Information Officer shall be called after members of staff have been notified that it appears the media may have a significant interest in the incident.

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Threshold Incidents Policy

359.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that a complete investigation is conducted in circumstances likely to expose the City of Ventura and/or the Ventura Police Department to civil liability.

359.2 DEFINITION

A threshold incident is any event involving a department member where significant civil liability may attach.

359.3 POLICY

Members should immediately notify their supervisor of any event where significant civil liability is likely to occur. These incidents may include, but are not limited to: use of force, traffic accidents, and major damage to property caused by an employee. Threshold packets shall be completed on all documented Use of Force incidents where force is applied to a juvenile.

359.4 PROCEDURE

A Patrol Commander will determine whether a threshold package is completed. Each threshold package should include:

(a) All reports related to the incident, including reports of any area canvas.

(b) Photographs of injuries, involved parties, or damaged property.

(c) Copies of all body worn videos related to the incident.

(d) Copies of recorded interviews of witnesses, victims, and/or suspects.

(e) Printed copies of the call history.

(f) CDs of radio and phone traffic related to the incident.

(g) MDC logs.

(h) Medical Waiver form for the involved parties.

(i) Use of Force form (if applicable).

(j) Memo from supervisor to Professional Standards documenting any actions taken by the supervisor.

(k) Notification of the city's Risk Management.

The threshold package will be completed within five days of the incident and then submitted to Professional Standards via the Chain of Command.

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Death Investigation

360.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The investigations of cases involving death include those ranging from natural cause to homicide. Some causes of death may not be readily apparent and some cases differ substantially from what they appeared to be initially. The thoroughness of death investigations cannot be emphasized enough.

360.2 INVESTIGATION CONSIDERATIONS

Death investigation cases require certain actions be taken. Paramedics shall be called in all suspected death cases unless the death is obvious (decapitated, decomposed, etc.). A supervisor shall be notified and shall respond to the scene in all death investigations.

360.2.1 CORONER REQUEST

Government Code § 27491 and Health & Safety Code § 102850 direct the Coroner to inquire into and determine the circumstances, manner and cause of certain deaths. The Coroner shall be called in any of the following cases:

(a) Unattended deaths (No physician in attendance or during the continued absence of the attending physician. Also, includes all deaths outside hospitals and nursing care facilities).

(b) Deaths where the deceased has not been attended by either a physician or a registered nurse, who is a member of a hospice care interdisciplinary team, as defined by Health and Safety Code § 1746 in the 20 days prior to death.

(c) Physician unable to state the cause of death. Unwillingness does not apply. Includes all sudden, unexpected and unusual deaths and fetal deaths when the underlying cause is unknown.

(d) Known or suspected homicide.

(e) Known or suspected suicide.

(f) Involving any criminal action or suspicion of a criminal act. Includes child and dependent adult negligence and abuse.

(g) Related to or following known or suspected self-induced or criminal abortion.

(h) Associated with a known or alleged rape or crime against nature.

(i) Following an accident or injury (primary or contributory). Deaths known or suspected as resulting (in whole or in part) from or related to accident or injury, either old or recent.

(j) Drowning, fire, hanging, gunshot, stabbing, cutting, starvation, exposure, alcoholism, drug addiction, strangulation or aspiration.

(k) Accidental poisoning (food, chemical, drug, therapeutic agents).

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(l) Occupational diseases or occupational hazards.

(m) Known or suspected contagious disease and constituting a public hazard.

(n) All deaths in operating rooms and all deaths where a patient has not fully recovered from an anesthetic, whether in surgery, recovery room or elsewhere.

(o) In prison or while under sentence. Includes all in-custody and police involved deaths.

(p) All deaths of unidentified persons.

(q) All deaths of state hospital patients.

(r) Suspected Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) deaths.

(s) All deaths where the patient is comatose throughout the period of the physician's attendance. Includes patients admitted to hospitals unresponsive and expire without regaining consciousness.

The body shall not be disturbed or moved from the position or place of death without permission of the coroner.

360.2.2 SEARCHING DEAD BODIES

The Coroner or Deputy Coroner is generally the only person permitted to search a body known to be dead from any of the circumstances set forth in Government Code § 27491. The only exception is that an officer is permitted to search the body of a person killed in a traffic collision for the limited purpose of locating an anatomical donor card (Government Code § 27491.3). If such a donor card is located, the Coroner or a designee shall be promptly notified. Should exigent circumstances indicate to an officer that any search of a known dead body is warranted prior to the arrival of the Coroner or a designee; the investigating officer shall first obtain verbal consent from the Coroner or a designee (Government Code § 27491.2).

Whenever possible, a witness, preferably a relative to the deceased or a member of the household, should be requested to remain at the scene with the officer pending the arrival of the Coroner or a designee. The name and address of this person shall be included in the narrative of the death report. Whenever personal effects are removed from the body of the deceased by the Coroner or a designee, a receipt shall be obtained. This receipt shall be attached to the death report.

360.2.3 DEATH NOTIFICATION

When practical, and if not handled by the Coroner's Office, notification to the next-of-kin of the deceased person shall be made, in person, by the officer assigned to the incident. If the next-of-kin lives in another jurisdiction, a law enforcement official from that jurisdiction shall be requested to make the personal notification. If the relatives live outside this county, the Coroner may be requested to make the notification. The Coroner needs to know if notification has been made. Assigned detectives may need to talk to the next-of-kin.

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360.2.4 UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODIES

If the identity of a dead body cannot be established after the Coroner arrives, the Coroner’s office will issue a “John Doe" or "Jane Doe” number for the report.

360.2.5 DEATH INVESTIGATION REPORTING

All incidents involving a death shall be documented on the appropriate form.

360.2.6 SUSPECTED HOMICIDE

If the initially assigned officer suspects that the death involves a homicide, other suspicious circumstances, or the use of a weapon (whether self-inflicted or not), the Investigations Division shall be notified to determine the possible need for a detective to respond to the scene for further immediate investigation.

360.2.7 EMPLOYMENT RELATED DEATHS OR INJURIES

Any member of this agency who responds to and determines that a death, serious illness, or serious injury has occurred as a result of an accident at or in connection with the victim's employment shall ensure that the nearest office of Cal-OSHA is notified by telephone or teletype with all pertinent information (8 CCR 342(b)).

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Identity Theft

362.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Identity theft is a growing trend that frequently involves related crimes in multiple jurisdictions. This policy is intended to provide guidelines for the reporting and investigation of such crimes.

362.2 REPORTING

(a) In an effort to maintain uniformity in reporting, officers presented with the crime of identity theft (Penal Code § 530.6) shall initiate a report for victims residing within the jurisdiction of this department when the crime occurred. For incidents of identity theft occurring outside this jurisdiction, officers should observe the following:

1. For any victim not residing within this jurisdiction, the officer may either take a courtesy report to be forwarded to the victim's residence agency or the victim should be encouraged to promptly report the identity theft to the law enforcement agency where he or she resides.

(b) While the crime of identity theft should be reported to the law enforcement agency where the victim resides, officers of this department should investigate and report crimes occurring within this jurisdiction which have resulted from the original identity theft (e.g., the identity theft occurred elsewhere, but the credit card fraud occurred and is reported in this jurisdiction).

(c) Officers should include all known incidents of fraudulent activity (e.g., credit card number applied for in victim's name when the victim has never made such an application).

(d) Officers should also cross-reference all known reports made by the victim (e.g., U.S. Secret Service, credit reporting bureaus, U.S. Postal Service and DMV) with all known report numbers.

(e) The reporting officer should inform victims of identity theft that the California Identity Theft Registry is available to help those who are wrongly linked to crimes. The registry can be checked by law enforcement and other authorized persons to investigate whether a criminal history or want was created in the victim's name (Penal Code § 530.7). Information regarding the California Identity Theft Registry can be obtained by calling toll free (888) 880-0240.

(f) Following supervisory review and departmental processing, the initial report should be forwarded to the appropriate detective for follow up investigation, coordination with other agencies and prosecution as circumstances dictate.

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Private Persons Arrests

364.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for the handling of private person's arrests made pursuant to Penal Code § 837.

364.2 ADVISING PRIVATE PERSONS OF THE ARREST PROCESS

Penal Code § 836(b) expressly mandates that all officers shall advise victims of domestic violence of the right to make a private person's arrest, including advice on how to safely execute such an arrest. In all other situations, officers should use sound discretion in determining whether or not to advise an individual of the arrest process.

(a) When advising any individual regarding the right to make a private person's arrest, officers should refrain from encouraging or dissuading any individual from making such an arrest and should instead limit advice to the legal requirements for such an arrest as listed below.

(b) Private individuals should be discouraged from using force to effect a private person's arrest, and absent immediate threat to their own safety or the safety of others, private individuals should be encouraged to refer matters to law enforcement officials for further investigation or arrest.

364.3 ARRESTS BY PRIVATE PERSONS

Penal Code § 837 provides that a private person may arrest another:

(a) For a public offense committed or attempted in his or her presence;

(b) When the person arrested has committed a felony, although not in his or her presence;

(c) When a felony has been in fact committed, and he or she has reasonable cause for believing the person arrested has committed it.

Unlike peace officers, private persons may not make an arrest on suspicion that a felony has been committed - the felony must in fact have taken place.

364.4 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Any officer presented with a private person wishing to make an arrest must determine whether or not there is reasonable cause to believe that such an arrest would be lawful (Penal Code § 847).

(a) Should any officer determine that there is no reasonable cause to believe that a private person's arrest is lawful, the officer should take no action to further detain or restrain the individual beyond that which reasonably appears necessary to investigate the matter, determine the lawfulness of the arrest and protect the public safety.

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1. Any officer who determines that a private person's arrest appears to be unlawful should promptly release the arrested individual pursuant to Penal Code § 849(b)(1). The officer must include the basis of such a determination in a related report.
2. Absent reasonable cause to support a private person's arrest or other lawful grounds to support an independent arrest by the officer, the officer should advise the parties that no arrest will be made and that the circumstances will be documented in a related report.

(b) Whenever an officer determines that there is reasonable cause to believe that a private person's arrest is lawful, the officer may exercise any of the following options:

1. Take the individual into physical custody for booking
2. Release the individual pursuant to a Notice to Appear (if the crime is a misdemeanor)
3. Release the individual pursuant to Penal Code § 849

364.5 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

In all circumstances in which a private person is claiming to have made an arrest, the officer must document the Private Person's Arrest. When practicable, the officer shall record the civilian's request to have the person arrested by the police via body-worn video. The officer shall also complete a narrative report regarding the circumstances and disposition of the incident.

364.6 ARREST BY OFF-DUTY PEACE OFFICERS

A peace officer's powers of arrest are the same regardless of whether the peace officer is on-duty or off-duty. In all circumstances where an off-duty officer has made an arrest an officer from this agency will accept the arrest.

(a) The officer accepting the arrest will conduct a complete and thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the arrest and document the investigation.

(b) The off-duty officer will provide a statement to the investigating officer and may choose to write their own statement as a supplement to the statement provided to the investigating officer.

(c) The on-duty supervisor will be notified of the circumstances surrounding the arrest as soon as practical. If the arrest involves the use-of-force the supervisor will respond to the location of the arrest.

(d) An arrest involving the use-of-force will be investigated and documented consistent with § 300.

(e) The watch commander will be notified of any arrest involving the use-of-force by an off-duty peace officer. If the off-duty peace officer is from an allied agency, the watch

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commander, if he/she deems it necessary, will be responsible for notifying the watch commander of that agency of the circumstances surrounding the arrest.

(f) The officer accepting the arrest may exercise the options available under § 364.4(b).

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Anti-Reproductive Rights Crimes Reporting

366.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy shall establish a procedure for the mandated reporting of Anti-Reproductive Rights Crimes (ARRC) to the Attorney General pursuant to the Reproductive Rights Law Enforcement Act (Penal Code § 13775 et seq.).

366.2 DEFINITIONS

Penal Code § 423.2 provides that the following acts shall be considered Anti-Reproductive Rights Crimes (ARRC) when committed by any person, except a parent or guardian acting towards his or her minor child or ward:

(a) By force, threat of force, or physical obstruction that is a crime of violence, intentionally injures, intimidates, interferes with, or attempts to injure, intimidate, or interfere with any person or entity because that person or entity is a reproductive health services client, provider, or assistant, or in order to intimidate any person or entity, or any class of persons or entities, from becoming or remaining a reproductive health services client, provider, or assistant

(b) By non-violent physical obstruction, intentionally injures, intimidates, or interferes with, or attempts to injure, intimidate, or interfere with, any person or entity because that person or entity is a reproductive health services client, provider, or assistant, or in order to intimidate any person or entity, or any class of persons or entities, from becoming or remaining a reproductive health services client, provider or assistant

(c) Intentionally damages or destroys the property of a person, entity, or facility, or attempts to do so, because the person, entity, or facility is a reproductive health services client, provider, assistant, or facility

366.3 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

(a) Upon the receipt of the report of an ARRC, it shall be the responsibility of the employee taking such a report to also complete an ARRC Data Collection Worksheet (BCIA 8371) in accordance with the instructions contained on such forms.

(b) The ARRC Data Collection Worksheet shall be processed with all related reports and forwarded to the Investigation Assistant Chief.

(c) By the tenth day of each month, it shall be the responsibility of the Investigation Assistant Chief to ensure that a Summary Worksheet (BCIA 8370) is submitted to the Department of Justice Criminal Justice Statistics Center.

1. In the event that no ARRC(s) were reported during the previous month, a Summary Worksheet shall be submitted to the Department of Justice with an indication that no such crimes were reported.

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2. Any ARRC(s) reported in the Summary Worksheet shall be accompanied by a copy of the related Data Collection Worksheet(s).

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Limited English Proficiency Services

368.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance to members when communicating with individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) (42 USC § 2000d).

368.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Authorized interpreter - A person who has been screened and authorized by the Department to act as an interpreter and/or translator for others.

Interpret or interpretation - The act of listening to a communication in one language (source language) and orally converting it to another language (target language), while retaining the same meaning.

Limited English proficient (LEP) - Any individual whose primary language is not English and who has a limited ability to read, write, speak or understand English. These individuals may be competent in certain types of communication (e.g., speaking or understanding) but still be LEP for other purposes (e.g., reading or writing). Similarly, LEP designations are context-specific; an individual may possess sufficient English language skills to function in one setting but these skills may be insufficient in other situations.

Qualified bilingual member - A member of the Ventura Police Department, designated by the Department, who has the ability to communicate fluently, directly and accurately in both English and another language. Bilingual members may be fluent enough to communicate in a non-English language but may not be sufficiently fluent to interpret or translate from one language into another.

Translate or translation - The replacement of written text from one language (source language) into an equivalent written text (target language).

368.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department to reasonably ensure that LEP individuals have meaningful access to law enforcement services, programs and activities, while not imposing undue burdens on its members.

The Department will not discriminate against or deny any individual access to services, rights or programs based upon national origin or any other protected interest or right.

368.3 LEP COORDINATOR

The Chief of Police shall delegate certain responsibilities to an LEP Coordinator. The LEP Coordinator shall be appointed by, and directly responsible to, the Patrol Assistant Chief or the authorized designee.

The responsibilities of the LEP Coordinator include, but are not limited to:

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(a) Coordinating and implementing all aspects of the Ventura Police Department's LEP services to LEP individuals.

(b) Developing procedures that will enable members to access LEP services, including telephonic interpreters, and ensuring the procedures are available to all members.

(c) Ensuring that a list of all qualified bilingual members and authorized interpreters is maintained and available to each Watch Commander and Communications Supervisor. The list should include information regarding the following:

1. Languages spoken
2. Contact information
3. Availability

(d) Ensuring signage stating that interpreters are available free of charge to LEP individuals is posted in appropriate areas and in the most commonly spoken languages.

(e) Reviewing existing and newly developed documents to determine which are vital documents and should be translated, and into which languages the documents should be translated.

(f) Annually assessing demographic data and other resources, including contracted language services utilization data and community-based organizations, to determine if there are additional documents or languages that are appropriate for translation.

(g) Identifying standards and assessments to be used by the Department to qualify individuals as qualified bilingual members or authorized interpreters.

(h) Periodically reviewing efforts of the Department in providing meaningful access to LEP individuals, and, as appropriate, developing reports, new procedures or recommending modifications to this policy.

(i) Receiving and responding to complaints regarding department LEP services.

(j) Ensuring appropriate processes are in place to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints and inquiries regarding discrimination in access to department services, programs and activities.

368.4 FOUR-FACTOR ANALYSIS

Since there are many different languages that members could encounter, the Department will utilize the four-factor analysis outlined in the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients, available at the DOJ website, to determine which measures will provide meaningful access to its services and programs. It is recognized that law enforcement contacts and circumstances will vary considerably. This analysis, therefore, must remain flexible and will require an ongoing balance of four factors, which are:

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(a) The number or proportion of LEP individuals eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by department members, or who may benefit from programs or services within the jurisdiction of the Department or a particular geographic area.

(b) The frequency with which LEP individuals are likely to come in contact with department members, programs or services.

(c) The nature and importance of the contact, program, information or service provided.

(d) The cost of providing LEP assistance and the resources available.

368.5 TYPES OF LEP ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Ventura Police Department members should never refuse service to an LEP individual who is requesting assistance, nor should they require an LEP individual to furnish an interpreter as a condition for receiving assistance. The Department will make every reasonable effort to provide meaningful and timely assistance to LEP individuals through a variety of services.

The Department will utilize all reasonably available tools, such as language identification cards, when attempting to determine an LEP individual's primary language.

LEP individuals may choose to accept department-provided LEP services at no cost or they may choose to provide their own.

Department-provided LEP services may include, but are not limited to, the assistance methods described in this policy.

368.6 WRITTEN FORMS AND GUIDELINES

Vital documents or those that are frequently used should be translated into languages most likely to be encountered. The LEP Coordinator will arrange to make these translated documents available to members and other appropriate individuals, as necessary.

368.7 AUDIO RECORDINGS

The Department may develop audio recordings of important or frequently requested information in a language most likely to be understood by those LEP individuals who are representative of the community being served.

368.8 QUALIFIED BILINGUAL MEMBERS

Bilingual members may be qualified to provide LEP services when they have demonstrated through established department procedures a sufficient level of skill and competence to fluently communicate in both English and a non-English language. Members utilized for LEP services must demonstrate knowledge of the functions of an interpreter/translator and the ethical issues involved when acting as a language conduit. Additionally, bilingual members must be able to communicate technical and law enforcement terminology, and be sufficiently proficient in the non-English language to perform complicated tasks, such as conducting interrogations, taking statements, collecting evidence or conveying rights or responsibilities.

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When a qualified bilingual member from this department is not available, personnel from other City departments, who have been identified by the Department as having the requisite skills and competence, may be requested.

368.9 AUTHORIZED INTERPRETERS

Any person designated by the Department to act as an authorized interpreter and/or translator must have demonstrated competence in both English and the involved non-English language, must have an understanding of the functions of an interpreter that allows for correct and effective translation, and should not be a person with an interest in the department case or investigation involving the LEP individual. A person providing interpretation or translation services may be required to establish the accuracy and trustworthiness of the interpretation or translation in a court proceeding.

Authorized interpreters must pass a screening process established by the LEP Coordinator which demonstrates that their skills and abilities include:

(a) The competence and ability to communicate information accurately in both English and in the target language.

(b) Knowledge, in both languages, of any specialized terms or concepts peculiar to this department and of any particularized vocabulary or phraseology used by the LEP individual.

(c) The ability to understand and adhere to the interpreter role without deviating into other roles, such as counselor or legal adviser.

(d) Knowledge of the ethical issues involved when acting as a language conduit.

368.9.1 SOURCES OF AUTHORIZED INTERPRETERS

The Department may contract with authorized interpreters who are available over the telephone. Members may use these services with the approval of a supervisor and in compliance with established procedures.

Other sources may include:

- Qualified bilingual members of this department or personnel from other City departments.
- Individuals employed exclusively to perform interpretation services.
- Contracted in-person interpreters, such as state or federal court interpreters, among others.
- Interpreters from other agencies who have been qualified as interpreters by this department, and with whom the Department has a resource-sharing or other arrangement that they will interpret according to department guidelines.

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368.9.2 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS AND OTHER SOURCES OF LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE

Language assistance may be available from community volunteers who have demonstrated competence in either monolingual (direct) communication and/or in interpretation or translation (as noted in above), and have been approved by the Department to communicate with LEP individuals.

Where qualified bilingual members or other authorized interpreters are unavailable to assist, approved community volunteers who have demonstrated competence may be called upon when appropriate. However, department members must carefully consider the nature of the contact and the relationship between the LEP individual and the volunteer to ensure that the volunteer can provide neutral and unbiased assistance.

While family or friends of an LEP individual may offer to assist with communication or interpretation, members should carefully consider the circumstances before relying on such individuals. For example, children should not be relied upon except in exigent or very informal and non-confrontational situations.

368.10 CONTACT AND REPORTING

While all law enforcement contacts, services and individual rights are important, this department will utilize the four-factor analysis to prioritize service to LEP individuals so that such services may be targeted where they are most needed, according to the nature and importance of the particular law enforcement activity involved.

Whenever any member of this department is required to complete a report or other documentation, and interpretation services are provided to any involved LEP individual, such services should be noted in the related report. Members should document the type of interpretation services utilized and whether the individual elected to use services provided by the Department or some other identified source.

368.11 RECEIVING AND RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

The Ventura Police Department will take reasonable steps and will work with the Human Resources Department to develop in-house language capacity by hiring or appointing qualified members proficient in languages representative of the community being served.

368.11.1 EMERGENCY CALLS TO 9-1-1

Department members will make every reasonable effort to promptly accommodate LEP individuals utilizing 9-1-1 lines. When a 9-1-1 call-taker receives a call and determines that the caller is an LEP individual, the call-taker shall quickly determine whether sufficient information can be obtained to initiate an appropriate emergency response. If language assistance is still needed, the language is known and a qualified bilingual member is available in Communications Center, the call shall immediately be handled by the qualified bilingual member.

If a qualified bilingual member is not available or the call-taker is unable to identify the caller's language, the call-taker will contact the contracted telephone interpretation service and establish a three-way call between the call-taker, the LEP individual and the interpreter.

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Dispatchers will make every reasonable effort to dispatch a qualified bilingual member to the assignment, if available and appropriate.

While 9-1-1 calls shall receive top priority, reasonable efforts should also be made to accommodate LEP individuals seeking routine access to services and information by utilizing the resources listed in this policy.

368.12 FIELD ENFORCEMENT

Field enforcement will generally include such contacts as traffic stops, pedestrian stops, serving warrants and restraining orders, crowd/traffic control and other routine field contacts that may involve LEP individuals. The scope and nature of these activities and contacts will inevitably vary. Members and/or supervisors must assess each situation to determine the need and availability of language assistance to all involved LEP individuals and utilize the methods outlined in this policy to provide such assistance.

Although not every situation can be addressed in this policy, it is important that members are able to effectively communicate the reason for a contact, the need for information and the meaning or consequences of any enforcement action. For example, it would be meaningless to request consent to search if the officer is unable to effectively communicate with an LEP individual.

If available, officers should obtain the assistance of a qualified bilingual member or an authorized interpreter before placing an LEP individual under arrest.

368.13 INVESTIGATIVE FIELD INTERVIEWS

In any situation where an interview may reveal information that could be used as the basis for arrest or prosecution of an LEP individual and a qualified bilingual member is unavailable or lacks the skills to directly communicate with the LEP individual, an authorized interpreter should be used. This includes interviews conducted during an investigation with victims, witnesses and suspects. In such situations, audio recordings of the interviews should be made when reasonably possible. Identification and contact information for the interpreter (e.g., name, address) should be documented so that the person can be subpoenaed for trial if necessary.

If an authorized interpreter is needed, officers should consider calling for an authorized interpreter in the following order:

- An authorized department member or allied agency interpreter
- An authorized telephone interpreter
- Any other authorized interpreter

Any *Miranda* warnings shall be provided to suspects in their primary language by an authorized interpreter or, if the suspect is literate, by providing a translated *Miranda* warning card.

The use of an LEP individual's bilingual friends, family members, children, neighbors or bystanders may be used only when a qualified bilingual member or authorized interpreter is unavailable and there is an immediate need to interview an LEP individual.

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368.14 CUSTODIAL INTERROGATIONS

Miscommunication during custodial interrogations may have a substantial impact on the evidence presented in a criminal prosecution. Only qualified bilingual members or, if none is available or appropriate, authorized interpreters shall be used during custodial interrogations. *Miranda* warnings shall be provided to suspects in their primary language by the qualified bilingual member or an authorized interpreter.

In order to ensure that translations during custodial interrogations are accurately documented and are admissible as evidence, interrogations should be recorded whenever reasonably possible. See guidance on recording custodial interrogations in the Investigation and Prosecution Policy.

368.15 BOOKINGS

When gathering information during the booking process, members should remain alert to the impediments that language barriers can create. In the interest of the arrestee's health and welfare, the safety and security of the facility, and to protect individual rights, it is important that accurate medical screening and booking information be obtained. Members should seek the assistance of a qualified bilingual member whenever there is concern that accurate information cannot be obtained or that booking instructions may not be properly understood by an LEP individual.

368.16 COMPLAINTS

The Department shall ensure that LEP individuals who wish to file a complaint regarding members of this department are able to do so. The Department may provide an authorized interpreter or translated forms, as appropriate. Complaints will be referred to the LEP Coordinator.

Investigations into such complaints shall be handled in accordance with the Personnel Complaints Policy. Authorized interpreters used for any interview with an LEP individual during an investigation should not be members of this department.

Any notice required to be sent to an LEP individual as a complaining party pursuant to the Personnel Complaints Policy should be translated or otherwise communicated in a language-accessible manner.

368.17 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community outreach programs and other such services offered by this department are important to the ultimate success of more traditional law enforcement duties. This department will continue to work with community groups, local businesses and neighborhoods to provide equal access to such programs and services.

368.18 TRAINING

To ensure that all members who may have contact with LEP individuals are properly trained, the Department will provide periodic training on this policy and related procedures, including how to access department-authorized telephonic and in-person interpreters and other available resources.

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The Professional Standards Sergeant shall be responsible for ensuring new members receive LEP training. Those who may have contact with LEP individuals should receive refresher training at least once every two years thereafter. The Professional Standards Sergeant shall maintain records of all LEP training provided, and will retain a copy in each member's training file in accordance with established records retention schedules.

368.18.1 TRAINING FOR AUTHORIZED INTERPRETERS

All members on the authorized interpreter list must successfully complete prescribed interpreter training. To complete interpreter training successfully, an interpreter must demonstrate proficiency in and ability to communicate information accurately in both English and in the target language, demonstrate knowledge in both languages of any specialized terms or phraseology, and understand and adhere to the interpreter role without deviating into other roles, such as counselor or legal adviser.

Members on the authorized interpreter list must receive refresher training annually or they will be removed from the authorized interpreter list. This annual training should include language skills competency (including specialized terminology) and ethical considerations.

The Professional Standards Sergeant shall be responsible for coordinating the annual refresher training and will maintain a record of all training the interpreters have received.

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Communications with Persons with Disabilities

370.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance to members when communicating with individuals with disabilities, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing, have impaired speech or vision, or are blind.

370.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Auxiliary aids - Tools used to communicate with people who have a disability or impairment. They include, but are not limited to, the use of gestures or visual aids to supplement oral communication; a notepad and pen or pencil to exchange written notes; a computer or typewriter; an assistive listening system or device to amplify sound; a teletypewriter (TTY) or videophones (video relay service or VRS); taped text; qualified readers; or a qualified interpreter.

Disability or impairment - A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, including hearing or seeing, regardless of whether the disabled person uses assistive or adaptive devices or auxiliary aids. Individuals who wear ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses are not considered to have a disability (42 USC § 12102).

Qualified interpreter - A person who is able to interpret effectively, accurately and impartially, both receptively and expressively, using any necessary specialized vocabulary. Qualified interpreters include oral interpreters, translators, sign language interpreters and intermediary interpreters.

370.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department to reasonably ensure that people with disabilities, including victims, witnesses, suspects and arrestees have equal access to law enforcement services, programs and activities. Members must make efforts to communicate effectively with individuals with disabilities.

The Department will not discriminate against or deny any individual access to services, rights or programs based upon disabilities.

370.3 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES (ADA) COORDINATOR

The Chief of Police shall delegate certain responsibilities to an ADA Coordinator (28 CFR 35.107). The ADA Coordinator shall be appointed by, and directly responsible, to the Patrol Assistant Chief or the authorized designee.

The responsibilities of the ADA Coordinator shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) Working with the City ADA coordinator regarding the Ventura Police Department's efforts to ensure equal access to services, programs and activities.

(b) Developing reports, new procedures, or recommending modifications to this policy.

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(c) Acting as a liaison with local disability advocacy groups or other disability groups regarding access to department services, programs and activities.

(d) Ensuring that a list of qualified interpreter services is maintained and available to each Watch Commander and Communications Supervisor. The list should include information regarding the following:

1. Contact information
2. Availability

(e) Developing procedures that will enable members to access auxiliary aids or services, including qualified interpreters, and ensure the procedures are available to all members.

(f) Ensuring signage is posted in appropriate areas, indicating that auxiliary aids are available free of charge to people with disabilities.

(g) Ensuring appropriate processes are in place to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints and inquiries regarding discrimination in access to department services, programs and activities.

370.4 FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Because the nature of any law enforcement contact may vary substantially from one situation to the next, members of this department should consider all information reasonably available to them when determining how to communicate with an individual with a disability. Members should carefully balance all known factors in an effort to reasonably ensure people who are disabled have equal access to services, programs and activities. These factors may include, but are not limited to:

(a) Members should not always assume that effective communication is being achieved. The fact that an individual appears to be nodding in agreement does not always mean he/she completely understands the message. When there is any doubt, members should ask the individual to communicate back or otherwise demonstrate their understanding.

(b) The nature of the disability (e.g., deafness or blindness vs. hard of hearing or low vision).

(c) The nature of the law enforcement contact (e.g., emergency vs. non-emergency, custodial vs. consensual contact).

(d) The availability of auxiliary aids. The fact that a particular aid is not available does not eliminate the obligation to reasonably ensure access. However, in an emergency, availability may factor into the type of aid used.

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370.5 INITIAL AND IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATIONS

Recognizing that various law enforcement encounters may be potentially volatile and/or emotionally charged, members should remain alert to the possibility of communication problems.

Members should exercise special care in the use of all gestures, and verbal and written communication to minimize initial confusion and misunderstanding when dealing with any individual with known or suspected disabilities.

In a non-emergency situation, when a member knows or suspects an individual requires assistance to effectively communicate, the member shall identify the individual's choice of auxiliary aid or service.

The individual's preferred communication method must be honored unless another effective method of communication exists under the circumstances (28 CFR 35.160).

Factors to consider when determining whether an alternative method is effective include:

(a) The methods of communication usually used by the individual.

(b) The nature, length and complexity of the communication involved.

(c) The context of the communication.

In emergency situations involving an imminent threat to the safety or welfare of any person, members may use whatever auxiliary aids and services that reasonably appear effective under the circumstances. This may include, for example, exchanging written notes or using the services of a person who knows sign language but is not a qualified interpreter, even if the person who is deaf or hard of hearing would prefer a qualified sign language interpreter or another appropriate auxiliary aid or service. Once the emergency has ended, the continued method of communication should be reconsidered. The member should inquire as to the individual's preference and give primary consideration to that preference.

If an individual who is deaf, hard of hearing or has impaired speech must be handcuffed while in the custody of the Ventura Police Department, consideration should be given, safety permitting, to placing the handcuffs in the front of the body to facilitate communication using sign language or writing.

370.6 TYPES OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Ventura Police Department members shall never refuse to assist an individual with disabilities who is requesting assistance. The Department will not charge anyone to receive auxiliary aids, nor shall they require anyone to furnish their own auxiliary aid or service as a condition for receiving assistance. The Department will make every reasonable effort to provide equal access and timely assistance to individuals who are disabled through a variety of services.

A person who is disabled may choose to accept department-provided auxiliary aids or services or they may choose to provide their own.

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Department-provided auxiliary aids or services may include, but are not limited to, the assistance methods described in this policy.

370.7 AUDIO RECORDINGS AND ENLARGED PRINT

The Department may develop audio recordings to assist people who are blind or have a visual impairment with accessing important information. If such a recording is not available, members may read aloud from the appropriate form, for example a personnel complaint form, or provide forms with enlarged print.

370.8 QUALIFIED INTERPRETERS

A qualified interpreter may be needed in lengthy or complex transactions (e.g., interviewing a victim, witness, suspect or arrestee), if the individual to be interviewed normally relies on sign language or speechreading (lip-reading) to understand what others are saying. The qualified interpreter should not be a person with an interest in the case or investigation involving the disabled individual. A person providing interpretation services may be required to establish the accuracy and trustworthiness of the interpretation in a court proceeding.

Qualified interpreters should be:

(a) Available within a reasonable amount of time but in no event longer than one hour if requested.

(b) Experienced in providing interpretation services related to law enforcement matters.

(c) Familiar with the use of VRS and/or video remote interpreting services.

(d) Certified in either American Sign Language (ASL) or Signed English (SE).

(e) Able to understand and adhere to the interpreter role without deviating into other roles, such as counselor or legal adviser.

(f) Knowledgeable of the ethical issues involved when providing interpreter services.

Members should use department-approved procedures to request a qualified interpreter at the earliest reasonable opportunity, and generally not more than 15 minutes after a request for an interpreter has been made or it is reasonably apparent that an interpreter is needed. No individual who is disabled shall be required to provide his/her own interpreter (28 CFR 35.160).

370.9 TTY AND RELAY SERVICES

In situations where an individual without a disability would have access to a telephone (e.g., booking or attorney contacts), members must also provide those who are deaf, hard of hearing or have impaired speech the opportunity to place calls using an available TTY (also known as a telecommunications device for deaf people, or TDD). Members shall provide additional time, as needed, for effective communication due to the slower nature of TTY and TDD communications.

The Department will accept all TTY or TDD calls placed by those who are deaf or hard of hearing and received via a telecommunications relay service (28 CFR 35.162).

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Note that relay services translate verbatim, so the conversation must be conducted as if speaking directly to the caller.

370.10 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Interpreter services may be available from community volunteers who have demonstrated competence in communication services, such as ASL or SE, and have been approved by the Department to provide interpreter services.

Where qualified interpreters are unavailable to assist, approved community volunteers who have demonstrated competence may be called upon when appropriate. However, department members must carefully consider the nature of the contact and the relationship between the individual with the disability and the volunteer to ensure that the volunteer can provide neutral and unbiased assistance.

370.11 FAMILY AND FRIENDS

While family or friends may offer to assist with interpretation, members should carefully consider the circumstances before relying on such individuals. The nature of the contact and relationship between the individual with the disability and the person offering services must be carefully considered (e.g., victim/suspect).

Children shall not be relied upon except in emergency or critical situations when there is no qualified interpreter reasonably available.

Adults may be relied upon when (28 CFR 35.160):

(a) There is an emergency or critical situation and there is no qualified interpreter reasonably available.

(b) The person with the disability requests that the adult interpret or facilitate communication and the adult agrees to provide such assistance, and reliance on that adult for such assistance is reasonable under the circumstances.

370.12 REPORTING

Whenever any member of this department is required to complete a report or other documentation, and communication assistance has been provided, such services should be noted in the related report. Members should document the type of communication services utilized and whether the individual elected to use services provided by the Department or some other identified source. If the individual's express preference is not honored, the member must document why another method of communication was used.

All written communications exchanged in a criminal case shall be attached to the report or placed into evidence.

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370.13 FIELD ENFORCEMENT

Field enforcement will generally include such contacts as traffic stops, pedestrian stops, serving warrants and restraining orders, crowd/traffic control and other routine field contacts that may involve individuals with disabilities. The scope and nature of these activities and contacts will inevitably vary.

The Department recognizes that it would be virtually impossible to provide immediate access to complete communication services to every member of this department. Members and/or supervisors must assess each situation and consider the length, complexity and importance of the communication, as well as the individual's preferred method of communication, when determining the type of resources to use and whether a qualified interpreter is needed.

Although not every situation can be addressed in this policy, it is important that members are able to effectively communicate the reason for a contact, the need for information and the meaning or consequences of any enforcement action. For example, it would be meaningless to verbally request consent to search if the officer is unable to effectively communicate with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing and requires communications assistance.

If available, officers should obtain the assistance of a qualified interpreter before placing an individual with a disability under arrest. Individuals who are arrested and are assisted by service animals should be permitted to make arrangements for the care of such animals prior to transport.

370.13.1 FIELD RESOURCES

Examples of methods that may be sufficient for transactions, such as checking a license or giving directions to a location or for urgent situations such as responding to a violent crime in progress, may, depending on the circumstances, include such simple things as:

(a) Hand gestures or visual aids with an individual who is deaf, hard of hearing or has impaired speech.

(b) Exchange of written notes or communications.

(c) Verbal communication with an individual who can speechread by facing the individual and speaking slowly and clearly.

(d) Use of computer, word processing, personal communication device or similar device to exchange texts or notes.

(e) Slowly and clearly speaking or reading simple terms to individuals who have a visual or mental impairment.

Members should be aware that these techniques may not provide effective communication as required by law and this policy depending on the circumstances.

370.14 CUSTODIAL INTERROGATIONS

In an effort to ensure that the rights of individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech impairment are protected during a custodial interrogation, this department will provide interpreter services before beginning an interrogation, unless exigent circumstances exist or the individual

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has made a clear indication that he/she understands the process and desires to proceed without an interpreter. The use of a video remote interpreting service should be considered, where appropriate, if a live interpreter is not available. *Miranda* warnings shall be provided to suspects who are deaf or hard of hearing by a qualified interpreter or by providing a written *Miranda* warning card.

In order to ensure that communications during custodial investigations are accurately documented and are admissible as evidence, interrogations should be recorded whenever reasonably possible. See guidance on recording custodial interrogations in the Investigation and Prosecution Policy.

370.15 ARREST AND BOOKINGS

If an individual with speech or hearing disabilities is arrested, the arresting officer shall use department-approved procedures to provide a qualified interpreter at the place of arrest or booking as soon as reasonably practicable, unless the individual indicates that he/she prefers a different auxiliary aid or service or the officer reasonably determines another effective method of communication exists under the circumstances.

When gathering information during the booking process, members should remain alert to the impediments that often exist when communicating with those who are deaf, hard of hearing, who have impaired speech or vision, are blind, or have other disabilities. In the interest of the arrestee's health and welfare, the safety and security of the facility and to protect individual rights, it is important that accurate medical screening and booking information be obtained. If necessary, members should seek the assistance of a qualified interpreter whenever there is concern that accurate information cannot be obtained or that booking instructions may not be properly understood by the individual.

Individuals who require and possess personally owned communication aids (e.g., hearing aids, cochlear processors) should be permitted to retain them while in custody.

370.16 COMPLAINTS

The Department shall ensure that individuals with disabilities who wish to file a complaint regarding members of this department are able to do so. The Department may provide a qualified interpreter or forms in enlarged print, as appropriate. Complaints will be referred to the department ADA Coordinator.

Investigations into such complaints shall be handled in accordance with the Personnel Complaints Policy. Qualified interpreters used during the investigation of a complaint should not be members of this Department.

370.17 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community outreach programs and other such services offered by this department are important to the ultimate success of more traditional law enforcement duties. This department will continue to work with community groups, local businesses and neighborhoods to provide equal access to such programs and services.

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370.18 TRAINING

To ensure that all members who may have contact with individuals who are disabled are properly trained, the Department will provide periodic training that should include:

(a) Awareness and understanding of this policy and related procedures, related forms and available resources.

(b) Procedures for accessing qualified interpreters and other available resources.

(c) Working with in-person and telephone interpreters and related equipment.

The Professional Standards Sergeant shall be responsible for ensuring new members receive training related to interacting with individuals who have disabilities, including individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, who have impaired speech or vision, or are blind. Those who may have contact with such individuals should receive refresher training at least once every two years thereafter. The Professional Standards Sergeant shall maintain records of all training provided, and will retain a copy in each member's training file in accordance with established records retention schedules.

370.18.1 CALL-TAKER TRAINING

Emergency call-takers shall be trained in the use of TTY equipment protocols for communicating with individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or who have speech impairments. Such training and information should include:

(a) The requirements of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act for telephone emergency service providers.

(b) ASL syntax and accepted abbreviations.

(c) Practical instruction on identifying and processing TTY or TDD calls, including the importance of recognizing silent TTY or TDD calls, using proper syntax, abbreviations and protocol when responding to TTY or TDD calls.

(d) Hands-on experience in TTY and TDD communications, including identification of TTY or TDD tones.

Training should be mandatory for all Communications Center members who may have contact with individuals from the public who are deaf, hard of hearing or have impaired speech. Refresher training should occur every six months.

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Mandatory Employer Notification

372.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to describe the requirements and procedures to follow when a public or private school employee (teacher and non-teacher) has been arrested under certain circumstances.

372.2 MANDATORY SCHOOL EMPLOYEE ARREST REPORTING

In the event a school employee is arrested for any controlled substance offense enumerated in Health & Safety Code § 11590, 11364, in so far as that section relates to paragraph (12) of subdivision (d) of Health and Safety Code § 11054, or for any of the offenses enumerated in Penal Code § 290 or in subdivision 1 of Penal Code § 291 or Education Code § 44010, the Chief of Police or his/her designee is required to immediately report the arrest as follows:

372.2.1 ARREST OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER

In the event a public school teacher is arrested for any controlled substance offense enumerated in Health and Safety Code § 11591 or Health and Safety Code § 11364, in so far as that section relates to Health and Safety Code § 11054(d)(12), or for any of the offenses enumerated in Penal Code § 290, Penal Code § 261(a), or Education Code § 44010, the Chief of Police or his/her designee is mandated to immediately notify by telephone the superintendent of the school district employing the teacher and to immediately give written notice of the arrest to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing and to the superintendent of schools in the county where the person is employed (Health and Safety Code § 11591; Penal Code § 291).

372.2.2 ARREST OF PUBLIC SCHOOL NON-TEACHER EMPLOYEE

In the event a public school non-teacher employee is arrested for any controlled substance offense enumerated in Health and Safety Code § 11591 or Health and Safety Code § 11364, in so far as that section relates to Health and Safety Code § 11054(d)(12), or for any of the offenses enumerated in Penal Code § 290, Penal Code § 261(a), or Education Code § 44010, the Chief of Police or his/her designee is mandated to immediately notify by telephone the superintendent of the school district employing the non-teacher and to immediately give written notice of the arrest to the governing board of the school district employing the person (Health and Safety Code § 11591; Penal Code § 291).

372.2.3 ARREST OF PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHER

In the event a private school teacher is arrested for any controlled substance offense enumerated in Health and Safety Code § 11591 or Health and Safety Code § 11364, in so far as that section relates to Health and Safety Code § 11054(d)(12), or for any of the offenses enumerated in Penal Code § 290 or Education Code § 44010, the Chief of Police or his/her designee is mandated to immediately notify by telephone the private school authority employing the teacher and to immediately give written notice of the arrest to the private school authority employing the teacher (Health and Safety Code § 11591; Penal Code § 291.1).

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372.2.4 ARREST OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE INSTRUCTOR

In the event a teacher or instructor employed in a community college district school is arrested for any controlled substance offense enumerated in Health and Safety Code § 11591.5 or Health and Safety § 11364, in so far as that section relates to Health and Safety Code § 11054(d)(9), or for any of the offenses enumerated in Penal Code § 290 or in Penal Code § 261(a)(1), the Chief of Police or the authorized designee is mandated to immediately notify by telephone the superintendent of the community college district employing the person, and shall immediately give written notice of the arrest to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (Health and Safety Code § 11591.5; Penal Code § 291.5).

372.3 ARREST OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN COMMUNITY CARE FACILITIES

In the event an employee of a community treatment facility, a day treatment facility, a group home, a short-term residential therapeutic program or a foster family agency is arrested for child abuse (as defined in Penal Code § 11165.6) and the employee is free to return to work where children are present, the investigating member shall notify the licensee of the charge of abuse (Health and Safety Code § 1522.2).

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Station Security

375.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To ensure a safe environment for the public and employees while in the Ventura Police/Fire Department Headquarters. All persons entering the Ventura Police Department beyond the lobby are subject to search of their person and property. Final authority in matters of building security rests with the Police Chief, through the Station Watch Commander or their designee.

375.2 VISIBLE IDENTIFICATION CARDS

In all incidents described within this policy, police, fire or city identification or visitor badges must be worn in a place that allows for the identification or badge to be clearly visible and readable by others.

All City of Ventura Police and Fire employees, while inside the Police/Fire Headquarters, will display their department issued identification card at all times while not in full uniform.

Members of other police and fire departments will wear their department-issued identification while not in uniform or will wear a Ventura Police Department visitor identification badge.

Other City of Ventura employees while in the Police/Fire building shall wear their city-issued identification card when not in their city uniform.

All approved vendors must wear a Police/Fire vendor identification issued by the Business Services Officer or his/her designee. Approved vendors are those vendors known to the department and have been approved to be in the building by a department supervisor. Vendors that are not escorted shall have a vendor background form completed prior to issuing vendor identification. The Business Services Officer is responsible for vendor backgrounds.

All other visitors must wear a Police/Fire visitor badge issued by the desk officer, Staff Officer or division secretary. If checked in by the desk officer a visitor must give their driver's license or other government identification to the issuer of the visitor badge. The identification will be returned when the visitor returns the visitor identification badge. Family and friends visiting an employee shall wear visitors badge but will not have to provide a government ID.

Visitors under the age of 14 do not need to wear a visitor badge when escorted by a department employee.

375.3 ENTRY SCREENING

All visitors must be screened through the department's metal detector before being allowed in an area beyond the department's lobby. This includes any visitors picking up belongings from Property. Only employees who have received training on the operation of the metal detector shall screen visitors. Visitors should be told in advance that they will be screened through a metal detector for weapons. The following visitors do not have to be screened by the metal detector:

(a) Visitors from other government agencies on official business.

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(b) Children under 14 years of age (unless a suspect in a crime).

(c) Friends and family of current employees who are visiting the employee.

(d) Approved vendors.

(e) Any visitor where a department supervisor feels they do not need to be screened.

(f) Arrestees or suspects that have already been searched by the arresting officer, however the metal detector can be as an additional searching tool if needed by the officer.

The portable screening unit will be located near the main lobby area. All persons entering the Ventura Police Headquarters (other than those listed above) will be directed to the weapon screening station. Prior to searching, visitors will be given an opportunity to take any personal property to their vehicle. They will then be directed to walk through the weapons screening metal detector. If the alarm does not sound and no suspicious items are observed on subject, they will then be directed to pick-up his or her property from the tray, after it has been examined and continue to their destination within the station. If the alarm on the walk through metal detector sounds as an individual passes through, they will be asked to step back through the archway and remove any metallic objects causing the alarm. The subject will then be asked to pass through the metal detector again. If the alarm sounds a second time, the subject will be asked to step aside and they will not be asked to pass through the metal detector a third time. The individual will then be subjected to a screening by a handheld metal detector (wand). The handheld metal detector will be kept with the desk officer for use by department personnel. If the handheld alarm is activated during a "wand" search, a sworn officer will then make the determination whether to conduct a pat-down search or allow the subject to enter. If the searching employee is not a police officer they should request an officer to conduct a pat-down search. If at any time the subject refuses the screening process or to be searched he/she may voluntarily leave the facility. However, if a police officer has reasonable suspicion to believe the individual is in unlawful possession of a weapon the individual will not be given an option to leave. The individual will then be further searched. The location of the search will be at the discretion of the searching officer.

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Chaplains

376.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes the guidelines for Ventura Police Department chaplains to provide counseling or emotional support to members of the Department, their families and members of the public.

376.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department shall ensure that department chaplains are properly appointed, trained and supervised to carry out their responsibilities without financial compensation.

376.3 ELIGIBILITY

Requirements for participation as a chaplain for the Department may include, but are not limited to:

(a) Being above reproach, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, be free from addiction to alcohol or other drugs, and excessive debt.

(b) Managing their households, families and personal affairs well.

(c) Having a good reputation in the community.

(d) Successful completion of an appropriate-level background investigation.

(e) A minimum of five years of successful counseling experience.

(f) Possession of a valid driver license.

The Chief of Police may apply exceptions for eligibility based on organizational needs and the qualifications of the individual.

376.4 RECRUITMENT, SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT

The Ventura Police Department shall endeavor to recruit and appoint only those applicants who meet the high ethical, moral and professional standards set forth by this department.

All applicants shall be required to meet and pass the same pre-employment procedures as department personnel before appointment.

376.4.1 SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT

Chaplain candidates shall successfully complete the following process prior to appointment as a chaplain:

(a) Submit the appropriate written application.

(b) Include a recommendation from employers or volunteer programs.

(c) Interview with the Chief of Police and the chaplain coordinator.

(d) Successfully complete an appropriate-level background investigation.

(e) Complete an appropriate probationary period as designated by the Chief of Police.

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Chaplains are volunteers and serve at the discretion of the Chief of Police. Chaplains shall have no property interest in continued appointment. However, if a chaplain is removed for alleged misconduct, the chaplain will be afforded an opportunity solely to clear his/her name through a liberty interest hearing, which shall be limited to a single appearance before the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

376.5 IDENTIFICATION AND UNIFORMS

As representatives of the Department, chaplains are responsible for presenting a professional image to the community. Chaplains shall dress appropriately for the conditions and performance of their duties. Uniforms and necessary safety equipment will be provided for each chaplain. Identification symbols worn by chaplains shall be different and distinct from those worn by officers through the inclusion of "Chaplain" on the uniform and not reflect any religious affiliation.

Chaplains will be issued Ventura Police Department identification cards, which must be carried at all times while on-duty. The identification cards will be the standard Ventura Police Department identification cards, with the exception that “Chaplain” will be indicated on the cards. Chaplains shall be required to return any issued uniforms or department property at the termination of service.

Chaplains shall conform to all uniform regulations and appearance standards of this department.

376.6 CHAPLAIN COORDINATOR

The Chief of Police shall delegate certain responsibilities to a chaplain coordinator. The coordinator shall be appointed by and directly responsible to the Administrative Operations Assistant Chief or the authorized designee.

The chaplain coordinator shall serve as the liaison between the chaplains and the Chief of Police. The function of the coordinator is to provide a central coordinating point for effective chaplain management within the Department, and to direct and assist efforts to jointly provide more productive chaplain services. Under the general direction of the Chief of Police or the authorized designee, chaplains shall report to the chaplain coordinator and/or Watch Commander.

The chaplain coordinator may appoint a senior chaplain or other designee to assist in the coordination of chaplains and their activities.

The responsibilities of the coordinator or the authorized designee include, but are not limited to:

(a) Recruiting, selecting and training qualified chaplains.

(b) Conducting chaplain meetings.

(c) Establishing and maintaining a chaplain callout roster.

(d) Maintaining records for each chaplain.

(e) Tracking and evaluating the contribution of chaplains.

(f) Maintaining a record of chaplain schedules and work hours.

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(g) Completing and disseminating, as appropriate, all necessary paperwork and information.

(h) Planning periodic recognition events.

(i) Maintaining liaison with other agency chaplain coordinators.

An evaluation of the overall use of chaplains will be conducted on an annual basis by the coordinator.

376.7 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Chaplains assist the Department, its members and the community, as needed. Assignments of chaplains will usually be to augment the Patrol Division . Chaplains may be assigned to other areas within the Department as needed. Chaplains should be placed only in assignments or programs that are consistent with their knowledge, skills, abilities and the needs of the Department.

All chaplains will be assigned to duties by the chaplain coordinator or the authorized designee.

Chaplains may not proselytize or attempt to recruit members of the Department or the public into a religious affiliation while representing themselves as chaplains with this department. If there is any question as to the receiving person's intent, chaplains should verify that the person is desirous of spiritual counseling or guidance before engaging in such discussion.

Chaplains may not accept gratuities for any service or any subsequent actions or follow-up contacts that were provided while functioning as a chaplain for the Ventura Police Department.

376.7.1 COMPLIANCE

Chaplains are volunteer members of this department, and except as otherwise specified within this policy, are required to comply with the Volunteer Program Policy and other applicable policies.

376.7.2 ASSISTING THE DEPARTMENT

The responsibilities of a chaplain related to this department include, but are not limited to:

(a) Assisting members in the diffusion of a conflict or incident, when requested.

(b) Responding to natural and accidental deaths, suicides and attempted suicides, family disturbances and any other incident that in the judgment of the Watch Commander or supervisor aids in accomplishing the mission of the Department.

(c) Responding to all major disasters, such as natural disasters, bombings and similar critical incidents.

(d) Being on-call and, if possible, on-duty during major demonstrations or any public function that requires the presence of a large number of department members.

(e) Attending department and academy graduations, ceremonies and social events and offering invocations and benedictions, as requested.

(f) Participating in in-service training classes.

(g) Willingness to train others to enhance the effectiveness of the Department.

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376.7.3 ASSISTING THE COMMUNITY

The duties of a chaplain related to the community include, but are not limited to:

(a) Fostering familiarity with the role of law enforcement in the community.

(b) Providing an additional link between the community, other chaplain coordinators and the Department.

(c) Providing liaison with various civic, business and religious organizations.

(d) Promptly facilitating requests for representatives or leaders of various denominations.

(e) Assisting the community in any other function as needed or requested.

(f) Making referrals in cases where specialized attention is needed or in cases that are beyond the chaplain's ability to assist.

376.7.4 CHAPLAIN MEETINGS

All chaplains are required to attend scheduled meetings. Any absences must be satisfactorily explained to the chaplain coordinator.

376.7.5 ASSISTING DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

The responsibilities of a chaplain related to department members include, but are not limited to:

(a) Assisting in making notification to families of members who have been seriously injured or killed and, after notification, responding to the hospital or home of the member.

(b) Visiting sick or injured members in the hospital or at home.

(c) Attending and participating, when requested, in funerals of active or retired members.

(d) Serving as a resource for members when dealing with the public in incidents, such as accidental deaths, suicides, suicidal subjects, serious accidents, drug and alcohol abuse and other such situations that may arise.

(e) Providing counseling and support for members and their families.

(f) Being alert to the needs of members and their families.

376.8 COMMAND STRUCTURE

(a) The Chaplain Program shall fall under the supervision of the commander of the Traffic & Special Operations Division.

(b) A Chaplain Liaison will lead the Chaplain Program with the assistance of the Chaplain Commander. The Chaplain Liaison will be a sworn member of the department and his/her selection will be at the discretion of the Chief of Police or his designee.

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(c) The Chaplain Program will be staffed by as many volunteers as necessary to accomplish the goals and purposes of the Chaplain Program.

376.9 OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

(a) The department would prefer to have a chaplain available on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

(b) Generally, each chaplain will serve with Ventura Police Department personnel a minimum of eight hours per month.

(c) At the end of each watch the chaplain will complete a Chaplain Shift Report and submit it to the Chief of Police or his designee.

(d) Chaplains shall be permitted to ride with officers during any shift and observe Ventura Police Department operations, provided the Watch Commander has been notified and approved of the activity.

(e) Chaplains shall not be evaluators of employees and shall not be required to report on an employee's performance or conduct.

(f) In responding to incidents, a chaplain shall never function as an officer.

(g) When responding to in-progress calls for service, chaplains may be required to stand-by in a secure area until the situation has been deemed safe.

(h) Chaplains shall serve only within the jurisdiction of the Ventura Police Department unless otherwise authorized by the Chief of Police or his designee.

(i) As needed and subject to the Chaplain Commander's approval, each chaplain may have access to current personnel rosters, addresses, telephone numbers, duty assignments and other information that may assist in their duties. Such Information will be considered confidential and each chaplain will exercise appropriate security measures to prevent distribution of the information.

376.9.1 UNIFORMS AND BADGES

A distinct uniform, badge and necessary safety equipment will be provided for the Chaplains. This uniform may be similar to that worn by the personnel of this department.

376.10 TRAINING

The Department will establish a minimum number of training hours and standards for department chaplains. The training may include stress management, death notifications, post-traumatic stress syndrome, burnout for officers and chaplains, legal liability and confidentiality, ethics, responding to crisis situations, the law enforcement family, substance abuse, suicide, officer injury or death, and sensitivity and diversity, as approved by the Training Sergeant.

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Field Settlement Agreements

377.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Ventura Police Department's Administrative Regulation for Field Settlement Agreements shall apply to all department employees (sworn and civilian) who during the course of their usual and customary duties are involved in, or identify incidents, in which department personnel may be liable for personal injury to a person involved in a police action, or for damage, destruction, or loss to the personal property of person involved in a police action.

The nature of the duties and tactics involved in assisting the public and enforcing the law create numerous situations that may place the department in a position of liability for causing injury to a person and/or for causing damage, destruction, or loss to the personal property of a person. Depending on the nature and severity of the injury or property damage, it may be proper to require a person to file a claim with the City Clerk, to be processed and approved by City Risk Management; however, there are situations when a Field Settlement Agreement may be more appropriate. The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for negotiating and providing monetary settlements to a person in the field.

377.2 DEFINITIONS

Field Settlement Agreement: A written agreement, in the form attached as Exhibit "A" or as approved by the City Attorney, entered into by the properly designated representative of the police department and another party in which the city agrees to make a cash payment to the party in return for the party discharging the city and it officers, servants, and employees, from any and all actions, causes of actions, obligations, costs, attorney fees, damages, losses, claims, liabilities and demands of what ever character, including, but not limited to, intentional torts, negligence and constitutional claims.

Authorized Settlement Negotiator: A department member who is usually assigned to the Professional Standards unit, and who is authorized to negotiate a Field Settlement Agreement with another person. The on-duty Watch Commander may also be called upon to serve as an authorized settlement negotiator.

377.3 POLICY

When an action or incident has been identified in which the department may be held liable for damages, the Watch Commander shall contact the Professional Standards Commander or his/her designee, and advise him/her of the circumstances resulting in the possible liability.

The department members authorized to initiate a Field Settlement Agreement are the Professional Standards Division Commander or in his absence the Professional Standards Sergeant, as well as the Chief of Police and the Assistant Chief.

If it has been determined that it is appropriate to negotiate a field settlement with the injured person, then the Professional Standards Commander or his designee shall, whenever possible, respond

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to the scene of the incident to conduct the settlement negotiation. If they are not able to respond, then the Watch Commander may be directed to conduct the settlement negotiation.

The Professional Standards Commander shall securely maintain a $5,000 cash fund that will be accessible to authorized employees during all hours. No Field Settlement Agreement will exceed $2,000 without the verbal approval of the Chief of Police or the Assistant Chief. No Field Settlement Agreement will exceed $5,000 without approval of the city Risk Manager.

A valid Notary Public shall notarize any Field Settlement Agreement that exceeds $2,000, and the Notary Public shall complete page 4 of form VPD-FSA.

All Field Settlement Agreements shall be properly documented using the appropriate forms included in the form VPD-FSA. All incidents resulting in a Field Settlement Agreement will also be documented in a department crime report, arrest report, traffic report, or incident report.

All Field Settlement Agreements will be documented in a logbook to be maintained by the Professional Standards Commander. The minimum information included in the log will be the department report number assigned to the incident, the full name of the party involved, the amount of the settlement, the name of the authorized settlement negotiator, and the name of the person who accessed the cash fund.

377.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) Professional Standards: The Professional Standards Commander is responsible for securely maintaining the cash fund to be used for Field Settlement Agreements. The Professional Standards Commander or his designee is responsible for insuring that any field settlement is properly negotiated and that the monetary agreement is appropriately based on the severity of the injury or other damages. The Professional Standards Commander shall maintain the cash fund logbook.

(b) Watch Commander: The on-duty Watch Commander will be responsible for contacting the Professional Standards Commander or his designee prior to entering into any agreement leading to a Field Settlement Agreement. If the Professional Standards Commander or his designee is not available to negotiate the Field Settlement Agreement, then the Watch Commander may be held responsible.

(c) Chief and Assistant Chief: In the absence of the Professional Standards Commander or his designee, the Chief of Police and/or the Assistant Chief shall also have full authority and responsibility to negotiate Field Settlement Agreements. The Chief and Assistant Chief will ensure that the settlement is appropriately documented in the Field Settlement Agreement logbook.

377.5 PROCEDURE FOR NEGOTIATING A FIELD SETTLEMENT

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(a) Right to Legal Counsel: All negotiations shall begin by informing the person that they have the right to consult legal counsel. They shall also be reminded that the department will no longer negotiate directly with them should they retain legal counsel.

(b) Negotiation Environment: The settlement negotiator shall ensure that in the course of the negotiation the individual is not threatened, coerced or given inappropriate promises or other inducements to settle.

(c) Explanation of Settlement Agreement: The settlement negotiator shall explain in the simplest terms possible, each and every aspect of the Field Settlement Agreement and ensure that the individual fully understands and voluntarily accepts the agreement.

(d) Recording of Negotiation: Although preliminary informal discussions may occur, the settlement negotiator should whenever possible record on video media or audio media, the final negotiations and settlement terms.

(e) Settlement Evaluation: The settlement negotiator shall make equitable settlement offers. The settlement negotiator should consult with the Professional Standards Commander or his designee prior to beginning negotiations to determine an equitable settlement amount. The settlement negotiator should suspend negotiations to consult the Professional Standards Commander or city Risk Management whenever he/she feels it necessary to appropriately further the negotiation process.

(f) Cash Settlements: Whenever possible, a cash settlement shall be offered in lieu of a government check or electronic transfer. A cash receipt (page 5 of the Field Settlement Agreement) shall be completed by the settlement negotiator whenever a cash settlement is agreed upon.

(g) Identification of the Settlement Recipient: In order to verify the identity of the settlement recipient, the individual shall be photographed.

(h) Negotiating with Injured Persons: No settlement negotiations will be attempted with injured persons while they are being treated in a hospital or any other medical facility, or while they are undergoing immediate medical care in the field.

(i) Negotiating with Minors: No settlements negotiations will be attempted with any minor persons except in the presence of and with the full participation of a parent or guardian participating in and approving any such settlement.

(j) Negotiating with Impaired Persons: No settlement negotiations will be attempted with any person who is obviously under the influence of alcohol or any other substance, or suffering from some apparent mental disability.

(k) Negotiating for Medical Expenses: If any part of the settlement includes payment of medical expenses, there shall be a written clause included in the Field Settlement Agreement, which expressly limits payment to only those expenses that have been pre-authorized by the city.

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Public Safety Video Surveillance System

379.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance for the placement and monitoring of department public safety video surveillance, as well as the storage and release of the captured images.

This policy only applies to overt, marked public safety video surveillance systems operated by the Department. It does not apply to mobile audio/video systems, covert audio/video systems or any other image-capturing devices used by the Department.

379.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department operates a public safety security camera system to complement its anti-crime strategy and to enhance public safety and security in public areas. Cameras may be placed in strategic locations throughout the City to detect and deter crime, to help safeguard against potential threats to the public, to help manage emergency response situations during natural and man-made disasters and to assist City officials in providing services to the community.

Security cameras in public areas will be conducted in a legal and ethical manner while recognizing and protecting constitutional standards of privacy. The Public Safety Camera System is used to enhance the response to calls for service for the purpose of gathering real-time intelligence and officer safety information. The use of cameras is not to be utilized as a replacement for officers responding to a call or as the sole determining factor in canceling a call.

379.3 OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Only department-approved video surveillance equipment shall be utilized. Members authorized to monitor video surveillance equipment should only monitor public areas and public activities where no reasonable expectation of privacy exists. The Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall approve all proposed locations for the use of video surveillance technology and should consult with and be guided by legal counsel as necessary in making such determinations.

379.3.1 PLACEMENT AND MONITORING

Camera placement will be guided by the underlying purpose or strategy associated with the overall security camera plan. As appropriate, the Chief of Police should confer with other affected City divisions and designated community groups when evaluating camera placement. Environmental factors, including lighting, the location of buildings, the presence of vegetation or other obstructions, should also be evaluated when determining placement.

The cameras shall only record video images and not sound. Recorded images may be used for a variety of purposes, including criminal investigations and monitoring of activity around high value or high-threat areas. The public security camera system may be useful for the following purposes:

(a) To prevent, deter and identify criminal activity.

(b) To effectively respond to critical incidents.

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(c) To assist in identifying, apprehending and prosecuting offenders.

(d) To document officer and offender conduct during interactions to safeguard the rights of the public and officers.

(e) To augment resources in a cost-effective manner.

(f) To monitor pedestrian and vehicle traffic activity.

Images from each camera should be recorded in a manner consistent with the underlying purpose of the particular camera. Images should be transmitted to monitors installed in the Police Department. When activity warranting further investigation is reported or detected at any camera location, the available information should be provided to responding officers in a timely manner. The Watch Commander or trained Department personnel are authorized to adjust the cameras to more effectively view a particular area for any legitimate public safety purpose.

The Chief of Police may authorize video feeds from the public safety security camera system to be forwarded to a specified location for monitoring by other than police personnel, such as allied government agencies, road or traffic crews, or fire or emergency operations personnel. Unauthorized recording, viewing, reproduction, dissemination or retention is prohibited.

379.3.2 CAMERA MARKINGS

Except in the cases of covert operations or confidential investigations, all public areas monitored by public safety security cameras shall be marked in a conspicuous manner with appropriate signs to inform the public that the area is under police surveillance. Signs should be well lit, placed appropriately and without obstruction to ensure visibility.

379.4 VIDEO SUPERVISION

Supervisors should monitor video surveillance access and usage to ensure members are within department policy and applicable laws. Supervisors should ensure such use and access is appropriately documented.

379.4.1 PROHIBITED ACTIVITY

Public safety video surveillance systems will not intentionally be used to invade the privacy of individuals or observe areas where a reasonable expectation of privacy exists.

Public safety video surveillance equipment shall not be used in an unequal or discriminatory manner and shall not target individuals or groups based solely on actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, age, cultural group, or disability.

Video surveillance equipment shall not be used to harass, intimidate, or discriminate against any individual or group.

379.5 STORAGE AND RETENTION OF MEDIA

All downloaded media shall be stored in a secure area with access restricted to authorized persons. A recording needed as evidence shall be copied to a suitable medium and booked into

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evidence in accordance with established evidence procedures. All actions taken with respect to retention of media shall be appropriately documented.

The type of security cameras employed and the manner in which recordings are used and stored will affect retention periods. The recordings should be stored and retained in accordance with the established City of Ventura records retention schedule. Prior to destruction, written consent shall be obtained from the City Attorney. If recordings are evidence in any claim filed or any pending litigation, they shall be preserved until pending litigation is resolved (Government Code S 34090.6).

Any recordings needed as evidence in a criminal or civil proceeding shall be copied to a suitable medium and booked into evidence in accordance with current evidence procedures.

379.5.1 EVIDENTIARY INTEGRITY

All downloaded and retained media shall be treated in the same manner as other evidence. Media shall be accessed, maintained, stored and retrieved in a manner that ensures its integrity as evidence, including strict adherence to chain of custody requirements. Electronic trails, including encryption, digital masking of innocent or uninvolved individuals to preserve anonymity, authenticity certificates and date and time stamping, shall be used as appropriate to preserve individual rights and to ensure the authenticity and maintenance of a secure evidentiary chain of custody.

379.6 RELEASE OF VIDEO IMAGES

All recorded video images gathered by the public safety video surveillance equipment are for the official use of the Ventura Police Department.

Requests for recorded video images from the public or the media shall be processed in the same manner as requests for department public records.

Requests for recorded images from other law enforcement agencies shall be referred to the Watch Commander for release in accordance with a specific and legitimate law enforcement purpose.

Recorded video images that are the subject of a court order or subpoena shall be processed in accordance with the established department subpoena process.

379.7 TRAINING

All department members authorized to operate or access public video surveillance systems shall receive appropriate training. Training should include guidance on the use of cameras, interaction with dispatch and patrol operations and a review regarding relevant policies and procedures, including this policy. Training should also address state and federal law related to the use of video surveillance equipment and privacy.

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Extra-Help Police Officers

383.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Ventura Police Department employs temporary Extra-Help Police Officers with specialized skills to supplement and assist regular sworn police officers in their duties. These officers provide professional, sworn services that can augment regular staffing levels and may be utilized in temporary "extra help" assignments for a limited duration or during an emergency to prevent stoppage of public business.

383.2 SELECTION & APPOINTMENT OF EXTRA-HELP OFFICERS

The Ventura Police Department shall endeavor to appoint Extra-Help Officers with specialized skills who meet the high ethical, moral and professional standards set forth by this department.

383.2.1 PROCEDURE

All applicants shall be required to meet and pass the same pre-employment procedures as regular police officers before appointment. Before appointment to an Extra-Help Police Officer position, the applicant must have a valid POST certificate for the position and be in good standing.

383.2.2 APPOINTMENT

Applicants who are selected for appointment to the Extra-Help position shall, on the recommendation of the Chief of Police be sworn in by the Chief of Police and take a loyalty oath to observe and obey all of the laws of the land and to carry out their duties to the best of their ability.

383.3 UNIFORMS

Extra-Help officers shall conform to all uniform regulation and appearance standards of this department. All Extra-Help appointees are issued one set of uniforms and all designated attire and safety equipment. All property issued to the Extra-Help officer shall be returned to the Department upon termination or resignation. Extra-Help uniforms shall be furnished and replaced by the City as needed.

383.3.1 IDENTIFICATION OF EXTRA-HELP OFFICERS

All Extra-Help officers will be issued a uniform badge and a Department identification card. The uniform badge shall be the same as that worn by a regular full-time officer. The identification card will be the standard identification card with the exception that "Extra-Help" will be indicated on the card.

383.4 RETIREES WORKING AS EXTRA-HELP OFFICERS

Qualified officers, when authorized, may serve as Extra-Help officers. However, the Department must not utilize the services of an Extra-Help in such a way that it would violate employment laws or labor agreements. Extra-Help officers should not be appointed to vacant permanent part-time, permanent intermittent or permanent full-time positions.

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Temporary employment as an Extra-Help officer must remain under the 960-hour per fiscal year work limit. Both the Extra-Help and the employer are responsible for monitoring compliance with this work limit. If the hours are exceeded, each will be held accountable for unlawful employment. Therefore, the police department should consult the Personnel Department prior to a retiree serving as an Extra-Help.

383.4.1 WORK AGREEMENT

Extra-Help Police Officers are "at will" employees. Extra-Help Police Officers will not be paid overtime and they must not work in excess of 80 hours during any single pay period. All hours spent in court during non-work hours will be counted towards their 80-hour work schedule. In the event of an on-the-job injury, extra help officers are not entitled to 4850 benefits.

383.4.2 RATE OF PAY

All Extra-Help must be hired at an hourly rate of pay within the publicly posted base salary range of the class performing similar duties. No benefits, incentives, in liew of pay or any other compensation in addition to the hourly rate of pay shall be paid. No exceptions are permitted.

383.4.3 DUTIES OF EXTRA-HELP OFFICERS

Extra-Help officers with specialized skills assist the department in specific duties and assignments that will reinforce the departments abilities in the enforcement of laws and in maintaining peace and order within the community. Assignments of Extra-Help officers will usually be to augment the Field Operations Division. On an emergency basis, Extra-Help officers may be temporarily assigned to other areas within the Department as needed if the Extra-Help officer possesses specialized skills for that assignment.

383.4.4 EXTRA-HELP OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS

All Extra-Help officers will be assigned to duties/special events by the on-duty Watch Commander and in cooperation with the Operations Division Assistant Police Chief so as to not violate the terms of this policy.

383.5 POLICY COMPLIANCE

Extra-Help officers shall be required to adhere to all departmental policies and procedures. A copy of the policies and procedures will be made available to each Extra-Help officer upon appointment and he/she shall become thoroughly familiar with these policies. Whenever a rule, regulation, or guideline in this manual refers to a sworn regular full-time officer, it shall also apply to a sworn Extra-Help officer unless by its nature it is inapplicable.

383.6 EXTRA-HELP COORDINATOR

The Chief of Police shall delegate the responsibility for administering the Extra-Help Program to the Operations Division Assistant Police Chief. The Operations Division Assistant Police Chief or his/her designee, shall have the responsibility of, but not be limited to:

(a) Assignment of Extra-Help personnel

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(b) Monitoring individual Extra-Help officer performance

(d) Monitoring overall Extra-Help Activity

(e) Maintaining liaison with the Personnel Department regarding any legal changes to Extra-Help laws.

383.7 EXTRA-HELP OFFICER TRAINING

Upon satisfactory completion of the department in-house training program, Extra-Help officers will be assigned to duties/special events by the on-duty Watch Commander, that utilize the Extra-Help officers specialized skills, and in cooperation with the Operations Division Assistant Police Chief so as to not violate the terms of this policy. Extra Help Officers must comply with POST training requirements in order to keep POST certificates valid.

383.8 SUPERVISION OF EXTRA-HELP OFFICERS

The immediate supervision of the Extra-Help officer will be assigned to the on-duty Watch Sergeant and in cooperation with the Operations Division Watch Commander.

383.9 SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Under California Government Code Section 21224(a), a retired person serving as an Extra-Help employee may serve without reinstatement from retirement or loss or interruption of benefits provided by this system upon temporary appointment by the appointing power of a state agency or public agency employer either during an emergency to prevent stoppage of public business or because the retired employee has specialized skills needed in performing work of limited duration. These appointments shall not exceed a total for all employers of 960 hours in any fiscal year, and the rate of pay for the employment shall not be less than the minimum, nor exceed that paid by the employer to other employees performing comparable duties.

383.10 INVESTIGATIONS AND COMPLAINTS

If an Extra-Help officer has a complaint made against him/her or becomes involved in an internal investigation, that complaint or internal investigation may be investigated by the on-duty Watch Commander, at the discretion of the Field Operations Division Assistant Police Chief.

Extra-Help officers are considered at-will employees. Government Code § 3300 et seq. applies to Extra-Help officers with the exception that the right to hearing is limited to the opportunity to clear their name. Any disciplinary action that may have to be administered to an Extra-Help officer shall be accomplished as outlined in the Policy Manual.

383.11 FIREARMS REQUIREMENTS

Penal Code § 830.6(a)(1) designates an Extra-Help officer as having peace officer powers, therefore shall meet all firearms qualifications required by this department. This shall also apply to any and all CCW requirements applicable by state law and specifically to the retired Extra-Help officer by his/her agency from which the Extra-Help officer retired from remains in good standing.

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383.11.1 CARRYING WEAPON ON DUTY

Any Extra-Help officer who is authorized to carry a firearm by this department shall carry the department issued weapon authorized by this department. Per policy 312.2: Patrol personnel shall only carry an authorized department authorized handgun. The current authorized department issued handguns are the 9mm Sig Sauer P226 or P239, Sig Sauer P226 40 cal or P229 9mm/40cal pistol.

Before being allowed to carry any optional firearm during an assigned tour of duty, the Extra-Help officer shall have demonstrated his/her proficiency with said weapon. When an Extra-Help officer has satisfactorily completed all phases of training (as outlined in this Policy Manual), he/she may be permitted to carry this weapon.

Should the Extra-Help officer decide to carry an optional weapon and ammunition other than the weapon and ammunition provided by this Department, the Extra-Help officer shall be responsible for the purchase and maintenance of all equipment necessary to complete the specialized duties, assignments, and additional training necessary to conform to the firearms requirements of this department.

383.11.2 EXTRA-HELP OFFICER FIREARMS TRAINING

All Extra-Help officers are required to maintain proficiency with firearms used in the course of their assignments. Extra-Help officers shall comply with all areas of the firearms training section of the Policy Manual.

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Volunteer Program

386.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

It is the policy of this department to use qualified volunteers for specified tasks and duties in order to create efficiencies for the Department and improve services to the community. Volunteers are intended to supplement and support, rather than supplant, sworn officers and civilian personnel. Volunteers can be an important part of any organization and are proven to be a valuable asset to law enforcement agencies. Volunteers help to increase departmental responsiveness, delivery of services and information input, and provide new program opportunities. In addition, volunteers bring new skills and expertise to the Department and prompt new enthusiasm.

386.1.1 DEFINITION OF VOLUNTEER

An individual who performs a service for the Department without promise, expectation or receipt of compensation for services rendered. This may include unpaid chaplains, unpaid reserve officers, interns, persons providing administrative support and youth involved in a law enforcement Explorer Post, among others.

386.2 VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

386.2.1 VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

The Volunteer Coordinator shall be appointed by the Administrative Operations Assistant Chief. The function of the Volunteer Coordinator is to provide a central coordinating point for effective volunteer management within the Department, and to direct and assist staff and volunteer efforts to jointly provide more productive services. The Volunteer Coordinator should work with other Department staff on an ongoing basis to assist in the development and implementation of volunteer-staffed positions.

The Volunteer Coordinator, or his/her designee, shall be responsible for the following:

(a) Recruiting, selecting and training qualified volunteers for various positions.

(b) Facilitating the implementation of new volunteer activities and assignments.

(c) Maintaining records for each volunteer.

(d) Tracking and evaluating the contribution of volunteers.

(e) Maintaining the volunteer handbook and outlining expectations, policies and responsibilities for all volunteers.

(f) Maintaining a record of volunteer schedules and work hours.

(g) Completion and dissemination as appropriate of all necessary paperwork and information.

(h) Planning periodic recognition events.

(i) Administering discipline when warranted.

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(j) Maintaining liaison with other volunteer-utilizing programs in the community and assisting in community-wide efforts to recognize and promote volunteering.

386.2.2 RECRUITMENT

Volunteers should be recruited on a continuous and ongoing basis consistent with department policy on equal opportunity nondiscriminatory employment. A primary qualification for participation in the application process should be an interest in, and an ability to assist the Department in serving the public.

Requests for volunteers should be submitted in writing by interested staff to the Volunteer Coordinator through the requester's immediate supervisor. A complete position description and a requested time-frame should be included in the request. All parties should understand that the recruitment of volunteers is enhanced by creative and interesting assignments. The Volunteer Coordinator may withhold assignment of any volunteer until such time as the requesting unit is prepared to make effective use of volunteer resources.

386.2.3 SCREENING

All prospective volunteers should complete the volunteer application form. The Volunteer Coordinator or designee should conduct a face-to-face interview with an applicant under consideration.

A documented background investigation shall be completed on each volunteer applicant and shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

(a) Traffic and criminal background check. Fingerprints shall be obtained from all applicants and processed through the California Criminal Information Index.

(b) Employment

(c) References

(d) Credit check

A polygraph exam may be required of each applicant depending on the type of assignment.

386.2.4 SELECTION AND PLACEMENT

Service as a volunteer with the Department shall begin with an official notice of acceptance or appointment to a volunteer position. Notice may only be given by an authorized representative of the Department, who will normally be the Volunteer Coordinator. No volunteer should begin any assignment until they have been officially accepted for that position and completed all required screening and paperwork. At the time of final acceptance, each volunteer should complete all required enrollment paperwork and will receive a copy of their position description and agreement of service with the Department. All volunteers shall receive a copy of the volunteer handbook and shall be required to sign a volunteer agreement.

Volunteers should be placed only in assignments or programs that are consistent with their knowledge, skills, abilities and the needs of the Department.

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386.2.5 TRAINING

Volunteers will be provided with an orientation program to acquaint them with the Department, personnel, policies and procedures that have a direct impact on their work assignment.

Volunteers should receive position-specific training to ensure they have adequate knowledge and skills to complete tasks required by the position and should receive periodic ongoing training as deemed appropriate by their supervisor or the Volunteer Coordinator.

Training should reinforce to volunteers that they may not intentionally represent themselves as, or by omission infer that they are sworn officers or other full-time members of the Department. They shall always represent themselves as volunteers.

All volunteers shall comply with the rules of conduct and with all orders and directives, either oral or written, issued by the Department.

386.2.6 FITNESS FOR DUTY

No volunteer shall report to work or be on-duty when his/her judgment or physical condition has been impaired by alcohol, medication, other substances, illness or injury.

Volunteers shall report to their supervisor any changes in status that may affect their ability to fulfill their duties. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(a) Driver license

(b) Medical condition

(c) Arrests

(d) Criminal investigations

All volunteers shall adhere to the guidelines set forth by this department regarding drug and alcohol use.

386.2.7 DRESS CODE

As representatives of the Department, volunteers are responsible for presenting a professional image to the community. Volunteers shall dress appropriately for the conditions and performance of their duties.

Volunteers shall conform to department-approved dress consistent with their duty assignment. Uniforms authorized for volunteers should be readily distinguishable from those worn by sworn officers, located in uniform regulations for volunteers, policy section 1046.8 -Volunteer Staff Attire. The uniform or identifiable parts of the uniform shall not be worn while off-duty except volunteers may choose to wear the uniform while in transit to or from official department assignments or functions provided an outer garment is worn over the uniform shirt so as not to bring attention to the volunteer while he/she is off duty.

Volunteers shall be required to return any issued uniform or department property at the termination of service.

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386.3 SUPERVISION OF VOLUNTEERS

Each volunteer who is accepted to a position with the Department must have a clearly identified supervisor who is responsible for direct management of that volunteer. This supervisor will be responsible for day-to-day management and guidance of the work of the volunteer and should be available to the volunteer for consultation and assistance.

A volunteer may be assigned as and act as a supervisor of other volunteers provided that the supervising volunteer is under the direct supervision of a paid staff member.

Functional supervision of volunteers is the responsibility of the supervisor in charge of the unit where the volunteer is assigned. Following are some considerations to keep in mind while supervising volunteers:

(a) Take the time to introduce volunteers to employees on all levels.

(b) Ensure volunteers have work space and necessary office supplies.

(c) Make sure the work is challenging. Do not hesitate to give them an assignment or task that will tap these valuable resources.

386.4 CONFIDENTIALITY

With appropriate security clearance, volunteers may have access to confidential information such as criminal histories or investigative files. Unless otherwise directed by a supervisor or departmental policy, all information shall be considered confidential. Only that information specifically identified and approved by authorized personnel shall be released. Confidential information shall be given only to persons who have a need and a right to know as determined by departmental policy and supervisory personnel.

Each volunteer will be required to sign a nondisclosure agreement before being given an assignment with the Department. Subsequent unauthorized disclosure of any confidential information, verbally, in writing or by any other means, by the volunteer is grounds for immediate dismissal and possible criminal prosecution.

Volunteers shall not address public gatherings, appear on radio or television, prepare any article for publication, act as correspondents to a newspaper or other periodical, release or divulge any information concerning the activities of the Department, or maintain that they represent the Department in such matters without permission from the proper department personnel.

386.5 PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Volunteers will be issued an identification card that must be worn at all times while on-duty. Any fixed and portable equipment issued by the Department shall be for official and authorized use only. Any property or equipment issued to a volunteer shall remain the property of the Department and shall be returned at the termination of service.

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386.5.1 VEHICLE USE

Volunteers assigned to duties such as vacation house checks or other assignments that require the use of a vehicle must first complete the following:

(a) A driving safety briefing and department approved driver safety course.

(b) Verification that the volunteer possesses a valid California Driver License.

(c) Verification that the volunteer carries current vehicle insurance.

The Volunteer Coordinator should insure that all volunteers receive safety briefing updates and license and insurance verification at least once a year.

When operating a Department vehicle, volunteers shall obey all rules of the road, including seat belt requirements. Smoking is prohibited in all Department vehicles.

Volunteers should not operate a marked patrol car unless there is a prominently placed sign indicating that it is out of service and are not authorized to operate a Department vehicle Code-3.

386.5.2 RADIO AND MDC USAGE

Volunteers shall successfully complete CLETS and radio procedures training prior to using the police radio or MDC and comply with all related provisions. The Volunteer Coordinator should ensure that radio and CLETS training is provided for volunteers whenever necessary.

386.6 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES/TERMINATION

A volunteer may be removed from the volunteer program at the discretion of the Chief of Police or the Volunteer Coordinator. Volunteers shall have no property interests in their continued appointment. However, if a volunteer is removed for alleged misconduct, the volunteer will be afforded an opportunity solely to clear his/her name through a liberty interest hearing which shall be limited to a single appearance before the Chief of Police or authorized designee.

Volunteers may resign from volunteer service with the Department at any time. It is requested that volunteers who intend to resign provide advance notice of their departure and a reason for their decision.

386.6.1 EXIT INTERVIEWS

Exit interviews, where possible, should be conducted with volunteers who are leaving their positions. The interview should ascertain why the volunteer is leaving the position and solicit the volunteer's suggestions on improving the position. When appropriate, the interview should also include a discussion on the possibility of involvement in some other capacity with the Department.

386.7 EVALUATION

An evaluation of the overall volunteer program will be conducted on an annual basis by the Volunteer Coordinator. Regular evaluations should be conducted with volunteers to ensure the best use of human resources available, to ensure personnel problems can be identified and dealt with promptly and fairly, and to ensure optimum satisfaction on the part of volunteers.

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Off-Duty Law Enforcement Actions

388.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The decision to become involved in a law enforcement action when off-duty can place an officer as well as others at great risk and must be done with careful consideration. This policy is intended to provide guidelines for officers of the Ventura Police Department with respect to taking law enforcement action while off-duty.

388.2 POLICY

Initiating law enforcement action while off-duty is generally discouraged. Officers should not attempt to initiate enforcement action when witnessing minor crimes, such as suspected intoxicated drivers, reckless driving or minor property crimes. Such incidents should be promptly reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Officers are not expected to place themselves in unreasonable peril. However, any sworn member of this department who becomes aware of an incident or circumstance that he/she reasonably believes poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death, or significant property damage may take reasonable action to minimize the threat.

When public safety or the prevention of major property damage requires immediate action, officers should first consider reporting and monitoring the activity and only take direct action as a last resort.

388.3 FIREARMS

Officers of this department may carry firearms while off-duty in accordance with federal regulations and department policy. All firearms and ammunition must meet guidelines as described in the department Firearms Policy. When carrying firearms while off-duty officers shall also carry their department-issued badge and identification.

Officers should refrain from carrying firearms when the consumption of alcohol is likely or when the need to carry a firearm is outweighed by safety considerations. Firearms shall not be carried by any officer who has consumed an amount of an alcoholic beverage or taken any drugs or medications or any combination thereof that would tend to adversely affect the officer's senses or judgment.

388.4 DECISION TO INTERVENE

There is no legal requirement for off-duty officers to take law enforcement action. However, should officers decide to intervene, they must evaluate whether the action is necessary or desirable, and should take into consideration the following:

(a) The tactical disadvantage of being alone and the fact there may be multiple or hidden suspects.

(b) The inability to communicate with responding units.

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(c) The lack of equipment, such as handcuffs, OC or baton.

(d) The lack of cover.

(e) The potential for increased risk to bystanders if the off-duty officer were to intervene.

(f) Unfamiliarity with the surroundings.

(g) The potential for the off-duty officer to be misidentified by other peace officers or members of the public.

Officers should consider waiting for on-duty uniformed officers to arrive, and gather as much accurate intelligence as possible instead of immediately intervening.

388.4.1 INTERVENTION PROCEDURE

If involvement is reasonably necessary the officer should attempt to call or have someone else call 9-1-1 to request immediate assistance. The dispatcher should be informed that an off-duty officer is on-scene and should be provided a description of the officer if possible.

Whenever practicable, the officer should loudly and repeatedly identify him/herself as an Ventura Police Department officer until acknowledged. Official identification should also be displayed.

388.4.2 INCIDENTS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Officers should refrain from handling incidents of personal interest, (e.g., family or neighbor disputes) and should remain neutral. In such circumstances officers should call the responsible agency to handle the matter.

388.4.3 PROFESSIONAL STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

Professional Staff personnel should not become involved in any law enforcement actions while off-duty except to notify the local law enforcement authority and remain at the scene, if safe and practicable.

388.4.4 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

When encountering a non-uniformed officer in public, uniformed officers should wait for acknowledgement by the non-uniformed officer in case he/she needs to maintain an undercover capability.

388.5 REPORTING

Any off-duty officer who engages in any law enforcement activity, regardless of jurisdiction, shall notify the Watch Commander as soon as practicable. The Watch Commander shall determine whether a report should be filed by the employee.

Officers should cooperate fully with the agency having jurisdiction in providing statements or reports as requested or as appropriate.

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Gun Violence Restraining Orders

392.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for petitioning and serving gun violence restraining orders and accounting for the firearms obtained pursuant to those orders (Penal Code § 18108).

392.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Gun violence restraining order - Civil restraining order prohibiting a named person from controlling, owning, purchasing, possessing, receiving, or otherwise having custody of any firearms or ammunition, including an ammunition magazine (Penal Code § 18100).

392.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department to petition for and serve gun violence restraining orders in compliance with state law and to properly account for firearms and ammunition obtained by the Department pursuant to such orders.

392.3 GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS

An officer who reasonably believes a person is a present danger to self or another person by controlling, owning, purchasing, possessing, receiving, or otherwise having custody of a firearm may request permission from the officer's supervisor to petition the court for a gun violence restraining order.

Officers petitioning the court should use the forms established by the Judicial Council (Penal Code § 18105). The petition should describe the number, types, and locations of any firearms and ammunition that the officer believes to be possessed or controlled by the person (Penal Code § 18107). The petition should also describe why less-restrictive alternatives are ineffective or inadequate for the circumstances (Penal Code § 18125; Penal Code § 18150; Penal Code § 18175).

If it is not practical under the circumstances to submit a written petition, an officer may submit the petition electronically or orally request a temporary order (Penal Code § 18122; Penal Code § 18140).

392.4 SERVICE OF GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS

An officer serving any gun violence restraining order shall:

(a) Verbally ask the subject of the order if he/she has any firearm, ammunition, or magazine in his/her possession or under his/her custody or control (Penal Code § 18160).

(b) Request that any firearms or ammunition be immediately surrendered and issue a receipt for the surrendered items (Penal Code § 18120).

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(c) Take into temporary custody any firearm or other deadly weapon discovered in plain view or pursuant to consent or other lawful search (Penal Code § 18250).

(d) Inform the restrained person of any scheduled hearing regarding the order (Penal Code § 18160).

(e) Transmit the original proof of service form to the issuing court as soon as practicable but within one business day (Penal Code § 18115).

(f) As soon as practicable, but by the end of his/her shift, submit proof of service to the Records Supervisor for prompt entry into the California Restraining and Protective Order System (Penal Code § 18115).

The officer should also inform the restrained person that he/she is required, within 24 hours, to surrender to a law enforcement agency any other firearms and ammunition he/she owns or that are in his/her custody or control or sell them to a firearms dealer. This notification should be documented.

All firearms and ammunition collected shall be handled and booked in accordance with the Property and Evidence Policy.

392.4.1 TEMPORARY EMERGENCY GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS

An officer requesting a temporary emergency gun violence restraining order shall (Penal Code § 18140):

(a) For oral requests, sign a declaration under penalty of perjury reciting the oral statements provided to the judicial officer and memorialize the order of the court on the form approved by the Judicial Council.

(b) Serve the order on the restrained person if the person can be reasonably located.

(c) Forward a copy of the order to the Records Supervisor for filing with the court and appropriate databases.

392.5 SEARCH WARRANTS

If a person who has been served with a gun violence restraining order refuses to surrender any firearm or ammunition, the officer should consider whether to seek a search warrant. If a search warrant is to be obtained, the preparation and service of the search warrant shall be done in accordance with the Warrant Service Policy. Additionally, (Penal Code § 1542.5):

(a) The officer serving the warrant shall take custody of any firearm or ammunition that is controlled, possessed or owned by the person who is the subject of the gun violence restraining order, including any discovered pursuant to the warrant, a consensual search or other lawful search.

(b) If the location being searched is jointly occupied and the firearm or ammunition is owned by a person other than the restrained person, the firearm or ammunition should not be seized if the following conditions are met:

1. The firearm or ammunition can be stored in a manner that does not allow the restrained person to have control or access.

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2. There is no evidence that the owner unlawfully possesses the firearm or ammunition.

(c) If a locked gun safe belonging to someone other than the subject of a gun violence restraining order is discovered, the officer shall not search the contents of the safe unless the owner consents or there is a valid search warrant for the safe. Any search of the safe must be done in the owner's presence.

392.6 RECORDS SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Records Supervisor is responsible for ensuring:

(a) Proof of service of any gun violence restraining order served by an officer or received from the clerk of the court is entered in the computer database system for protective and restraining orders maintained by the Department of Justice within one business day of service if served by an officer, or within one business day of receipt of proof of service if served by a person other than a law enforcement officer (Penal Code § 18115).

(b) Temporary orders are entered into the California Restraining and Protective Order System (Penal Code § 18140).

(c) Copies of temporary orders are filed with the court as soon as practicable, but no later than three court days, after issuance (Penal Code § 18140).

(d) Copies of receipts of surrendered firearms or ammunition issued by other agencies for gun violence restraining orders issued by the Department are properly maintained (Penal Code § 18120).

(e) Any relinquishment of firearm rights form received from the court is entered into the California Restraining and Protective Order System within one business day of receipt (Penal Code § 18115).

392.7 COURT-ORDERED FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION SURRENDERS

Authorized members shall accept firearms and ammunition from any individual who is the subject of a gun violence restraining order. The member receiving any firearm or ammunition shall:

(a) Record the individual's name, address and telephone number.

(b) Record the serial number of the firearm.

(c) Prepare an incident report and property report.

(d) Provide a property receipt to the individual who surrendered the firearms and ammunition.

(e) Package and submit the firearms and ammunition in accordance with the Property and Evidence Policy.

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392.8 RELEASE OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

Firearms and ammunition that were taken into temporary custody or surrendered pursuant to a gun violence restraining order shall be returned to the restrained person upon the expiration of the order and in accordance with Penal Code § 18120 and the Property and Evidence Policy.

392.9 GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDER COORDINATOR

The Chief of Police will appoint a gun violence restraining order coordinator. The responsibilities of the coordinator include:

(a) Developing and maintaining procedures for the filing of a petition for an order or a renewal of an order by department members, also including procedures for requesting and serving (Penal Code § 18108):

1. A temporary emergency gun violence restraining order.
2. An ex parte gun violence restraining order.
3. A gun violence restraining order issued after notice and hearing.

(b) Developing and maintaining factors to consider when assessing the need to seek an order, including:

1. Whether threats have been made, and if so, whether the threats are credible and specific.
2. Whether the potential victim is within close proximity.
3. Whether the person has expressed suicidal tendencies.
4. Whether the person has access to firearms.
5. The criminal history of the person, in particular any history of criminal violence, including whether the person is currently on parole, probation, or monitored release.
6. The mental health history of the person, in particular whether the person has any history of mental illness or has ever been detained for being a danger to themselves or others.
7. Any upcoming holidays, anniversaries, or other dates of significance that may serve as a trigger for the person, such as the death of a family member.
8. Whether the person has any history of drug or alcohol abuse.

(c) Developing and maintaining procedures for the receipt and service of orders consistent with the requirements of Penal Code § 18115; Penal Code § 18120; Penal Code § 18135; Penal Code § 18140; and Penal Code § 18160. Procedures should include:

1. Evaluation of an order to determine appropriate service and necessary precautions (see the Warrant Service Policy and the Operations Planning and Deconfliction Policy).
2. Forwarding orders to the Records Supervisor for recording in appropriate databases and required notice to the court, as applicable.

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3. Preparing or obtaining a search warrant prior to attempting service of an order, when appropriate (Penal Code § 18108).
4. Seizure procedures of firearms and ammunition at the time of issuance of a temporary emergency gun violence restraining order.
5. Verification procedures for the removal of firearms and ammunition from the subject of a gun violence restraining order.

(d) Coordinating with the Professional Standards Sergeant to provide officers who may be involved in petitioning for or serving orders with training on such orders. Training should include determining when a petition is appropriate, the process for seeking an order, and the service of such orders.

(e) Reviewing each petition and any associated court documents for an order prepared by members, for compliance with this policy, department procedures, and state law.

(f) Developing and maintaining procedures for members to accept voluntarily surrendered prohibited items at times other than when an order is being served by the Department.

1. Procedures should include preparing and providing a receipt identifying all prohibited items to the person surrendering the items.

(g) Coordinating review of notices of court hearings and providing notice to the appropriate officer of the hearing date and the responsibility to appear (Penal Code § 18108).

392.10 RENEWAL OF GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS

The Detective Bureau supervisor is responsible for the review of a gun violence restraining order obtained by the Department to determine if renewal should be requested within the time prescribed by law (Penal Code § 18190).

392.11 POLICY AVAILABILITY

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall be responsible for making this policy available to the public upon request (Penal Code § 18108).

392.12 TRAINING

The Professional Standards Sergeant should ensure that members receive periodic training on the requirements of this policy (Penal Code § 18108).

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Chapter 4 - Patrol Operations

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Patrol Function

400.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to define the patrol function and address intraorganizational cooperation and information sharing.

400.2 FUNCTION

Officers will generally patrol in clearly marked vehicles, patrol assigned jurisdictional areas of Ventura, respond to calls for assistance, act as a deterrent to crime, enforce state and local laws and respond to emergencies 24 hours per day seven days per week.

Patrol will generally provide the following services within the limits of available resources:

(a) Patrol that is directed at the prevention of criminal acts, traffic violations and collisions, the maintenance of public order, and the discovery of hazardous situations or conditions

(b) Crime prevention activities such as residential inspections, business inspections, community presentations, etc.

(c) Calls for service, both routine and emergency in nature

(d) Investigation of both criminal and non-criminal acts

(e) The apprehension of criminal offenders

(f) Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving activities such as citizen assists and individual citizen contacts of a positive nature

(g) The sharing of information between the Patrol and other divisions within the Department, as well as other outside governmental agencies

(h) The application of resources to specific problems or situations within the community, which may be improved or resolved by Community Oriented Policing and problem solving strategies

(i) Traffic direction and control

400.3 TERRORISM

It is the goal of the Ventura Police Department to make every reasonable effort to accurately and appropriately gather and report any information that may relate to either foreign or domestic terrorism. Officers should advise a supervisor as soon as practicable of any activity believed to be terrorism related and should document such incidents with a written report or Field Interview (FI). The supervisor should ensure that all terrorism related reports and FIs are forwarded to the Detective Bureau Supervisor in a timely fashion.

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400.4 PATROL INFORMATION SHARING PROCEDURES

The following guidelines are intended to develop and maintain intra-department cooperation and information flow between the various divisions of the Ventura Police Department.

400.4.1 CRIME ANALYSIS UNIT

The Crime Analysis Unit (CAU) will be the central unit for information exchange. Criminal information and intelligence reports can be submitted to the Records Unit for distribution to all divisions within the Department through daily and special bulletins.

400.4.2 CRIME REPORTS

A crime report may be completed by any patrol officer who receives criminal information. The report will be processed and forwarded to the appropriate bureau for retention or follow-up investigation.

400.4.3 PATROL BRIEFINGS

Patrol supervisors, detective sergeants, and special unit sergeants are encouraged to share information as much as possible. All supervisors and/or officers will be provided an opportunity to share information at the daily patrol Briefings as time permits.

400.4.4 BULLETIN BOARDS

A bulletin board will be kept in the briefing room and the Investigation Unit for display of suspect information, intelligence reports and photographs. New Departmental Directives will be made available for patrol supervisors and will be discussed at briefings and shift meetings. A copy of the Departmental Directive will be placed on the briefing room clipboard.

400.5 CROWDS, EVENTS AND GATHERINGS

Officers may encounter gatherings of people, including but not limited to, civil demonstrations, civic, social and business events, public displays, parades and sporting events. Officers should monitor such events as time permits in an effort to keep the peace and protect the safety and rights of those present. A patrol supervisor should be notified when it becomes reasonably foreseeable that such an event may require increased monitoring, contact or intervention.

Officers responding to an event or gathering that warrants law enforcement involvement should carefully balance the speech and association rights of those present with applicable public safety concerns before taking enforcement action. Officers are encouraged to contact organizers or responsible persons to seek voluntary compliance that may address relevant public safety/order concerns.

Officers should consider enforcement of applicable state and local laws, such as Penal Code 602.1 (obstructing or intimidating business operators), when the activity blocks the entrance or egress of a facility or location and when voluntary compliance with the law is not achieved.

400.5.1 CAMPUS LIAISON

The <<<college/university>>> has designated a liaison between our department and students exercising rights guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, a similar

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provision of the California Constitution or both (Education Code § 66303). The designated department staff member will work with this liaison regarding relevant issues, scheduled events, training and crowd control.

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Bias-Based Policing

402.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance to department members that affirm the Ventura Police Department's commitment to policing that is fair and objective.

Nothing in this policy prohibits the use of specified characteristics in law enforcement activities designed to strengthen the department's relationship with its diverse communities (e.g., cultural and ethnicity awareness training, youth programs, community group outreach, partnerships).

402.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Bias-based policing - An inappropriate reliance on actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, age, cultural group, disability, or affiliation with any non-criminal group (protected characteristics) as the basis for providing differing law enforcement service or enforcement (Penal Code § 13519.4).

402.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department is committed to providing law enforcement services to the community with due regard for the racial, cultural or other differences of those served. It is the policy of this department to provide law enforcement services and to enforce the law equally, fairly, objectively and without discrimination toward any individual or group.

402.3 BIAS-BASED POLICING PROHIBITED

Bias-based policing is strictly prohibited.

However, nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit an officer from considering protected characteristics in combination with credible, timely and distinct information connecting a person or people of a specific characteristic to a specific unlawful incident, or to specific unlawful incidents, specific criminal patterns or specific schemes.

402.3.1 CALIFORNIA RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT

Members shall not collect information from a person based on religious belief, practice, affiliation, national origin or ethnicity unless permitted under state or federal law (Government Code § 8310.3).

Members shall not assist federal government authorities (Government Code § 8310.3):

(a) In compiling personal information about a person’s religious belief, practice, affiliation, national origin or ethnicity.

(b) By investigating, enforcing or assisting with the investigation or enforcement of any requirement that a person register with the federal government based on religious belief, practice, or affiliation, or national origin or ethnicity.

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402.4 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Every member of this department shall perform his/her duties in a fair and objective manner and is responsible for promptly reporting any suspected or known instances of bias-based policing to a supervisor. Members should, when reasonable to do so, intervene to prevent any biased-based actions by another member.

402.4.1 REASON FOR CONTACT

Officers contacting a person shall be prepared to articulate sufficient reason for the contact, independent of the protected characteristics of the individual.

To the extent that written documentation would otherwise be completed (e.g., arrest report, field interview (FI) card), the involved officer should include those facts giving rise to the contact, as applicable.

Except for required data-collection forms or methods, nothing in this policy shall require any officer to document a contact that would not otherwise require reporting.

402.4.2 REPORTING OF STOPS

Unless an exception applies under 11 CCR 999.227, begining 01/01/2022 an officer conducting a stop of a person shall collect the data elements required by 11 CCR 999.226 for every person stopped and prepare a stop data report. When multiple officers conduct a stop, the officer with the highest level of engagement with the person shall collect the data elements and prepare the report (11 CCR 999.227).

If multiple agencies are involved in a stop and the Ventura Police Department is the primary agency, the Ventura Police Department officer shall collect the data elements and prepare the stop data report (11 CCR 999.227).

The stop data report should be completed by the end of the officer's shift or as soon as practicable (11 CCR 999.227).

402.5 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors should monitor those individuals under their command for compliance with this policy and shall handle any alleged or observed violations in accordance with the Personnel Complaints Policy.

(a) Supervisors should discuss any issues with the involved officer and his/her supervisor in a timely manner.

    1. Supervisors should document these discussions, in the prescribed manner.

(b) Supervisors should periodically review MAV recordings, portable audio/video recordings, Mobile Digital Computer (MDC) data and any other available resource used to document contact between officers and the public to ensure compliance with the policy.

    1. Supervisors should document these periodic reviews.

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2. Recordings or data that capture a potential instance of bias-based policing should be appropriately retained for administrative investigation purposes.

(c) Supervisors shall initiate investigations of any actual or alleged violations of this policy.

(d) Supervisors should take prompt and reasonable steps to address any retaliatory action taken against any member of this department who discloses information concerning bias-based policing.

402.6 ADMINISTRATION

Each year, the Patrol Assistant Chief should review the efforts of the department to provide fair and objective policing and submit an annual report, including public concerns and complaints, to the Chief of Police.

The annual report should not contain any identifying information about any specific complaint, member of the public or officers. It should be reviewed by the Chief of Police to identify any changes in training or operations that should be made to improve service.

Supervisors should review the annual report and discuss the results with those they are assigned to supervise.

402.7 TRAINING

Training on fair and objective policing and review of this policy should be conducted as directed by the Professional Standards Unit.

(a) All sworn members of this department will be scheduled to attend Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)-approved training on the subject of bias-based policing.

(b) Pending participation in such POST-approved training and at all times, all members of this department are encouraged to familiarize themselves with and consider racial and cultural differences among members of this community.

(c) Each sworn member of this department who received initial bias-based policing training will thereafter be required to complete an approved refresher course every five years, or sooner if deemed necessary, in order to keep current with changing racial, identity and cultural trends (Penal Code § 13519.4(i)).

402.8 REPORTING TO CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Professional Standards Unit Commander shall ensure that all data required by the California Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding complaints of racial bias against officers is collected and provided to the Records Supervisor for required reporting to the DOJ (Penal Code § 13012; Penal Code § 13020). See the Records Unit Policy.

Supervisors should ensure that data stop reports are provided to the Records Supervisor for required annual reporting to the DOJ (Government Code § 12525.5) (See Records Bureau Policy).

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Bias-Based Policing

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Briefing Training

404.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Briefing training is generally conducted at the beginning of the officer's assigned shift. Briefing provides an opportunity for important exchange between employees and supervisors. A supervisor generally will conduct Briefing; however,officers may conduct Briefing for training purposes with supervisor approval.

Briefing should accomplish, at a minimum, the following basic tasks:

(a) Briefing officers with information regarding daily patrol activity, with particular attention given to unusual situations and changes in the status of wanted persons, stolen vehicles, and major investigations

(b) Notifying officers of changes in schedules and assignments

(c) Notifying officers of new Departmental Directives or changes in Departmental Directives

(d) Reviewing recent incidents for training purposes

(e) Providing training on a variety of subjects

404.2 PREPARATION OF MATERIALS

The supervisor conducting Briefing is responsible for preparation of the materials necessary for a constructive briefing. Supervisors may delegate this responsibility to a subordinate officer in his or her absence or for training purposes.

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Crime and Disaster Scene Integrity

406.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The protection and integrity of a crime scene is of the utmost importance for the successful apprehension of criminals and successful prosecution. The integrity of a disaster scene is equally as critical for the protection of life and property and investigation by proper authorities.

406.2 CRIME SCENE RESPONSIBILITY

The first officer at the scene of a crime or major incident is generally responsible for taking reasonable efforts to preserve the scene. Officers shall also consider officer safety and public safety, including reasonable efforts to render medical aid to any obviously injured parties. Once an officer has assumed or been assigned to maintain the integrity of the crime/disaster scene, the officer shall continue to do so until he/she is relieved by a supervisor.

406.2.1 FIRST RESPONDER CONSIDERATIONS

The following list generally describes the functions which the first responder should reasonably attempt to take at a crime or disaster scene. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive, is not necessarily in order and may be altered according to the demands of each situation, the availability of resources, capacity of personnel and totality of each circumstance:

(a) Ensure no suspects are still in the area.

(b) Broadcast emergency information, including all requests for additional assistance.

(c) Provide first aid to injured parties if it can be done safely.

(d) Evacuate the location as required.

(e) Secure the inner and outer perimeter if needed.

(f) Protect items of apparent evidentiary value.

(g) Identify potential witnesses.

(h) Start a chronological log noting critical times and personnel allowed access.

406.2.2 EXECUTION OF HEALTH ORDERS

Any sworn member of this department is authorized to enforce all orders of the local health officer that have been issued for the purpose of preventing the spread of any contagious, infectious or communicable disease (Health and Safety Code § 120155).

406.3 SEARCHES AT CRIME OR DISASTER SCENES

Officers arriving at crime or disaster scenes are often faced with the immediate need to search for and render aid to victims and determine if suspects are present and continue to pose a threat. Once officers are satisfied that no additional suspects are present and/or there are no injured persons to be treated, those exigent circumstances will likely no longer exist. Officers should thereafter secure the scene and conduct no further search until proper authority for the search is obtained.

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406.3.1 CONSENT

Officers should seek consent to search from authorized individuals where possible. However, in the case of serious crimes or major investigations, it may be prudent to obtain a search warrant. Consent may be sought even in cases where a search warrant has been granted.

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Special Weapons and Tactics

408.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Special Weapons and Tactics Team is a unit of sworn law enforcement personnel who are highly trained in the special tactics and weaponry that are necessary to resolve high-risk situations that are beyond the abilities or equipment needs of Department personnel. The emphasis of the SWAT Team is teamwork and controlled discipline with the minimum application of force.

408.1.1 MISSION STATEMENT

The Ventura Police Department's Special Weapons and Tactics Team provides a group of trained, sworn personnel to be utilized in those incidents where disciplined teamwork and specialized weapons and tactical skills are required to cope with and resolve law enforcement incidents that are high-risk in nature.

408.1.2 CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

The Ventura Police Department has organized a special unit of officers to respond to high-risk incidents. This group of officers is called the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team.

(a) Chain Of Command: SWAT reports to the Commander for administrative control, via the SWAT chain of command.

(b) Officer in Charge: A Commander is in charge of the operational aspects of the unit.

(c) Duties: Officers assigned to SWAT have other primary duties within the department; SWAT duties are collateral.

(d) Activation: Authority to activate SWAT for a high-risk incident rests with the Watch Commander in concurrence with a SWAT Commander.

(e) Concept: To provide an organized, structured response to high-risk situations in order to minimize, whenever possible, the dangers to officers and the public.

(f) Special Response: There are tactical incidents that may not require the deployment of the entire SWAT Team. In those instances, with the approval of the SWAT Assistant Chief and the concurrence of the incident Assistant Chief, a SWAT supervisor and designated team members may be activated and respond to the scene.

1. Minimum deployment is determined by a SWAT Commander.
2. Overall command remains with the Incident Assistant Chief or supervisor.
3. The tactical operation is the responsibility of the SWAT supervisor.
4. The SWAT supervisor will complete an Operational Order for all pre-planned operations and After Action Report on each incident.

408.1.3 HIGH-RISK DEFINED

High-risk would necessarily include those incidents where officers are in danger because of some inherent hazard, including:

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(a) Arrest of armed and dangerous subject(s).

(b) Barricaded subject(s).

(c) Hostage situation.

(d) Any other situation, which by its nature may result in a hostile confrontation with officers; i.e., execution of arrest or search warrants where probability of a violent response exists.

(e) Major crowd and riot control situations.

(f) Executive protection and dignitary protection of VIPs.

408.1.4 TEAM PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the SWAT Team is to operate in a manner that affords the most protection to the unit members and other department personnel, and that provides the greatest degree of safety possible to the public and suspects.

(a) Policy and Procedure: The team will attempt to resolve situations involving confrontations commensurate with department policy and procedure.

(b) Direction: When deployed, the SWAT Commander directs the SWAT Team. In the case of a special response as defined in Section 408.1.2 (f), the SWAT unit is directed by the assigned SWAT supervisor. The Watch Commander or delegated supervisor will assign the SWAT team or unit its mission(s). The SWAT Commander or SWAT supervisor controls the tactics and strategy employed to accomplish that mission.

408.2 TEAM COMPOSITION

408.2.1 OVERVIEW

The SWAT Team consists of a SWAT Commander; Executive Officer; three Team Sergeants; sixteen Team Members, and six Crisis Negotiators.

(a) Organizational Structure:

1. SWAT Commander
2. Executive Officer
3. Two Tactical Units: Sergeant, Scout, Back-up, four Operators
4. Four Long Rifles
5. Crisis Negotiating Team: Sergeant, 5 Negotiators

(b) Flexibility: Supervisors and team members are interchangeable as situational circumstances occur.

408.2.2 MEMBER SELECTION CRITERIA

SWAT is open to all department officers, corporals, and sergeants that are off probation and have at least two years of patrol experience.

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Requirements: Applicants shall be chosen on the basis of job performance, productivity, temperament, integrity, ability to accept direction, ability to perform within a structured team environment, ability to perform under stress, judgment, physical condition, firearms proficiency, and desire.

(a) Selection: Interested officers should submit applications to the SWAT Executive Officer. A candidate must successfully pass:

1. Physical fitness test
2. Oral interview
3. Team member evaluation
4. Firearms qualification course
5. Assistant Chief approval

408.2.3 SWAT COMMANDER

The SWAT Commander is a Police Commander responsible for the overall goals and functions of the team. The SWAT Commander coordinates the regular training and qualifications of team members, instills discipline and team spirit, oversees the proper selection of personnel, approves all tactics and operational orders, critiques and analyzes all operations, and directly controls all operations at the scene of a hazardous situation.

(a) Responsibility: The SWAT Commander is accountable to the Assistant Chief for all SWAT activities.

408.2.4 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Executive Officer is responsible for those administrative functions necessary for accountability of the SWAT unit. The Executive Officer shall assist in the planning and implementation of a team-training program. In the absence of a team leader, the Executive Officer may function in that role until the conclusion of the incident.

(a) Command Responsibility: In the absence of the SWAT Commander, the Executive Officer assumes that responsibility.

(b) Press Liaison: At the scene of a SWAT operation, all press information is approved by the Executive Officer.

408.2.5 TEAM LEADER

A sergeant is designated as the supervisor of each of the two teams. The team leader is responsible for the direction and function of the team at the scene of a SWAT response.

(a) Tactical Planning: The team leader develops and implements tactical plans for accomplishing the SWAT mission.

(b) Training: As a member of the SWAT staff, the team leader assists in the administrative controls, planning, and implementation of the team's training program.

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(c) Command: In the absence of the SWAT Commander and SWAT Executive Officer, a team leader may perform as the SWAT Commander.

408.2.6 TEAM MEMBER

A member of the SWAT Team is selected from department personnel by the SWAT staff. All team members will comply and be responsible for following the directives of this manual.

(a) Compensation: A team member is compensated for off-duty mandatory training and authorized call-outs.

408.2.7 TRAINING COORDINATOR

The SWAT Training Coordinator is the SWAT Executive Officer.

(a) Responsibilities: In conjunction with the SWAT team leaders, the Training Coordinator will:

1. Maintain a yearly training schedule.
2. Arrange and implement all training days.
3. Maintain SWAT training records.
4. Distribute relevant training material.
5. Set and maintain twice-yearly firearms qualifications courses.
6. Set and maintain twice-yearly physical fitness qualifications.
7. Shall conduct an annual SWAT Training needs assessment to ensure that training is conducted within team capabilities and, department policy and the training guidelines as established by POST (11 C.C.R. §1081).

408.2.8 TRAINING SESSIONS

Team meetings and training sessions are scheduled every month and attendance is mandatory.

(a) Notifications: Team members that are unable to attend a scheduled training will notify and be excused by a team leader or a SWAT Commander.

1. Any team member failing to attend a team meeting or training session, and who is not excused, is suspended from the team until the SWAT staff has reviewed the situation and determined if disciplinary action is required.
2. SWAT staff will evaluate any team member with three excused absences during the year to determine any conflicts that may be detrimental to the team's performance.
3. If such conflict exists, the SWAT staff determines the appropriate action to be taken.

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408.2.9 UNIFORM
The authorized SWAT uniform is worn on each incident and consists of:

(a) Designated shirt and pants with identifying markings:
    1. Approved Ventura Police Department patches on both shoulders.
(b) Headgear: Five types of headgear are authorized:
    1. Baseball cap with POLICE on the front or approved SWAT logo.
    2. Knit cap, watch style, with no markings.
    3. Ballistic helmet.
    4. Bush hat, black or olive drab.
(c) Footwear: Two types of footwear are authorized:
    1. Boots, military style, full leather or nylon upper, black, tan, or green in color.
    2. Athletic shoes, nylon with rubber sole, dark in color.
(d) Jackets: Jackets may be worn and are a department authorized type.
(e) Rain Gear: Two types of rain gear are authorized:
    1. Poncho, green.
    2. Two-piece, black or blue.

408.3 WEAPONS/PHYSICAL FITNESS

408.3.1 POLICY
The SWAT Team provides all team members individual weapons and ammunition fulfilling the needs of any function within the SWAT Team, except handguns. All weapons and ammunition shall conform to Department policy and are subject to approval by the SWAT staff.

408.3.2 WEAPONS QUALIFICATION
The following qualification guidelines are established for each SWAT Team member:

(a) Qualification: Each Team Leader is responsible for assuring that team members qualify once a month with the assigned SWAT weapon. The Team Leader reports this fact in writing to the SWAT Commander and also notifies the SWAT Commander of any failure to qualify.
(b) Score: Each team member is required to qualify once per month.
(c) Departmental Requirements: Each team member is required to meet all departmental qualification requirements as listed in the Department Manual.
(d) Training Coordinator: The required qualification course is determined and maintained by the Training Coordinator. All records are maintained in a training file.

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(e) Failure to Qualify: Any team member failing to observe the above guidelines is subject to disciplinary action.

(f) Deployment of Weapons: Team members may carry assigned SWAT weapons while on-duty.

408.3.3 PHYSICAL FITNESS

The following guidelines establish the SWAT physical fitness standards:

(a) Qualification: Each team member is required to complete the physical fitness test twice per year. Failure to qualify/pass is a basis for removal from the team.

(b) Failure to Qualify: Any member who fails to meet the fitness standards will submit a memorandum to the Executive Officer within 10 days of the failed test. The memorandum will state any mitigating circumstances for the failed test.

(c) Test: The SWAT Commander establishes the physical fitness test and the SWAT Executive Officer will administer the test. The SWAT team currently uses the FBI fitness test. Each event is pass/fail.

1. Tactical Obstacle Course: Wearing personal exercise gear, the member will complete an 880-yard course, consisting of 2 laps and 3 job-related tasks on a 440 yard oval track. At the 220-yard mark, the member will negotiate a 40-yard weave consisting of 9 cones placed 5 yards apart, with a lateral dispersion of 5 yards. At the 440- yard mark, the member will stop and drag a 185 lbs. dummy 10 yards. The dummy will be clothed with a SWAT ballistic vest. At the 660-yard mark, the member will renegotiate the 40-yard weave. At each cone, the member will drop to a prone position (chest and hands to the ground). After the ninth cone, the member will complete the lap and finish the course. The minimum times to PASS the Tactical Obstacle Course are: 40 years old and younger 4 minutes 30 seconds; 41 through 49 years old 4 minutes 45 seconds; 50 years and older 5 minutes 00 seconds.

2. Pursuit/Rescue Climb: While wearing a 20 lb weighted vest, ballistic helmet, and MP-5, the member will complete two pull-ups.

(d) SWAT Off-Duty Physical Fitness Training:

1. The Department recognizes that a high level of physical fitness is required for selection and assignment to SWAT. To ensure the minimum level of physical fitness for all officers assigned to SWAT the Department administers a required PT test semi-annually.

2. Although off-duty exercise is not required, the Department recognizes that an ongoing off-duty exercise program may be needed in order to maintain the minimum fitness level required for assignment to SWAT

3. Ordinarily, all off-duty activities are exempt from coverage by our workers' compensation system. However, recognizing that physical training and conditioning do carry the risk of injury; in order to encourage SWAT officers to maintain both aerobic fitness and strength conditioning, a limited number

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of off-duty conditioning activities will be approved for coverage under workers' compensation should an injury occur while a SWAT officer is exercising.

4. The covered activities listed below are specifically strengthening and conditioning exercises. This policy specifically excludes team and contact sports, as well as any recreational activity.
5. Covered conditioning/strengthening exercise for SWAT officers:
   (a) Running/Jogging
   (b) Push-ups
   (c) Pull-ups
   (d) Sit-ups
   (e) Abdominal Crunches
   (f) Treadmill
   (g) Rowing Machines
   (h) Weightlifting
   (i) Stationary Bicycling
   (j) Aerobics
   (k) Stair Stepper
6. Competitive, organized, and/or contact sporting activities are specifically prohibited and excluded from coverage under workers' compensation (i.e., football, baseball, softball, basketball, etc.).
7. Any other exercise activity not specifically approved and listed above is prohibited and excluded from coverage unless the Chief of Police has pre-approved the activity in writing.

408.4 STAFF

SWAT staff consists of the Commander, Executive Officer, Team Leaders, and CNT Supervisor.

408.4.1 RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) Chain of Command: At the scene of a SWAT operation, the SWAT Commander is responsible for the overall team activity and the accomplishment of the mission as assigned by the Incident Commander. Should the SWAT Commander be unavailable, the Executive Officer acts in this capacity. In the absence of the Executive Officer, a Team Leader acts in this capacity.

(b) Team Leaders: Team Leaders are responsible for implementing the tactical plan and the control and coordination of the individual team members. Upon termination of the operation, Team Leaders are responsible for the team debriefing and response to concerned department personnel, i.e., Chief of Police, Commanders, and Detectives.

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408.4.2 COMMAND RESPONSIBILITIES

When the decision to activate SWAT has been made, the Watch Commander orders SWAT personnel to be called. A SWAT call-out list is maintained in Communications.

(a) Special Response: Should the decision be made to activate only a portion of the team, the SWAT supervisor contacted makes those notifications.

(b) On-Duty Members: As deployment allows, SWAT personnel working in the field are called into the station or can be deployed directly to an incident.

(c) Required Information: Upon receiving a request for SWAT, the Watch Commander or a designee will brief the SWAT Commander of all circumstances surrounding the incident and of all police action taken.

(d) Command and Control: Once SWAT personnel arrive at the scene and are briefed, the SWAT Commander coordinates the accomplishment of the mission assigned to SWAT by the Incident Commander. All SWAT personnel at the scene remain under the control of the SWAT Commander. The Incident Commander, unless relieved by higher authority, remains in control of the entire operation and uses SWAT as a tactical unit to help control situations.

(e) Direction of Personnel: The Incident Commander does not direct SWAT personnel in individual tactics or strategy.

408.4.3 INCIDENT COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

The senior officer at the scene is in charge of the situation until relieved by an officer of higher rank. The officer in charge does not immediately relinquish control to a superior officer, nor does a superior officer assume control until each officer is certain that all available information relating to the incident is thoroughly explained and understood and that all personnel understand that command and control is being passed. The superior officer will not hesitate to take control immediately if that action is deemed necessary or desirable.

(a) Resources: The Incident Commander, regardless of rank, may request any of the department's resources. All divisions and units will furnish the resources requested if not in violation of any departmental order.

(b) Command Changes: The Incident Commander may change several times during the course of an operation.

(c) Passing of Command: The passing of command is accomplished by thoroughly briefing the relieving officer by the officer accepting such command. It is not deemed a separate operational phase, but merely a continuation of activity that precedes the transfer.

(d) Control of Operation: Regardless of rank, the Incident Commander is responsible for the overall control and coordination of the operation.

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(e) Operations: SWAT operates under the direction of the Incident Commander and within department guidelines.

408.5 FIELD LOCATION CONTROL

408.5.1 PRIOR TO SWAT ARRIVAL

Once SWAT personnel are activated, the Field Supervisor or Incident Commander should complete the following steps prior to the SWAT Team arrival at the scene:

(a) Command Post: Establish a command post in a readily accessible location.

(b) Perimeter Containment: Establish perimeter control of the area.

1. Do not allow traffic into the area.
2. Do not allow onlookers or pedestrians into the area.
3. Assign officers to specific locations and advise them to remain at those locations until ordered.

(c) Intelligence: Gather as much information as possible about the suspect(s).

(d) Witnesses: Identify all relevant witnesses.

(e) Evacuation: Where necessary, evacuate without endangering the lives of officers or citizens.

(f) Utilize members of the patrol rifle team to assist with containment and protection.

(g) Establish a reaction team to address any urgent situations.

408.5.2 AFTER SWAT ARRIVAL

After SWAT arrival, SWAT will establish inner perimeter control and accept responsibility for tactics necessary to neutralize the situation with as little danger to personnel, citizens, and the suspect(s) as possible.

408.5.3 NOTIFICATION

Superior officers must be notified at the earliest possible moment of all circumstances, and be periodically updated. Although personnel at the scene must take appropriate action to contain the situation, the Chief of Police, Assistant Chief, and the Commander must be personally notified for decisions involving extraordinary incidents, i.e., skyjacking, public figures, political, revolutionary or terrorist groups, numerous suspects or hostages, and where the safety of large numbers of citizens or employees is endangered.

408.6 CRISIS NEGOTIATION

408.6.1 PURPOSE

One team of Crisis Negotiators is attached to SWAT. These negotiators respond to all incidents where a SWAT response is initiated, unless the SWAT Commander orders otherwise.

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(a) Special Response: In the case of a partial deployment of the SWAT Team, the onscene SWAT supervisor determines the necessity of the CNT response. Normally, the use of the CNT unit requires the activation of the entire SWAT Team.

(b) Requests: A Crisis Negotiator may also be requested for any other situation requiring crisis communications, but their success is dependent upon containment of the scene, thus a SWAT call-out is usually required.

(c) Deployment: The Crisis Negotiation Team Leader reports to the SWAT Commander. CNT deploys at the request of the SWAT Commander and operates under the SWAT Commander's direction.

(d) Responsibilities: Team members are trained negotiators, but it is not within the scope of their duties to make decisions regarding hostages, suspects, deployment, or operational tactics. Such decisions remain the responsibility of the SWAT Commander.

1. The Crisis Negotiation Team Leader is free to make suggestions as they relate to containment.

Team members are qualified to determine the most appropriate technique of negotiation and will do so, subject to approval by the SWAT Commander.

408.6.2 TEAM LEADER

A sergeant is designated as the supervisor of the CNT. The team leader is responsible for the direction and function of the CNT at the scene of a SWAT/CNT response.

(a) Training: As a member of the SWAT staff, the team leader assists in the administrative controls, planning, and implementation of the team training program.

408.6.3 ASSISTANT TEAM LEADER

A corporal or officer selected from departmental personnel by the SWAT Staff. The assistant team leader aids the team leader in the performance of the CNT duties. The assistant team leader may perform other CNT duties as directed by the team leader.

(a) Command: In the absence of the team leader, the assistant team leader assumes the role of team leader.

408.6.4 NEGOTIATOR

All negotiators will comply with and be responsible for all directives and policies as set forth in this manual. The negotiator will fulfill the following roles as directed by the CNT Team Leader:

(a) Primary negotiator;

(b) Secondary negotiator;

(c) Intelligence officer.

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408.6.5 COMMUNICATION WITH THE SUSPECT

The SWAT Commander must carefully control communication with suspect(s), using CNT for the purpose of communication with suspect(s).

(a) Negotiations: During communication with the suspect(s), the following restrictions apply:

1. The suspect(s) will not be allowed to escape.
2. Humans will not be substituted for hostages.
3. No weapons will be given to the suspect(s).
4. No ransom will be paid for release of hostages.

(b) Decisions: Any decision affecting the hostage negotiation process is directed to the SWAT Commander.

408.7 BARRICADE/HOSTAGE POLICY

408.7.1 POLICY

It is essential, unless clearly forced to do so, that personnel maintain strict fire control discipline. The officer in charge must issue specific and appropriate instructions regarding use of weapons, and all personnel will scrupulously follow those instructions.

(a) Directed Fire: The concept of directed fire by selected marksmen is valid.

1. In certian, limited situations, a Commander or designated supervisor, may give the order to shoot a suspect. The person giving such an order must be aware of the threat and/or imminent danger created by the suspect requiring the use of lethal force, and simultaneously not have sufficient time or means to communicate the information to SWAT officers.
2. If the order is given, the SWAT Commander or designated supervisor giving the order to shoot the suspect should clearly state the order over the radio or in person and receive confirmation of receipt of the order from all deployed SWAT personnel.

(b) Direct Attack: Should a suspect attack an individual officer, or if the suspect attacks or attempts to attack any person with deadly force, it is not required that an officer await instructions to protect themselves or that person. Individual action is taken only in the gravest of circumstances. The safety of hostages and officers is of paramount concern. Department Manual Section 300 serves as a guide in all such decisions.

(c) Concepts: During the initial phases of an operation, the basic concepts of command, control, communicate, and coordinate are applicable.

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408.7.2 BARRICADED SUSPECT DEFINED

Any person armed with a weapon, explosives, or other destructive or dangerous device, who occupies and/or fortifies a fixed location or vehicle, and violently or by threat of violence resists apprehension efforts by law enforcement officers.

408.7.3 BARRICADED SUSPECT POLICY

When a suspect is barricaded and does not hold a hostage, it is the policy of SWAT to consider all methods to effect capture by the use of non-lethal means, consistent with the offense and the safety of personnel and bystanders

(a) Considerations: A number of variables should be considered when confronted with the above situations, including:

1. Mental state of the suspect.
2. Stated objectives and motivations of the suspect.
3. Involvement or proximity of bystanders.
4. Type of location.
5. Crime involved.

(b) Control: Critical to success in attaining objectives is strong command and control, flexibility, and restraint. All personnel must recognize that direct, hasty action against the suspect is ill advised and potentially dangerous.

(c) Discipline: Firearms discipline is absolutely necessary.

(d) Time: Time is a benefit and should be an advantage. Thoughtful, coordinated response and effort is essential.

408.7.4 HOSTAGE DEFINED

Any person seized or kidnapped by another, where the suspect threatens the life of, or threatens great bodily injury to, the person held, with the intent to evade arrest, escape, obtain the release of persons in custody, obtain money or property, or attain any other objective.

408.7.5 HOSTAGE POLICY

In every situation involving hostages, SWAT policy is that the safety of the hostages is of paramount concern. Every effort should be made to ensure the safe release of the hostage and the arrest of the suspect. This is done while safeguarding the lives of the hostages, the suspect, and the officers involved.

(a) Escape of Suspect: The suspect is not allowed to escape, with or without the hostages.

(b) Immunity and Ransom: The department does not grant immunity or pay ransom to neutralize a hostage situation.

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408.7.6 SUPPRESSIVE FIRE POLICY
Suppressive Fire:

Under some conditions, it may become necessary for SWAT personnel to fire their weapons at an armed suspect's location with the intent to incapacitate the suspect or prevent the suspect from firing on innocent persons or officers located in vulnerable positions.

In these situations, SWAT officers are accountable for all rounds fired and shall not knowingly endanger persons with unnecessary weapons fire.

408.8 OPERATIONS

408.8.1 SEARCH AND ARREST WARRANT SERVICE
A SWAT team member will complete a Search Warrant Worksheet form to determine if the use of SWAT is warranted. SWAT should only be used if the criteria as established on the form are met.

(a) Procedure: Once a request for SWAT assistance has been evaluated and approved, a Team Leader and Scout should meet with the case investigator to obtain available information. A SWAT team member will complete a Search/Arrest Warrant Worksheet prior to the completion of the Operational Order.

(b) Plan Preparation: Preparing and formulating a detailed plan is one of the most important factors in achieving operational success. The SWAT Operational Plan is to be completed prior to any preplanned operation.

(c) Special Response: Should a special response be required and approval obtained from SWAT staff, a SWAT supervisor will meet with the case investigator to determine appropriate SWAT response.

408.8.2 AFTER ACTION REPORT
The SWAT Team will complete an After Action Report on every SWAT incident. The Executive Officer or designee will complete the report no later than one week after the conclusion of the incident and submit it to the SWAT Commander.

408.8.3 MEDIA RELATIONS
Any media contacts or press releases on SWAT incidents will first be approved by the Executive Officer. In most cases, the Incident Commander handles the media or designates a press information officer.

(a) Publicity: Undue publicity or media contacts are avoided.

(b) Communications: Individual team members do not communicate with the press without prior approval of the Executive Officer.

(c) Assisting Other Divisions: When assisting another department division, publicity of the SWAT operation or assistance is to be avoided unless approved by a SWAT Commander.

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(d) Executive Officer: The Executive Officer determines the extent of media contacts with relation to SWAT involvement.

408.8.4 COURTROOM TESTIMONY

As a result of a SWAT operation, an individual team member may be required to testify in court or give a deposition regarding the incident. No member shall testify without first reviewing that testimony with the SWAT Commander or Executive Officer.

(a) Testimony: No member of the SWAT Team will testify in open court regarding team structure, tactics, or training, unless specifically approved by the Police Chief or ordered by the court.

(b) Keeper of Records: In order to avoid disclosing any confidential SWAT information, the Keeper of Records is the Executive Officer.

(c) Executive Officer: The Executive Officer reviews any subpoena or memorandum that a SWAT Team member receives and will personally contact the Deputy District Attorney handling the case to review the needed information and coordinate an appropriate response.

408.8.5 REQUESTS BY OTHER AGENCIES

The SWAT Team's primary response is to the City of Ventura; however, it is available to requests for assistance from other law enforcement agencies.

(a) Policy: It is the policy of the Department to assist other agencies in time of need.

1. The Police Chief and Assistant Chief should be notified of such requests.

(b) Primary Assistance: The VPD SWAT Team has total responsibility to resolve a situation. This Department controls the primary containment zone only.

1. The SWAT Commander responds to the scene of the incident and commands department personnel.

2. The VPD SWAT Commander will consult with the requesting agency's Incident Commander. If agreement as to tactics is not reached, the Department SWAT Team will not assist.

(c) Secondary Assistance: Secondary assistance is defined as crowd and traffic control on the perimeter of the incident. These personnel accept standard traffic and crowd control missions from the requesting agency's Incident Commander. While providing secondary assistance, team members will normally wear a class B uniform.

408.9 SWAT SAFETY PROTOCOL

408.9.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to create a safe environment for the Special Weapons and Tactics Team to train and to eliminate the risk of injury or death to team members and citizens.

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408.9.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) Swat Commander: The SWAT Commander has overall responsibility to ensure that proper safety protocols exist.

(b) Executive Officer: The SWAT Executive Officer has overall responsibility to ensure that safety protocols are followed during training. If the Executive Officer is not present, the next highest ranking team member will be responsible.

(c) Team Leader: The Team Leader responsible for the training shall identify a Safety Officer for the training. The Team Leader will review the safety considerations with the Safety Officer and ensure all safety issues are addressed. The Team Leader will provide a safety brief to the Executive Officer prior to the actual training day. This includes full-team and individual team training days.

(d) Safety Officer: The designated Safety Officer shall review the training plan with the team member coordinating the training and implement appropriate safety measures. The Safety Officer will brief the Team Leader prior to the actual training day. This includes full-team and individual team training days. The Safety Officer will conduct a safety brief with all team members prior to the start of training.

(e) Team Members: All team members are responsible for safety. If an unsafe situation exists, team members are expected to immediately stop the training and alert their Team Leader or Safety Officer. If a member arrives at the training location after training has begun, the member will discard all weapons, ammunition, and munitions and report directly to the Safety Officer or Team Leader for instructions.

408.9.3 OFFICER SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

The designated Safety Officer shall:

(a) Conduct an inspection of the training site prior to the start of the training, identify any hazards that may exist and eliminate their potential to cause injury.

(b) Conduct a weapons check prior to the start of training. Members will not have any ammunition or munitions in their possession during training unless authorized by the Safety Officer for a specific purpose. Marking tape or adhesive shall be placed on the barrel of all members' weapons by the Safety Officer to identify the weapon as safe. Following a break in the training day, the Safety Officer shall recheck all weapons.

(c) Simunitions are a valuable tool to conduct realistic training. Great care must be exercised to ensure their proper and safe use.

1. Proper protective equipment should be worn including eye protection, ballistic body armor, gloves, and heavy clothing to cover exposed skin.

2. After the barrel conversion kits are inserted into the weapons, the Safety Officer shall conduct the weapons check. The check will include inspection of the weapon's magazine to ensure there is no live ammunition. After the check, the Safety Officer will distribute the simunition projectiles to the team members. Team members shall load their own magazines with the simunition projectiles.

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3. At the conclusion of training, the conversion kits will be removed and all excess simunition projectiles returned to the Safety Officer.
4. The Safety Officer shall review all scenarios and ensure that unsafe shooting encounters do not occur.

(d) The Safety Officer shall conduct a weapons check to ensure that role players, volunteers, or spectators do not bring loaded firearms into the training site.

(e) Role players will be briefed prior to a scenario or exercise and advised not to exceed their role-play instructions.

408.9.4 FIREARMS/RANGE SAFETY

The designated Range Master shall:

(a) Review the firearms course and eliminate any potential hazards.

(b) Inspect the range facility for any hazards. If the range is deemed unsafe, the training will not continue until corrective action is completed.

(c) Ensure that range participants wear protective equipment to include eye protection, ear protection, ballistic vest, and when appropriate, ballistic helmet.

(d) Range regulations apply to all members regardless of rank.

408.9.5 CHEMICAL AGENTS

(a) Chemical agents shall not be deployed without SWAT supervisor approval.

(b) Chemical agents can be used in a training environment with the approval of an onscene SWAT supervisor.

(c) Prior to deploying chemical agents into a structure for training purposes, a walk-through shall be conducted. Unauthorized occupants will be escorted from the structure and any other safety hazard resolved.

(d) Chemical agents will be deployed in such a manner as to not impact an adjoining neighborhood or business.

(e) Participants should wear appropriate protective equipment, including gas mask.

408.9.6 NOISE FLASH DIVERSIONARY DEVICES (NFDD):

(a) NFFDDs shall not be deployed without SWAT supervisor approval, unless exigent circumstances exist.

(b) NFFDDs can be used in a training environment with the approval of an on-scene SWAT supervisor.

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(c) Prior to deploying a NFDD into a structure for training purposes, a walk-through shall be conducted. Unauthorized occupants will be escorted from the structure and any other safety hazards resolved.

(d) When deploying a NFDD, appropriate protective clothing should be worn including eye protection, ear protection, gloves, and ballistic vests.

408.9.7 SWAT EQUIPMENT TRUCK

Responsibility for the SWAT truck rests with every team member.Every member is to ensure that the truck is kept clean and functional.Specific assignements are determined by the Executive Officer.

A designated team member will ensure that a bi-monthly inspection of the SWAT truck is completed.A record of the inspection will be forwarded to the Executive Officer.

408.9.8 ARMORED VEHICLE

Responsibility for the armored vehicle rests with every team member. Every member is to ensure that the armored vehicle is kept clean and functional. The Executive Officer determines specific assignments.

A designated team member will ensure that a bi-monthly inspection of the armored vehicle is completed. A record of the inspection will be forwarded to the Executive Officer.

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Ride-Along Policy

410.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Ride-Along Program provides an opportunity for citizens to experience the law enforcement function first hand. This policy provides the requirements, approval process, and hours of operation for the Ride-Along Program.

410.1.1 ELIGIBILITY

The Ventura Police Department Ride-Along Program is offered to residents, students and those employed within the City. Every attempt will be made to accommodate interested persons however any applicant may be disqualified without cause.

The following factors may be considered in disqualifying an applicant and are not limited to:

- Being under 15 years of age
- Prior criminal history
- Pending criminal action
- Pending lawsuit against the Department
- Denial by any supervisor

410.1.2 AVAILABILITY

The Ride-Along Program is available on most days of the week, with certain exceptions. The ride-along times are from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Exceptions to this schedule may be made as approved by the Chief of Police, Assistant Chief, or Watch Commander.

410.2 PROCEDURE TO REQUEST A RIDE-ALONG

Generally, ride-along requests will be scheduled by the Watch Commander. The participant will complete a ride-along waiver form. Information requested will include a valid ID or California driver's license, address, and telephone number. If the participant is under 18 years of age, a parent/guardian must be present to complete the Ride-Along Form.

The Watch Commander will schedule a date, based on availability, at least one week after the date of application. If approved, a copy will be forwarded to the respective Watch Commander as soon as possible for his/her scheduling considerations.

If the ride-along is denied after the request has been made, a representative of the Department will contact the applicant and advise him/her of the denial.

410.2.1 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Once approved, civilian ride-alongs will be allowed to ride no more than once every six months. An exception would apply to the following: Cadets, Explorers, Chaplains, Reserves, police applicants, and all others with approval of the Watch Commander.

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An effort will be made to ensure that no more than one citizen will participate in a ride-along during any given time period. Normally, no more than one ride-along will be allowed in the officer's vehicle at a given time.

Ride-along requirements for police cadets are covered in Policy Manual § 1048, “Police Cadet Program.”

410.2.2 SUITABLE ATTIRE
Any person approved to ride along is required to be suitably dressed in collared shirt, blouse or jacket, slacks and shoes. Sandals, T-shirts, tank tops, shorts and ripped or torn blue jeans are not permitted. Hats and ball caps will not be worn in the police vehicle. The Watch Commander or field supervisor may refuse a ride along to anyone not properly dressed.

410.2.3 PEACE OFFICER RIDE-ALONGS
Off-duty members of this department or any other law enforcement agency will not be permitted to ride-along with on-duty officers without the expressed consent of the Watch Commander. In the event that such a ride-along is permitted, the off-duty employee shall not be considered on-duty and shall not represent themselves as a peace officer or participate in any law enforcement activity except as emergency circumstances may require.

410.2.4 RIDE-ALONG CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK
All Ride-along applicants are subject to a criminal history check. The criminal history check may include a local records check and a Department of Justice Automated Criminal History System check through CLETS prior to their approval as a ride-along with a law enforcement officer (provided that the ride-along is not an employee of the Ventura Police Department) (CLETS Policies, Practices and Procedures Manual § 1.6.1.F.2.).

410.3 OFFICER’S RESPONSIBILITY
The officer shall advise the dispatcher that a ride-along is present in the vehicle before going into service. Officers shall consider the safety of the ride-along at all times. Officers should use sound discretion when encountering a potentially dangerous situation, and if feasible, let the participant out of the vehicle in a well-lighted place of safety. The dispatcher will be advised of the situation and as soon as practical have another police unit respond to pick up the participant at that location. The ride-along may be continued or terminated at this time.

The Watch Commander is responsible for maintaining and scheduling ride-alongs. Upon completion of the ride-along, the yellow form shall be returned to the Watch Commander with any comments which may be offered by the officer.

410.4 CONTROL OF RIDE-ALONG
The assigned employee shall maintain control over the ride-along at all times and instruct him/her in the conditions that necessarily limit their participation. These instructions should include:

(a) The ride-along will follow the directions of the officer

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(b) The ride-along will not become involved in any investigation, handling of evidence, discussions with victims or suspects, or handling any police equipment

(c) The ride-along may terminate the ride at any time and the officer may return the observer to their home or to the station if the ride-along interferes with the performance of the officer's duties

(d) Ride-alongs may be allowed to continue riding during the transportation and booking process provided this does not jeopardize their safety

(e) Officers will not allow any ride-alongs to be present in any residences or situations that would jeopardize their safety or cause undue stress or embarrassment to a victim or any other citizen

(f) Under no circumstance shall a civilian ride along be permitted to enter a private residence with an officer without the expressed consent of the resident or other authorized person

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Hazardous Material Response

412.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Hazardous materials present a potential harm to employees resulting from their exposure. To comply with Title 8, California Code of Regulations, § 5194, the following is to be the policy of this department.

412.1.1 HAZARDOUS MATERIAL DEFINED

A hazardous material is a substance which by its nature, containment and reactivity, has the capability of inflicting harm during exposure; characterized as being toxic, corrosive, flammable, reactive, an irritant or strong sensitizer and thereby posing a threat to health when improperly managed.

412.2 HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE

Employees may encounter situations involving suspected hazardous materials, such as at the scene of a traffic accident, chemical spill or fire. When employees come into contact with a suspected hazardous material, certain steps should be taken to protect themselves and citizens.

The following steps should be considered at any scene involving suspected hazardous materials:

(a) Attempt to identify the type of hazardous substance. (Identification can be determined by placard, driver's manifest or statements from the person transporting).

(b) Notify the Fire Department.

(c) Provide first-aid for injured parties if it can be done safely and without contamination.

(d) Begin evacuation of the immediate area and surrounding areas, depending on the substance. Voluntary evacuation should be considered; however, depending on the substance, mandatory evacuation may be necessary.

(e) Notify the local health authority. Such notification is mandatory when a spilled or released item is a pesticide (Health and Safety Code § 105215).

(f) Notify the Department of Toxic Substances Control. This is mandatory when an officer comes in contact with, or is aware of, the presence of a suspected hazardous substance at a site where an illegal controlled substance is or was manufactured (Health and Safety § 25354.5).

412.3 REPORTING EXPOSURE(S)

Department personnel who believe that they have been exposed to a hazardous material shall immediately report the exposure to a supervisor. Each exposure shall be documented by the employee in an employee memorandum that shall be forwarded via chain of command to the Commanding Officer. Should the affected employee be unable to document the exposure for any reason, it shall be the responsibility of the notified supervisor to complete the memorandum.

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Injury or illness caused or believed to be caused from exposure to hazardous materials shall be reported the same as any other on-duty injury or illness in addition to a crime report or incident report.

412.3.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITY

When a supervisor has been informed that an employee has been exposed to a hazardous material, he/she shall ensure that immediate medical treatment is obtained and appropriate action is taken to lessen the exposure.

To ensure the safety of employees, safety equipment is available through supervisory personnel. Safety items not maintained by the Department will be obtained through the Fire Department.

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Hostage and Barricade Incidents

414.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for situations where officers have legal cause to contact, detain or arrest a person, and the person refuses to submit to the lawful requests of the officers by remaining in a structure or vehicle and/or by taking a hostage.

The scope of this policy is not intended to address all variables that officers encounter during their initial response or when a hostage or barricade situation has developed. This policy does not require or purport to recommend specific strategies or tactics for resolution as each incident is a dynamic and rapidly evolving event.

414.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Barricade situation - An incident where a person maintains a position of cover or concealment and ignores or resists law enforcement personnel, and it is reasonable to believe the subject is armed with a dangerous or deadly weapon.

Hostage situation - An incident where it is reasonable to believe a person is:

(a) Unlawfully held by a hostage-taker as security so that specified terms or conditions will be met.

(b) Unlawfully held against his/her will under threat or actual use of force.

414.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department to address hostage and barricade situations with due regard for the preservation of life and balancing the risk of injury, while obtaining the safe release of hostages, apprehending offenders and securing available evidence.

The Ventura Police Department recognizes and understands not all suicidal subjects are considered barricaded or require a SWAT/CNT response or immediate police action. There is a distinction between an armed barricaded **suspect** wanted for a crime, and barricaded **subject** who has not committed a crime but only expressed the desire to commit suicide. It is not a criminal act to express the desire or even attempt to commit suicide, and suicidal or mentally ill persons are afforded the same level of legal protection as everyone else.

414.3 COMMUNICATION

When circumstances permit, initial responding officers should try to establish and maintain lines of communication with a barricaded person or hostage-taker. Officers should attempt to identify any additional subjects, inquire about victims and injuries, seek the release of hostages, gather intelligence information, identify time-sensitive demands or conditions and obtain the suspect's surrender.

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When dealing with involved family members, officers should avoid making any promises to family members or loved ones that would suggest a special relationship has been created. Officers should attempt to establish the concerned parties' expectations of on-scene law enforcement personnel.

When available, department-authorized negotiators should respond to the scene as soon as practicable and assume communication responsibilities. Negotiators are permitted to exercise flexibility in each situation based upon their training, the circumstances presented, suspect actions or demands and the available resources.

414.3.1 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Only an officer who has been designated by the District Attorney or Attorney General may use or authorize the use of an electronic amplifying or recording device to eavesdrop on or record, or both, oral communication in response to an emergency situation involving a hostage or the barricading of a location, and only when (Penal Code § 633.8(b)):

(a) The officer reasonably determines an emergency situation exists that involves the immediate danger of death or serious physical injury to any person within the meaning of 18 USC § 2518(7)(a)(i),

(b) The officer reasonably determines that the emergency situation requires that eavesdropping on oral communication occur immediately, and

(c) There are grounds upon which an order could be obtained pursuant to 18 USC § 2516(2).

(d) An application for an order approving the eavesdropping and complying with the requirements of Penal Code § 629.50 is made within 48 hours of the beginning of the eavesdropping.

(e) The contents of any oral communications overheard are recorded on tape or other comparable device.

414.4 FIRST RESPONDER CONSIDERATIONS

First responding officers should promptly and carefully evaluate all available information to determine whether an incident involves, or may later develop into, a hostage or barricade situation.

The first responding officer should immediately request a supervisor’s response as soon as it is determined that a hostage or barricade situation exists. The first responding officer shall assume the duties of the supervisor until relieved by a supervisor or a more qualified responder. The officer shall continually evaluate the situation, including the level of risk to officers, to the persons involved and to bystanders, and the resources currently available.

The handling officer should brief the arriving supervisor of the incident, including information about suspects and victims, the extent of any injuries, additional resources or equipment that may be needed, and current perimeters and evacuation areas.

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414.4.1 BARRICADE SITUATION

Unless circumstances require otherwise, officers handling a barricade situation should attempt to avoid a forceful confrontation in favor of stabilizing the incident by establishing and maintaining lines of communication while awaiting the arrival of specialized personnel and trained negotiators. During the interim the following options, while not all-inclusive or in any particular order, should be considered:

(a) Ensure injured persons are evacuated from the immediate threat area if it is reasonably safe to do so. Request medical assistance.

(b) Assign personnel to a contact team to control the subject should he/she attempt to exit the building, structure or vehicle, and attack, use deadly force, attempt to escape or surrender prior to additional resources arriving.

(c) Request additional personnel, resources and equipment as needed (e.g., canine team, air support).

(d) Provide responding emergency personnel with a safe arrival route to the location.

(e) Evacuate uninjured persons in the immediate threat area if it is reasonably safe to do so.

(f) Attempt or obtain a line of communication and gather as much information on the subject as possible, including weapons, other involved parties, additional hazards or injuries.

(g) Establish an inner and outer perimeter as circumstances require and resources permit to prevent unauthorized access.

(h) Evacuate bystanders, residents and businesses within the inner and then outer perimeter as appropriate. Check for injuries, the presence of other involved subjects, witnesses, evidence or additional information.

(i) Determine the need for and notify the appropriate persons within and outside the Department, such as command officers and the Public Information Officer (PIO).

(j) If necessary and available, establish a tactical or exclusive radio frequency for the incident.

(k) Establish a command post.

414.4.2 HOSTAGE SITUATION

Officers presented with a hostage situation should attempt to avoid a forceful confrontation in favor of controlling the incident in anticipation of the arrival of specialized personnel and trained hostage negotiators. However, it is understood that hostage situations are dynamic and can require that officers react quickly to developing or changing threats. The following options, while not all-inclusive or in any particular order, should be considered:

(a) Ensure injured persons are evacuated from the immediate threat area if it is reasonably safe to do so. Request medical assistance.

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(b) Assign personnel to a contact team to control the subject should he/she attempt to exit the building, structure or vehicle, and attack, use deadly force, attempt to escape or surrender prior to additional resources arriving.

(c) Establish a rapid response team in the event it becomes necessary to rapidly enter a building, structure or vehicle, such as when the suspect is using deadly force against any hostages (see the Rapid Response and Deployment Policy).

(d) Assist hostages or potential hostages to escape if it is reasonably safe to do so. Hostages should be kept separated if practicable pending further interview.

(e) Request additional personnel, resources and equipment as needed (e.g., canine team, air support).

(f) Provide responding emergency personnel with a safe arrival route to the location.

(g) Evacuate uninjured persons in the immediate threat area if it is reasonably safe to do so.

(h) Coordinate pursuit or surveillance vehicles and control of travel routes.

(i) Attempt to obtain a line of communication and gather as much information about the suspect as possible, including any weapons, victims and their injuries, additional hazards, other involved parties and any other relevant intelligence information.

(j) Establish an inner and outer perimeter as resources and circumstances permit to prevent unauthorized access.

(k) Evacuate bystanders, residents and businesses within the inner and then outer perimeter as appropriate. Check for injuries, the presence of other involved subjects, witnesses, evidence or additional information.

(l) Determine the need for and notify the appropriate persons within and outside the Department, such as command officers and the PIO.

(m) If necessary and available, establish a tactical or exclusive radio frequency for the incident.

414.5 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon being notified that a hostage or barricade situation exists, the supervisor should immediately respond to the scene, assess the risk level of the situation, establish a proper chain of command and assume the role of Incident Commander until properly relieved. This includes requesting a SWAT response if appropriate and apprising the SWAT Commander of the circumstances. In addition, the following options should be considered:

(a) Ensure injured persons are evacuated and treated by medical personnel.

(b) Ensure the completion of necessary first responder responsibilities or assignments.

(c) Request crisis negotiators, specialized units, additional personnel, resources or equipment as appropriate.

(d) Establish a command post location as resources and circumstances permit.

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(e) Designate assistants who can help with intelligence information and documentation of the incident.

(f) If it is practicable to do so, arrange for video documentation of the operation.

(g) Consider contacting utility and communication providers to restrict such services (e.g., restricting electric power, gas, telephone service).

1. When considering restricting communication services, a supervisor should make the determination that there is reason to believe an emergency situation exists involving immediate danger of death or great bodily harm and that an interruption to communication services is necessary to protect public safety (Penal Code § 11471). The supervisor must ensure the Department obtains a court order, in accordance with Penal Code § 11472, prior to requesting the interruption. In the case of an extreme emergency when there is insufficient time to obtain an order prior to the request, application for the order must be submitted within six hours after initiating the interruption. If six hours is not possible, then the application for the court order shall be made at the first reasonably available opportunity, but no later than 24 hours in accordance with Penal Code § 11475.

(h) Ensure adequate law enforcement coverage for the remainder of the City during the incident. The supervisor should direct non-essential personnel away from the scene unless they have been summoned by the supervisor or Communications Center.

(i) Identify a media staging area outside the outer perimeter and have the department Public Information Officer or a designated temporary media representative provide media access in accordance with the Media Relations Policy.

(j) Identify the need for mutual aid and the transition or relief of personnel for incidents of extended duration.

(k) Debrief personnel and review documentation as appropriate.

414.6 SWAT TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

The Incident Commander will decide, with input from the SWAT Commander, whether to deploy SWAT during a hostage or barricade situation. Once the Incident Commander authorizes deployment, the SWAT Commander or the authorized designee will be responsible for the tactical portion of the operation. The Incident Commander shall continue supervision of the command post operation, outer perimeter security and evacuation, media access and support for SWAT. The Incident Commander and the SWAT Commander or the authorized designee shall maintain communications at all times.

414.6.1 OPTIONS TO STRATEGICALLY DISENGAGE FROM BARRICADED SUBJECTS

The actions of first responders will be weighed against the information known, governmental interests, subject's actions, and efforts to deescalate the situation. First responders may choose to strategically disengage to avoid resorting to force when it is determined the primary concern is self-harm, and the subject has not committed a serious or violent crime. The decision to disengage should be in consideration of the totality of the circumstances, including supervisory approval. In instances where the decision is made to strategically disengage, Ventura County Behavioral

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Health Services shall be notified when time allows. This notification provides Ventura County Behavioral Health clinicians information for possible contact at a later date and time when the subject may be more receptive to intervention. Nothing in this policy prevents officers from re-engaging with the subject if the situation changes and/or new information is received.

414.7 REPORTING

Unless otherwise relieved by a supervisor or Incident Commander, the handling officer at the scene is responsible for completion and/or coordination of incident reports.

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Response to Bomb Calls

416.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines to assist members of the Ventura Police Department in their initial response to incidents involving explosives, explosive devices, explosion/bombing incidents or threats of such incidents. Under no circumstances should these guidelines be interpreted as compromising the safety of first responders or the public. When confronted with an incident involving explosives, safety shall always be the primary consideration.

416.2 FOUND EXPLOSIVES/SUSPECT DEVICES

When handling an incident involving a suspected explosive device, the following guidelines should be followed:

(a) No known or suspected explosive item should be considered safe regardless of its size or apparent packaging. The appropriate bomb squad or military explosive ordnance disposal team should be summoned for assistance.

(b) A minimum perimeter of 300 feet should be established around the device. An access point should be provided for support personnel.

(c) As much information as is available should be promptly relayed to the Watch Commander including:

1. The stated threat.
2. Exact comments.
3. Time of discovery.
4. Exact location of the device.
5. Full description (e.g., size, shape, markings, construction) of the device.

(d) The device should not be touched or moved except by qualified bomb squad personnel.

(e) All equipment within 300 feet of the suspected device capable of producing radio frequency energy should be turned off. This includes two-way radios, cell phones and other personal communication devices.

(f) Consideration should be given to evacuating any buildings near the device.

(g) A search of the area should be conducted for secondary devices or other objects that are either hazardous or foreign to the area and a perimeter should be established around any additional suspicious device found.

Explosive or military ordinance of any type should be handled only by the bomb squad or military ordnance disposal team.

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416.3 EXPLOSION/BOMBING INCIDENTS

When an explosion has occurred, there are multitudes of considerations which may confront the responding officers. As in other catastrophic incidents, a rapid response may help to minimize injury to victims, contamination of the scene by gathering crowds, or additional damage by resulting fires or unstable structures. Whether the explosion was the result of an accident or a criminal act, the responding officers should consider the following actions:

- Assess the scope of the incident, including the number of victims and extent of injuries.
- Assist with first aid (Fire Department has primary responsibility).
- Assist with evacuation of victims (Fire Department has primary responsibility).
- Identify and take appropriate precautions to mitigate scene hazards such as collapsed structures, bloodborne pathogens, hazardous materials and secondary explosive devices.
- Request additional resources as needed.
- Identify witnesses.
- Preserve evidence.

416.3.1 NOTIFICATIONS

When an explosion has occurred, the following people shall be notified as soon as practicable if their assistance is needed:

(a) Fire Department

(b) Bomb Squad

(c) Additional officers

(d) Field supervisor

(e) Watch Commander

(f) Detectives

(g) Forensic Science Services

416.3.2 CROWD CONTROL

Only authorized personnel with a legitimate need shall be permitted access to the scene. Spectators and other unauthorized individuals shall be excluded to a safe distance as is reasonably practicable given the available resources and personnel.

416.3.3 SCENE OF INCIDENT

As in any other crime scene, steps should immediately be taken to preserve the scene. The scene could be extended for several hundred feet. Evidence may be imbedded in nearby structures or hanging in trees and bushes, etc.

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A search of the area should be conducted for other objects foreign to the area such as a secondary device. If an item is found, it should not be touched. The item should be secured and the officer should wait for the arrival of the Sheriff's Department Bomb Squad.

416.4 BOMB THREATS RECEIVED AT POLICE FACILITY

This procedure shall be followed should a bomb threat call be received at the police facility.

416.4.1 BOMB THREATS RECEIVED BY TELEPHONE

The following questions should be asked if a call of a bomb threat is received at the Police Department:

- When is the bomb going to explode?
- Where is the bomb?
- What kind of bomb is it?
- What does it look like?
- Why did you place the bomb?
- Who are you? (to avoid possible termination of the call this should be the last question asked)

Attempt to keep the caller on the line as long as possible and obtain expanded answers to these five basic questions.

During this time, document the following:

- Time of the call.
- Exact words of the person as accurately as possible.
- Estimated age and gender of the caller.
- Speech patterns and/or accents.
- Background noises.

If the incoming call is received at the police facility on a recorded line, steps shall be taken to ensure that the recording is preserved in accordance with current department evidence procedures.

416.4.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

The employee handling the call shall ensure that the Watch Commander is immediately advised and fully informed of the details. The Watch Commander will then direct and assign officers as required for coordinating a general building search or evacuation as he/she deems appropriate.

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Mental Illness Commitments

418.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for when officers may take a person into custody for psychiatric evaluation and treatment (5150 commitment) (Welfare and Institutions Code § 5150).

418.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department to protect the public and individuals through legal and appropriate use of the 72-hour treatment and evaluation commitment (5150 commitment) process.

418.3 AUTHORITY

An officer having probable cause may take a person into custody and place the person in an approved mental health facility for 72-hour treatment and evaluation when the officer believes that, as a result of a mental disorder, the person is a danger to him/herself or others or the person is gravely disabled (Welfare and Institutions Code § 5150; Welfare and Institutions Code § 5585.50).

When determining whether to take a person into custody, officers are not limited to determining the person is an imminent danger and shall consider reasonably available information about the historical course of the person's mental disorder, which may include evidence presented from any of the following (Welfare and Institutions Code § 5150; Welfare and Institutions Code § 5150.05):

(a) An individual who is providing or has provided mental health treatment or related support services to the person

(b) A family member

(c) The person subject to the determination or anyone designated by the person

418.3.1 VOLUNTARY EVALUATION

If an officer encounters an individual who may qualify for a 5150 commitment, he/she may inquire as to whether the person desires to voluntarily be evaluated at an appropriate facility. If the person so desires, the officers should:

(a) Transport the person to an appropriate facility that is able to conduct the evaluation and admit the person pursuant to a 5150 commitment.

(b) If at any point the person changes his/her mind regarding voluntary evaluation, officers should proceed with the 5150 commitment, if appropriate.

(c) Document the circumstances surrounding the individual's desire to pursue voluntary evaluation and/or admission.

418.4 CONSIDERATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Any officer handling a call involving an individual who may qualify for a 5150 commitment should consider, as time and circumstances reasonably permit:

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(a) Available information that might assist in determining the cause and nature of the person's action or stated intentions.

(b) Community or neighborhood mediation services.

(c) Conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques.

(d) Community or other resources available to assist in dealing with mental health issues.

While these steps are encouraged, nothing in this section is intended to dissuade officers from taking reasonable action to ensure the safety of the officers and others.

Officers should consider a 5150 commitment over arrest when mental health issues appear to be a mitigating factor for people who are suspected of committing minor crimes or creating other public safety issues.

418.4.1 SECURING OF PROPERTY

When a person is taken into custody for evaluation, or within a reasonable time thereafter, and unless a responsible relative, guardian or conservator is in possession of the person's personal property, the officer shall take reasonable precautions to safeguard the individual's personal property in his/her possession or on the premises occupied by the person (Welfare and Institutions Code § 5150).

The officer taking the person into custody shall provide a report to the court that describes the person's property and its disposition in the format provided in Welfare and Institutions Code § 5211, unless a responsible person took possession of the property, in which case the officer shall only include the name of the responsible person and the location of the property (Welfare and Institutions Code § 5150).

418.5 TRANSPORTATION

When transporting any individual for a 5150 commitment, the transporting officer should have Communications Center notify the receiving facility of the estimated time of arrival, the level of cooperation of the individual and whether any special medical care is needed.

Officers may transport individuals in a patrol unit and shall secure them in accordance with the Handcuffing and Restraints Policy. Should the detainee require transport in a medical transport vehicle and the safety of any person, including the detainee, requires the presence of an officer during the transport, Watch Commander approval is required before transport commences.

418.6 TRANSFER TO APPROPRIATE FACILITY

Upon arrival at the facility, the officer will escort the individual into a treatment area designated by a facility staff member. If the individual is not seeking treatment voluntarily, the officer should provide the staff member with the written application for a 5150 commitment and remain present to provide clarification of the grounds for detention, upon request.

Absent exigent circumstances, the transporting officer should not assist facility staff with the admission process, including restraint of the individual. However, if the individual is transported

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and delivered while restrained, the officer may assist with transferring the individual to facility restraints and will be available to assist during the admission process, if requested. Under normal circumstances, officers will not apply facility-ordered restraints.

418.7 DOCUMENTATION

The officer shall complete an application for a 72-Hour detention for evaluation and treatment, provide it to the facility staff member assigned to that patient and retain a copy of the application for inclusion in the case report.

The application shall include the circumstances for officer involvement; the probable cause to believe the person is, as a result of a mental health disorder, a danger to others or him/herself or gravely disabled; and all information used for the determination of probable cause (Welfare and Institutions Code § 5150; Welfare and Institutions Code § 5150.05).

The officer should also provide a verbal summary to any evaluating staff member regarding the circumstances leading to the involuntary detention.

418.7.1 ADVISEMENT

The officer taking a person into custody for evaluation shall advise the person of:

(a) The officer's name and agency.

(b) The fact that the person is not under criminal arrest but is being taken for examination by mental health professionals and the mental health staff will advise him/her of their rights.

(c) The name of the facility to which the person is being taken.

(d) If the person is being taken into custody at his/her residence, he/she should also be advised that he/she may take a few personal items, which the officer must approve, and may make a telephone call or leave a note indicating where he/she is being taken. The officer should also ask if the person needs assistance turning off any appliance or water.

The advisement shall be given in a language the person understands. If the person cannot understand an oral advisement, the information shall be provided in writing (Welfare and Institutions Code § 5150).

418.8 CRIMINAL OFFENSES

Officers investigating an individual who is suspected of committing a minor criminal offense and who is being taken on a 5150 commitment should resolve the criminal matter by issuing a warning or a Notice to Appear as appropriate.

When an individual who may qualify for a 5150 commitment has committed a serious criminal offense that would normally result in an arrest and transfer to a jail facility, the officer should:

(a) Arrest the individual when there is probable cause to do so.

(b) Notify the appropriate supervisor of the facts supporting the arrest and the facts that would support the 5150 commitment.

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(c) Facilitate the individual's transfer to jail.

(d) Thoroughly document in the related reports the circumstances that indicate the individual may qualify for a 5150 commitment.

In the supervisor's judgment, the individual may instead be arrested or booked and transported to the appropriate mental health facility. The supervisor should consider the seriousness of the offense, the treatment options available, the ability of this department to regain custody of the individual, department resources (e.g., posting a guard) and other relevant factors in making this decision.

418.9 FIREARMS AND OTHER WEAPONS

Whenever a person is taken into custody for a 5150 commitment, the handling officers should seek to determine if the person owns or has access to any firearm or other deadly weapon defined in Welfare and Institutions Code § 8100. Officers should consider whether it is appropriate and consistent with current search and seizure law under the circumstances to seize any such firearms or other dangerous weapons (e.g., safekeeping, evidence, consent).

Officers are cautioned that a search warrant may be needed before entering a residence or other place to search, unless lawful, warrantless entry has already been made (e.g., exigent circumstances, consent). A search warrant may also be needed before searching for or seizing weapons.

The handling officers shall issue a receipt describing the deadly weapon or any firearm seized, and list any serial number or other identification that is on the firearm. Officers shall advise the person of the procedure for the return of any firearm or other weapon that has been taken into custody (Welfare and Institutions Code § 8102 (b)) (see Property and Evidence Policy).

418.9.1 PETITION FOR RETURN OF FIREARMS AND OTHER WEAPONS

Whenever the handling officer has cause to believe that the future return of any confiscated weapon might endanger the person or others, the officer shall detail those facts and circumstances in a report. The report shall be forwarded to the Detective Bureau, which shall be responsible for initiating a petition to the Superior Court for a hearing in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code § 8102(c), to determine whether the weapon will be returned.

The petition to the Superior Court shall be initiated within 30 days of the release of the individual from whom such weapon has been confiscated, unless the Department makes an ex parte application to the court to extend the time to file such a petition, up to a maximum of 60 days. At the time any such petition is initiated, the Department shall send written notice to the individual informing him/her of the right to a hearing on the issue, that he/she has 30 days to confirm with the court clerk any desire for a hearing and that the failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of any confiscated weapon.

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418.10 TRAINING

This Department will endeavor to provide Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)-approved advanced officer training on interaction with persons with mental disabilities, 5150 commitments and crisis intervention.

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Cite and Release Policy

420.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance on when to release adults who are arrested for a criminal misdemeanor offense on a written notice to appear (citation) and when to hold for court or bail.

420.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department to release all persons arrested on misdemeanor or other qualifying charges on a citation with certain exceptions (Penal Code § 853.6).

If there is a reason for non-release, the Department's mission to protect the community will be the primary consideration when determining whether to release any individual in lieu of holding for court or bail.

420.2.1 DISCRETION TO ARREST

While this department recognizes the statutory power of peace officers to make arrests throughout the state, officers are encouraged to use sound discretion in the enforcement of the law. On-duty arrests will not generally be made outside the jurisdiction of this department except in cases of hot and/or fresh pursuit, while following up on crimes committed within the City, or while assisting another agency. On-duty officers who discover criminal activity outside the jurisdiction of the City should, when circumstances permit, consider contacting the agency having primary jurisdiction before attempting an arrest.

Off-duty officers observing criminal activity should generally take enforcement action only when it reasonably appears that imminent risk to life or property exists and the reasonable opportunity does not exist to contact the law enforcement agency with primary jurisdiction. In such situations the involved officer shall clearly identify him/herself as a police officer.

Officers are authorized to use verbal or written warnings to resolve minor traffic and criminal violations when appropriate.

420.3 RELEASE BY CITATION

Except in cases where a reason for non-release as described below exists, adults arrested for a misdemeanor offense, including a private person's arrest, shall be released from custody on a citation (Penal Code § 853.6).

The citing officer shall, at the time the defendant signs the notice to appear, call attention to the time and place for appearance and take any other steps they deem necessary to ensure that the defendant understands their written promise to appear.

420.3.1 FIELD CITATIONS

In most cases an adult arrested for a misdemeanor offense may be released in the field on a citation in lieu of physical arrest when booking and fingerprinting is not practicable or immediately required provided the individual can be satisfactorily identified, there is no outstanding arrest warrant for the individual and none of the below described disqualifying circumstances are present

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(Penal Code § 853.6; Penal Code § 1270.1). In such cases the arresting officer should check the booking required box on the citation form to indicate that the person will be photographed and fingerprinted at a later time when ordered by the court.

When a booking photo or fingerprints are needed for the furtherance of any investigation, the person should be released on citation after booking instead of on a field citation.

420.3.2 RELEASE AFTER BOOKING

In some cases it may not be feasible or desirable to release a person in the field. The person should instead be released on citation after booking at the jail. All bookings shall be approved by the Watch Commander or the authorized designee.

420.3.3 DISQUALIFYING CIRCUMSTANCES

A person arrested for a misdemeanor shall be released on a notice to appear unless one of the following situations is present (Penal Code § 853.6(i)):

(a) The person arrested is so intoxicated that he/she could be a danger to him/herself or to others. Release may occur as soon as this condition no longer exists.

(b) The person arrested requires medical examination or medical care or is otherwise unable to care for his/her own safety

1. The Ventura Police Department shall not release an arrestee from custody for the purpose of allowing that person to seek medical care at a hospital, and then immediately re-arrest the same individual upon discharge from the hospital, unless the hospital determines this action will enable it to bill and collect from a third-party payment source (Penal Code § 4011.10).

(c) The person is arrested for one or more of the offenses listed in Vehicle Code §§ 40302, 40303 and 40305.

1. Any person arrested for any offense listed in Vehicle Code § 40303(b) shall, in the judgment of the arresting officer, either be given a 10 day notice to appear or be taken without delay before a magistrate in the county of arrest.

2. If a person under Vehicle Code §§ 40303 or 40305 does not have satisfactory identification, the officer may require the individual to provide a right thumbprint (or other finger). However such print may not be used for other than law enforcement purposes.

3. Should any person arrested on a notice to appear claim under penalty of perjury not to be the person listed in the notice, such person may request that his/her thumbprint be taken for comparison at a fee not to exceed the actual cost of such service.

(d) There are one or more outstanding arrest warrants for the person.

(e) The person could not provide satisfactory evidence of personal identification.

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(f) The prosecution of the offense or offenses for which the person was arrested or the prosecution of any other offense or offenses would be jeopardized by the immediate release of the person arrested.

(g) There is a reasonable likelihood that the offense or offenses would continue or resume, or that the safety of persons or property would be imminently endangered by the release of the person arrested.

(h) The person arrested demands to be taken before a magistrate or has refused to sign the notice to appear.

(i) There is reason to believe that the person would not appear at the time and place specified in the notice to appear. The basis for this determination shall be specifically documented.

(j) The charges fall under Penal Code § 1270.1 (serious or violent felonies, domestic violence, etc.)

When a person is arrested on a misdemeanor offense and is not released by criminal citation, the reason for non-release shall be noted on the booking form. This form shall be submitted to the Watch Commander for approval and included with the case file in the Records Unit.

420.3.4 OTHER REASONS FOR NON-RELEASE

If the person arrested is not released for one or more of the reasons specified in Policy Manual § 420.33, the Watch Commander shall state specifically on the booking form the reason for non-release. Such reasons for non-release may include:

(a) Previous failure to appear is on record

(b) The person lacks ties to the area, such as a residence, job, or family

(c) Unusual circumstances lead the officer responsible for the release of prisoners to conclude that the suspect should be held for further investigation

420.3.5 INSTRUCTIONS TO CITED PERSON

The citing officer shall, at the time he/she asks the defendant to sign the notice to appear, call attention to the time and place for appearance and take any other steps he/she deems necessary to ensure that the defendant understands his/her written promise to appear.

420.4 CITATION RELEASE ON MISDEMEANOR WARRANTS

Penal Code § 827.1 allows the release by citation of a person designated in a warrant of arrest unless one of the following conditions exist:

(a) The misdemeanor cited in the warrant involves violence

(b) The misdemeanor cited in the warrant involves a firearm

(c) The misdemeanor cited in the warrant involves resisting arrest

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(d) The misdemeanor cited in the warrant involves giving false information to a peace officer

(e) The person arrested is a danger to himself or herself or others due to intoxication or being under the influence of drugs or narcotics

(f) The person requires medical examination or medical care or was otherwise unable to care for his or her own safety

(g) The person has other ineligible charges pending against him/her

(h) There is reasonable likelihood that the offense or offenses would continue or resume, or that the safety of persons or property would be immediately endangered by the release of the person

(i) The person refuses to sign the notice to appear

(j) The person cannot provide satisfactory evidence of personal identification

(k) The warrant of arrest indicates that the person is not eligible to be released on a notice to appear

Release under this section shall be done in accordance with the provisions of this section.

420.5 MISDEMEANOR WARRANTS

An adult arrested on a misdemeanor warrant may be released, subject to Watch Commander approval, unless any of the following conditions exist:

(a) The misdemeanor cited in the warrant involves violence.

(b) The misdemeanor cited in the warrant involves a firearm.

(c) The misdemeanor cited in the warrant involves resisting arrest.

(d) The misdemeanor cited in the warrant involves giving false information to a peace officer.

(e) The person arrested is a danger to themselves or others due to intoxication or being under the influence of drugs or narcotics.

(f) The person requires medical examination or medical care or was otherwise unable to care for their own safety.

(g) The person has other ineligible charges pending against themselves.

(h) There is reasonable likelihood that the offense or offenses would continue or resume, or that the safety of persons or property would be immediately endangered by the release of the person.

(i) The person refuses to sign the notice to appear.

(j) The person cannot provide satisfactory evidence of personal identification.

(k) The warrant of arrest indicates that the person is not eligible to be released on a notice to appear.

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Release under this section shall be done in accordance with the provisions of this policy.

420.6 REQUESTING CASE NUMBERS

Many cases involving a criminal citation release can be handled without requesting a case number. Traffic situations and local code violations can be documented on the reverse side of the records copy of the citation. Most Penal Code sections will require a case number to document the incident properly in a report. This section does not preclude an officer from requesting a case number if he/she feels the situation should be documented more thoroughly in a case report.

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Arrest or Detention of Foreign Nationals

422.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, sets forth certain rights of foreign nationals from member countries when arrested, detained or imprisoned by law enforcement officials in this country. This section provides direction to officers when considering a physical arrest or detention of a foreign national. All foreign service personnel shall be treated with respect and courtesy, regardless of the level of established immunity. As noted herein, the United States is a party to several bilateral agreements that obligate authorities to notify the consulate upon the person's detention, regardless of whether the detained person requests that his/her consulate be notified. The list of specific countries that the United States is obligated to notify is listed on the U.S. Department of State website.

422.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Foreign National - Anyone who is not a citizen of the United States (U.S.). A person with dual-citizenship, U.S. and foreign, is not a foreign national.

Immunity - Refers to various protections and privileges extended to the employees of foreign governments who are present in the U.S. as official representatives of their home governments. These privileges are embodied in international law and are intended to ensure the efficient and effective performance of their official "missions" (i.e., embassies, consulates, etc.) in foreign countries. Proper respect for the immunity to which an individual is entitled is necessary to ensure that U.S. diplomatic relations are not jeopardized and to maintain reciprocal treatment of U.S. personnel abroad. Although immunity may preclude U.S. courts from exercising jurisdiction, it is not intended to excuse unlawful activity. It is the policy of the U.S. Department of State's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) that illegal acts by Foreign Service personnel should always be pursued through proper channels. Additionally, the host country's right to protect its citizens supersedes immunity privileges. Peace officers may intervene to the extent necessary to prevent the endangerment of public safety or the commission of a serious crime, regardless of immunity claims.

422.2 ARREST OR DETENTION OF FOREIGN NATIONALS

Officers should take appropriate enforcement action for all violations observed, regardless of claims of diplomatic or consular immunity received from violators. A person shall not, however, be subjected to in-custody arrest when diplomatic or consular immunity is claimed by the individual or suspected by the officer, and the officer has verified or reasonably suspects that the claim of immunity is valid.

422.3 LEVELS OF IMMUNITY

The specific degree of immunity afforded to foreign service personnel within the U.S. is directly related to their function and position in this country.

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422.3.1 DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY TABLE

Reference table on diplomatic immunity:

Category	Arrested or Detained	Enter Residence Subject to Ordinary Procedures	Issued Traffic Citation	Subpoenaed as Witness	Prosecuted	Recognized Family Members
Diplomatic Agent	No (note (b))	No	Yes	No	No	Same as sponsor (full immunity & inviolability)
Member of Admin and Tech Staff	No (note (b))	No	Yes	No	No	Same as sponsor (full immunity & inviolability)
Service Staff	Yes (note (a))	Yes	Yes	Yes	No for official acts. Yes otherwise (note (a))	No immunity or inviolability (note (a))
Career Consul Officer	Yes if for a felony and pursuant to a warrant (note (a))	Yes (note (d))	Yes	No for official acts Testimony may not be compelled in any case	No for official acts. Yes otherwise (note (a))	No immunity or inviolability
Honorable Consul Officer	Yes	Yes	Yes	No for official acts Yes otherwise.	No for official acts Yes otherwise	No immunity or inviolability
Consulate Employees	Yes (note (a))	Yes	Yes	No for official acts Yes otherwise.	No for official acts. Yes otherwise (note (a))	No immunity or inviolability (note (a))
Int'l Org Staff (note (b))	Yes (note (c))	Yes (note (c))	Yes	Yes (note (c))	No for official acts. Yes otherwise (note (c))	No immunity or inviolability
Diplomatic-Level Staff of Missions to Int'l Org	No (note (b))	No	Yes	No	No	Same as sponsor (full immunity & inviolability)

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Support Staff of Missions to Int'l Orgs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No for official acts Yes otherwise	No immunity or inviolability

Notes for diplomatic immunity table:

(a) This table presents general rules. The employees of certain foreign countries may enjoy higher levels of privileges and immunities on the basis of special bilateral agreements.

(b) Reasonable constraints, however, may be applied in emergency circumstances involving self-defense, public safety, or in the prevention of serious criminal acts.

(c) A small number of senior officers are entitled to be treated identically to diplomatic agents.

(d) Note that consul residences are sometimes located within the official consular premises. In such cases, only the official office space is protected from police entry.

422.3.2 VEHICLES

Vehicles, which are owned by subjects with full immunity, may not be searched, stored, or impounded without the owner's permission. (Such permission may be assumed if the vehicle has been stolen.) These vehicles may, however, be towed the necessary distance to remove them from obstructing traffic or creating any other hazard.

422.3.3 REPORTS

A photocopy of each traffic collision report involving an identified diplomat and/or immunity claimant shall be forwarded to the office of the Chief of Police within 48 hours whether or not the claim is verified. The words "Immunity Claim" shall be marked on the photocopy, together with a notation of the claimant's title, country, and type of identification presented (if applicable). In addition to the report, a follow-up cover memorandum should be submitted if the violation was flagrant, if the claimant was uncooperative, or if there were any other unusual aspects of the enforcement contact that should be reported to the Department of State for further action. The Watch Commander/Supervisor apprised of the incident/accident shall also send a copy of all documents and reports submitted by the investigating officer along with any supervisor's notes, materials and/or logs to the Chief of Police's office within 48 hours of the incident. The Chief of Police's office will check to ensure that notification of Department of State and all necessary follow-up occur.

422.3.4 DIPLOMATIC AGENTS

Diplomatic agents (e.g., ambassadors and United Nations representatives) are afforded the highest levels of immunity. They are exempt from arrest or detention and are immune from all criminal (and most civil) prosecution by the host state. The family members of diplomatic agents enjoy these same immunities. Currently there are no diplomatic agents permanently assigned to California; but they do occasionally visit the state.

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422.3.5 CONSULAR OFFICERS

Consular officers are the ranking members of consular posts who perform various formal functions on behalf of their own governments. Typical titles include consul general, consul, and vice consul. These officials are immune from arrest or detention, except pursuant to a felony warrant. They are only immune from criminal and civil prosecution arising from official acts. Official acts immunity must be raised as an affirmative defense in the court jurisdiction, and its validity is determined by the court. Under this defense, the prohibited act itself must have been performed as an official function. It is not sufficient that the consular agent was on-duty or in an official capacity at the time of the violation. The family members of consular officers generally enjoy no immunity, however, any family member who enjoys a higher level of immunity is issued an identification card by Department of State (DOS) enumerating any privileges or immunities on the back of the card. Examples are consular officers and family members from Russia or China.

There are approximately 600 consular officers in California, with most located in Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego.

422.3.6 HONORARY CONSULS

Honorary consuls are part-time employees of the country they represent and are either permanent residents of the U.S. or U.S. nationals (unlike career consular officers, who are foreign nationals on temporary assignment to the U.S.). Honorary consuls may be arrested and detained; limited immunity for official acts may be available as a subsequent defense. Family members have no immunity. There are less than 100 honorary consuls in California.

422.4 IDENTIFICATION

All diplomatic and consular personnel who are entitled to immunity are registered with the Department of State and are issued distinctive identification cards by the Department of State Protocol Office. These cards are the best means of identifying Foreign Service personnel. They include a photograph, identifying information, and, on the reverse side, a brief description of the bearer's immunity status. Unfortunately, these identification cards are not always promptly issued by the Department of State. In addition to the Department of State identification card, Foreign Service personnel should also have a driver license issued by the Department of State Diplomatic Motor Vehicle Office (DMVO), which in most circumstances replaces the operator's license issued by the state. Additionally they may have California credentials issued by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES).

422.4.1 VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Vehicles that are owned by foreign missions or Foreign Service personnel and their dependents are registered with the Department of State OFM and display distinctive red, white, and blue license plates. Vehicles assigned to diplomatic or consular officers will generally have license plates labels with the words "diplomat" or "consul." Vehicles owned by honorary consuls are not issued OFM license plates; but may have California license plates with an "honorary consul" label. Driver's identity or immunity status should not be presumed from the type of license plates displayed on the vehicle. The status of an OFM license plate should be run via the National Law

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Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS), designating "US" as the state, if the officer has reason to question the legitimate possession of the license plate.

422.5 ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

The following procedures provide a guideline for handling enforcement of foreign nationals:

422.5.1 CITABLE OFFENSES

An enforcement document shall be issued at the scene for all violations warranting such action, regardless of the violator's immunity status. The issuance of a citation is not considered an arrest or detention under current Department of State guidelines. Whenever the equivalent of a notice to appear is issued to an immunity claimant, the following additional procedures shall be followed by the arresting officer:

(a) Identification documents are to be requested of the claimant

(b) The title and country represented by the claimant are to be recorded on the back of the officer's copy of the Notice to Appear for later reference. Do not include on the face of the notice to appear

(c) The claimant shall be requested to sign the notice to appear. If the claimant refuses, the identity and immunity status of the individual shall be conclusively established

(d) Verified diplomatic agents and consular officers, including staff and family members from countries with which the U.S. has special agreements, are not required to sign the Notice to Appear. The word "Refused" shall be entered in the signature box, and the violator shall be released

(e) Verified consular staff members, excluding those from countries with which the U.S. has special agreements, are generally obligated to sign the Notice to Appear, but a signature shall not be required if their immunity status is uncertain

(f) All other claimants are subject to the provisions of Vehicle Code § 40302(b) and policy and procedures outlined in this chapter

(g) The violator shall be provided with the appropriate copy of the notice to appear

422.5.2 TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

Persons involved in traffic collisions who possess a Department of State OFM Diplomatic Driver License, issued by the DMVO, shall have “D” coded in the license “class” box of the Traffic Collision Report. The actual driver license class (e.g., 1, 2, 3, or A, B, C, M) shall be entered in the miscellaneous box on page two of the traffic report. If subsequent prosecution of the claimant is anticipated, the claimant's title, country, and type of identification presented should be recorded for future reference. Issuance of a citation to, or arrest of, an immunity claimant at the accident scene should be handled in accordance with the procedures specified in Policy Manual § 422.5 of this chapter.

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422.5.3 IN-CUSTODY ARRESTS

Diplomatic agents and consular officers are immune from arrest or detention (unless they have no identification and the detention is to verify their diplomatic status). Proper identification of immunity claimants is imperative in potential in-custody situations. Claimants who are not entitled to immunity shall be placed in custody in accordance with the provisions outlined in Policy Manual § 422.6 of this policy.

A subject who is placed under arrest and claims diplomatic or consular immunity shall not be physically restrained before verification of the claim (unless restraint is necessary for the protection of the officer or others.)

A supervisor shall be promptly notified and should respond to the scene when possible.

Field verification of the claimant's identity is to be attempted as follows:

(a) Identification cards issued by the Department of State, Protocol Office, are the only valid evidence of diplomatic or consular immunity. The following types of identification cards are issued: Diplomatic (blue bordered), Consular (red bordered), and Official (green bordered), The Department of State identification cards are 3-3/4 inch by 1-1/2 inch and contain a photograph of the bearer.

(b) Initiate telephone verification with the Department of State. Newly arrived members of diplomatic or consular missions may not yet have official Department of State identity documents. Verify immunity by telephone with the Department of State any time an individual claims immunity and cannot present satisfactory identification, the officer has reason to doubt the claim of immunity, or there is a possibility of physical arrest. Law enforcement personnel should use the following numbers in order of preference:

Office of Foreign Missions

San Francisco, CA

(415) 744-2910, Ext. 22 or 23

(415) 744-2913 FAX

(0800-1700 PST)

Office of the Foreign Missions

Los Angeles, CA

(310) 235-6292, Ext. 121 or 122

(310) 235-6297 FAX

(0800-1700 PST)

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Office of Foreign Missions

Diplomatic Motor Vehicle Office

Washington D.C.

(202) 895-3521 (Driver License Verification) or

(202) 895-3532 (Registration Verification)

(202) 895-3533 FAX

(0815-1700 EST)

Department of State

Diplomatic Security Service

Command Center

Washington D.C.

(202) 647-7277

(202) 647-1512

(Available 24 hours)

(202) 647-0122 FAX

Members of diplomatic or consular missions also may have other forms of identification. These include identification cards issued by Cal OES, local law enforcement agencies, the foreign embassy, or consulate; driver licenses issued by Department of State; and, Department of State license indicia on the vehicle. All these items are only an indication that the bearer may have some form of immunity.

Subjects verified through the above procedures as being officials entitled to immunity (diplomatic agent, consular officers and consular staff and family members from countries with which the U.S. has special agreements) may not be arrested. The procedures below shall be followed. These procedures should also be used in the event immunity cannot be verified, but another form of identification indicates that immunity is probable.

If the release of the violator will not create an additional hazard, adequate information to properly identify the violator shall be obtained then the official shall be released. A supervisor's approval for the release shall be obtained whenever possible. The necessary release documents and/or a Certificate of Release form should only be issued under the proper conditions.

If the violator appears to have been driving while under the influence, field sobriety tests, including Preliminary Alcohol Screening (PAS) device tests and chemical tests should be offered and obtained whenever possible, however, these tests cannot be compelled. The subject shall not be permitted to drive. A supervisor's approval for release shall be obtained whenever possible and alternative transportation should be arranged.

All facts of the incident shall be documented in accordance with this policy in a Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Arrest-Investigation Report, Arrest-Investigation Report and/or any other relevant Report form. Notwithstanding the field release of the subject, prosecution is still appropriate and should be pursued by the command concerned. The Department of State will take appropriate sanctions against errant foreign service personnel, even where prosecution is not undertaken by the agency.

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422.6 FOREIGN NATIONALS WHO DO NOT CLAIM IMMUNITY

These policies and procedures apply to foreign nationals who do not claim diplomatic or consular immunity.

Officers shall arrest foreign nationals only under the following circumstances:

(a) There is a valid warrant issued for the person's arrest

(b) There is probable cause to believe that the foreign national has violated a federal criminal law, a state law, or a local ordinance

(c) Officers shall not arrest foreign nationals solely for alleged undocumented entry into the U.S. unless the undocumented entry is committed in the officer's presence

After a lawful detention or criminal arrest, officers may detain foreign nationals solely for alleged undocumented presence in the U.S. if the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is contacted and can respond to take custody within a reasonable time. Officers shall not arrest foreign nationals for undocumented presence. Federal courts have consistently held that undocumented presence is not a crime but a federal civil violation only enforceable by federal officers.

- Officers shall not stop or detain persons solely for determining immigration status.
- International treaty obligations provide for notification of foreign governments when foreign nationals are arrested or otherwise detained in the U.S.
- Whenever an officer arrests and incarcerates a foreign national or detains a foreign national for investigation for over two hours, the officer shall promptly advise the individual that he/she is entitled to have his/her government notified of the arrest or detention. (Penal Code § 834c). If the individual wants his/her government notified, the officer shall begin the notification process.

422.6.1 ARREST PROCEDURE

Whenever an officer physically arrests or detains an individual for criminal investigation and the officer reasonably believes the person to be a foreign national, the officer shall inquire to determine the person's citizenship.

This procedure applies to detentions of more than two hours. An inquiry is not required if the individual is detained less than two hours for criminal investigation.

If the individual indicates that he/she is other than a U.S. citizen, the officer shall advise the individual that he/she has a right to have the nearest appropriate embassy or consulate notified of the arrest/detention (Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, Art. 36, (1969)).

If the individual requests such notification, the officer shall contact Communications Center as soon as practical and request the appropriate embassy/consulate be notified. Officers shall provide Communications Center with the following information concerning the individual:

- Country of citizenship

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- Full name of individual, including paternal and maternal surname, if used
- Date of birth or age
- Current residence
- Time, date, place, location of incarceration/detention and the 24-hour telephone number of the place of detention if different from the Department itself

If the individual claims citizenship of one of the countries for which notification of the consulate/embassy is mandatory, officers shall provide Communications Center with the information above as soon as practicable, regardless of whether the individual desires that the embassy/consulate be notified. This procedure is critical because of treaty obligations with the particular countries. The list of countries and jurisdictions that require notification can be found on the U.S. Department of State website.

422.6.2 DOCUMENTATION

Officers shall document on the face page and in the narrative of the appropriate Arrest-Investigation Report the date and time Communications Center was notified of the foreign national's arrest/detention and his/her claimed nationality.

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Rapid Response and Deployment

424.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Violence that is committed in schools, workplaces and other locations by individuals or a group of individuals who are determined to target and kill persons and to create mass casualties presents a difficult situation for law enforcement. The purpose of this policy is to identify guidelines and factors that will assist responding officers in situations that call for rapid response and deployment.

424.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department will endeavor to plan for rapid response to crisis situations, and to coordinate response planning with other emergency services as well as with those that are responsible for operating sites that may be the target of a critical incident.

Nothing in this policy shall preclude the use of reasonable force, deadly or otherwise, by members of the Department in protecting themselves or others from death or serious injury.

424.3 FIRST RESPONSE

If there is a reasonable belief that acts or threats by a suspect are placing lives in imminent danger, first responding officers should consider reasonable options to reduce, prevent or eliminate the threat. Officers must decide, often under a multitude of difficult and rapidly evolving circumstances, whether to advance on the suspect, take other actions to deal with the threat or wait for additional resources.

If a suspect is actively engaged in the infliction of serious bodily harm or other life-threatening activity toward others, officers should take immediate action, if reasonably practicable, while requesting additional assistance.

Officers should remain aware of the possibility that an incident may be part of a coordinated multi-location attack that may require some capacity to respond to other incidents at other locations.

When deciding on a course of action officers should consider:

(a) Whether to advance on or engage a suspect who is still a possible or perceived threat to others. Any advance or engagement should be based on information known or received at the time.

(b) Whether to wait for additional resources or personnel. This does not preclude an individual officer from taking immediate action.

(c) Whether individuals who are under imminent threat can be moved or evacuated with reasonable safety.

(d) Whether the suspect can be contained or denied access to victims.

(e) Whether the officers have the ability to effectively communicate with other personnel or resources.

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(f) Whether planned tactics can be effectively deployed.

(g) The availability of rifles, shotguns, shields, breaching tools, control devices and any other appropriate tools, and whether the deployment of these tools will provide a tactical advantage.

In a case of a barricaded suspect with no hostages and no immediate threat to others, officers should consider summoning and waiting for additional assistance (special tactics and/or hostage negotiation team response).

424.4 CONSIDERATIONS

When dealing with a crisis situation members should:

(a) Assess the immediate situation and take reasonable steps to maintain operative control of the incident.

(b) Obtain, explore and analyze sources of intelligence and known information regarding the circumstances, location and suspect involved in the incident.

(c) Attempt to attain a tactical advantage over the suspect by reducing, preventing or eliminating any known or perceived threat.

(d) Attempt, if feasible and based upon the suspect's actions and danger to others, a negotiated surrender of the suspect and release of the hostages.

424.5 PLANNING

The Patrol Assistant Chief should coordinate critical incident planning. Planning efforts should consider:

(a) Identification of likely critical incident target sites, such as schools, shopping centers, entertainment and sporting event venues.

(b) Availability of building plans and venue schematics of likely critical incident target sites.

(c) Communications interoperability with other law enforcement and emergency service agencies.

(d) Training opportunities in critical incident target sites, including joint training with site occupants.

(e) Evacuation routes in critical incident target sites.

(f) Patrol first-response training.

(g) Response coordination and resources of emergency medical and fire services.

(h) Equipment needs.

(i) Mutual aid agreements with other agencies.

(j) Coordination with private security providers in critical incident target sites.

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424.6 TRAINING

The Professional Standards Sergeant should include rapid response to critical incidents in the training plan. This training should address:

(a) Orientation to likely critical incident target sites, such as schools, shopping centers, entertainment and sporting event venues.

(b) Communications interoperability with other law enforcement and emergency service agencies.

(c) Patrol first-response training, including patrol rifle, shotgun, breaching tool and control device training.

1. This should include the POST terrorism incident training required for officers assigned to field duties (Penal Code § 13519.12).

(d) First aid, including gunshot trauma.

(e) Reality-based scenario training (e.g., active shooter, disgruntled violent worker).

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Reporting Police Activity Outside of Jurisdiction

426.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides general guidelines for reporting police activity while on or off-duty and occurring outside the jurisdiction of the Ventura Police Department.

426.1.1 ASSISTANCE TO AGENCIES OUTSIDE THE CITY

When an officer is on-duty and is requested by an allied agency to participate in law enforcement activity in another jurisdiction, he/she shall obtain prior approval from the immediate supervisor or the Watch Commander. If the request is of an emergency nature, the officer shall notify Communications Center before responding and thereafter notify a supervisor as soon as practical.

426.1.2 LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY OUTSIDE THE CITY

Any on-duty officer, who engages in law enforcement activities of any type outside the immediate jurisdiction of the Ventura shall notify his or her supervisor or the Watch Commander at the earliest possible opportunity. Any off-duty officer who engages in any law enforcement activities, regardless of jurisdiction shall notify the Watch Commander as soon as practical.

The supervisor shall determine if a case report or other documentation of the officer's activity is required. The report or other documentation shall be forwarded to the officer's Assistant Chief.

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Immigration Violations

428.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines to members of the Ventura Police Department relating to immigration and interacting with federal immigration officials.

428.1.1 DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to this policy (Government Code § 7284.4):

Criminal immigration violation - Any federal criminal immigration violation that penalizes a person's presence in, entry, or reentry to, or employment in, the United States. This does not include any offense where a judicial warrant already has been issued.

Judicial warrant - An arrest warrant for a violation of federal criminal immigration law and issued by a federal judge or a federal magistrate judge.

428.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department that all members make personal and professional commitments to equal enforcement of the law and equal service to the public. Confidence in this commitment will increase the effectiveness of this department in protecting and serving the entire community and recognizing the dignity of all persons, regardless of their national origin or immigration status.

428.3 VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

To encourage crime reporting and cooperation in the investigation of criminal activity, all individuals, regardless of their immigration status, must feel secure that contacting or being addressed by members of law enforcement will not automatically lead to immigration inquiry and/or deportation. While it may be necessary to determine the identity of a victim or witness, members shall treat all individuals equally and not in any way that would violate the United States or California constitutions.

428.4 IMMIGRATION INQUIRIES PROHIBITED

Officers shall not inquire into an individual's immigration status for immigration enforcement purposes (Government Code § 7284.6).

428.4.1 CALIFORNIA LAW ENFORCEMENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (CLETS)

Members shall not use information transmitted through CLETS for immigration enforcement purposes except for criminal history information and only when consistent with the California Values Act (Government Code § 15160).

Members shall not use the system to investigate immigration violations of 8 USC § 1325 (improper entry) if that violation is the only criminal history in an individual's record (Government Code § 15160).

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428.5 U VISA AND T VISA NONIMMIGRANT STATUS

Under certain circumstances, federal law allows temporary immigration benefits, known as a U visa, to victims and witnesses of certain qualifying crimes (8 USC § 1101(a)(15)(U)).

Similar immigration protection, known as a T visa, is available for certain qualifying victims of human trafficking (8 USC § 1101(a)(15)(T)).

Any request for assistance in applying for U visa or T visa status should be forwarded in a timely manner to the Detective Bureau supervisor assigned to oversee the handling of any related case. The Detective Bureau supervisor should:

(a) Consult with the assigned investigator to determine the current status of any related case and whether further documentation is warranted.

(b) Contact the appropriate prosecutor assigned to the case, if applicable, to ensure the certification or declaration has not already been completed and whether a certification or declaration is warranted.

(c) Address the request and complete the certification or declaration, if appropriate, in a timely manner.

1. The instructions for completing certification and declaration forms can be found on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) website.

2. Form I-918 Supplement B certification shall be completed if the victim qualifies under Penal Code § 679.10 (multiple serious offenses). Form I-914 Supplement B certification shall be completed if the victim qualifies under Penal Code § 236.5 or Penal Code § 679.11 (human trafficking).

(d) Ensure that any decision to complete, or not complete, a certification or declaration form is documented in the case file and forwarded to the appropriate prosecutor. Include a copy of any completed form in the case file.

(e) Inform the victim liaison of any requests and their status.

428.5.1 TIME FRAMES FOR COMPLETION

Officers and their supervisors who are assigned to investigate a case of human trafficking as defined by Penal Code § 236.1 shall complete the above process and the documents needed for indicating the individual is a victim for the T visa application within 15 business days of the first encounter with the victim, regardless of whether it is requested by the victim (Penal Code § 236.5).

Officers and their supervisors shall complete the above process and the documents needed certifying victim cooperation for a U visa or T visa application pursuant to Penal Code § 679.10 and Penal Code § 679.11 within 30 days of a request from the victim, victim's family, or authorized representative (as defined in Penal Code § 679.10 and Penal Code § 679.11) related to one of their assigned cases. If the victim is in removal proceedings, the certification shall be processed within seven days of the first business day following the day the request was received.

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428.5.2 REPORTING TO LEGISLATURE

The Detective Bureau supervisor or the authorized designee should ensure that certification requests are reported to the Legislature in January of each year and include the number of certifications signed and the number denied. The report shall comply with Government Code § 9795 (Penal Code § 679.10; Penal Code § 679.11).

428.6 INFORMATION SHARING

No member of this department will prohibit, or in any way restrict, any other member from doing any of the following regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual (8 USC § 1373; Government Code § 7284.6):

(a) Sending information to, or requesting or receiving such information from federal immigration officials

(b) Maintaining such information in department records

(c) Exchanging such information with any other federal, state, or local government entity

Nothing in this policy restricts sharing information that is permissible under the California Values Act.

428.6.1 IMMIGRATION DETAINERS

No individual should be held based solely on a federal immigration detainer under 8 CFR 287.7 (Government Code § 7284.6).

Notification to a federal authority may be made prior to release of an individual who is the subject of a notification request only if the individual meets one of the following conditions (Government Code § 7282.5; Government Code § 7284.6):

(a) The individual has been arrested and had a judicial probable cause determination for a serious or violent felony identified in Penal Code § 667.5(c) or Penal Code § 1192.7(c).

(b) The individual has been arrested and had a judicial probable cause determination for a felony punishable by time in a state prison.

(c) The individual has been convicted of an offense as identified in Government Code § 7282.5(a).

(d) The individual is a current registrant on the California Sex and Arson Registry.

(e) The individual is identified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement as the subject of an outstanding federal felony arrest warrant.

428.6.2 TRANSFERS TO IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES

Members shall not transfer an individual to immigration authorities unless one of the following circumstances exist (Government Code § 7282.5; Government Code § 7284.6):

(a) Transfer is authorized by a judicial warrant or judicial probable cause determination.

(b) The individual has been convicted of an offense as identified in Government Code § 7282.5(a).

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(c) The individual is a current registrant on the California Sex and Arson Registry.

(d) The individual is identified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement as the subject of an outstanding federal felony arrest warrant.

428.6.3 REPORTING TO CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Detective Bureau supervisor shall ensure that data regarding the number of transfers of an individual to immigration authorities, as permitted by Government Code § 7284.6(a)(4), and the offense that allowed for the transfer is collected and provided to the Records Supervisor for required reporting to the DOJ (Government Code § 7284.6(c)(2)(see the Records Unit Policy).

428.7 DETENTIONS AND ARRESTS

An officer shall not detain any individual, for any length of time, for a civil violation of federal immigration laws or a related civil warrant (Government Code § 7284.6).

An officer who has a reasonable suspicion that an individual already lawfully contacted or detained has committed a criminal violation of 8 USC § 1326(a) (unlawful reentry) that may be subject to an enhancement due to a previous conviction of an aggravated felony under USC § 1326(b)(2), may detain the person for a reasonable period of time to contact federal immigration officials to verify whether the United States Attorney General has granted the individual permission for reentry and whether the violation is subject to enhancement (Government Code § 7284.6). No individual who is otherwise ready to be released should continue to be detained only because questions about the individual's status are unresolved.

If the officer has facts that establish probable cause to believe that a person already lawfully detained has violated 8 USC § 1326(a) and the penalty may be subject to enhancement due to prior conviction for specified aggravated felonies, he/she may arrest the individual for that offense (Government Code § 7284.6).

An officer shall not detain any individual, for any length of time, for any other criminal immigration violation of federal immigration laws (Government Code § 7284.6).

An officer should notify a supervisor as soon as practicable whenever an individual is arrested for violation of 8 USC § 1326(a).

428.7.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

When notified that an officer has arrested an individual for violation of 8 USC § 1326(a) or under the authority of a judicial warrant, the supervisor should determine whether it is appropriate to:

(a) Transfer the person to federal authorities.

(b) Transfer the person to jail.

428.8 FEDERAL REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Absent an urgent issue of officer safety or other emergency circumstances, requests by federal immigration officials for assistance from this department should be directed to a supervisor. The

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supervisor is responsible for determining whether the requested assistance would be permitted under the California Values Act (Government Code § 7284.2 et seq.).

428.9 TRAINING

The Professional Standards Sergeant should ensure that all appropriate members receive training on immigration issues.

Training should include:

(a) Identifying civil versus criminal immigration violations.

(b) Factors that may be considered in determining whether a criminal immigration violation has been committed.

(c) Prohibitions contained in the California Values Act (Government Code § 7284 et seq.).

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Loud Party Response

431.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The following procedure shall be followed when responding to parties on private property where there is the likelihood of subsequent responses to the same location.

(a) First And Subsequent Response: The officer shall complete a Notice of Disturbance form and have the host sign and receive a copy of the notice. Areport number will be obtained and written in the appropriate space. The officer shall advise the host that subsequent responses to the premises within the following twelve hours or upon three or more times within six months will result in a minimum fine of $187.00 for each response.

(b) In addition to a second citation, officers should consider appropriate action in closing down a loud party event upon the second response within the 12-hour time period.

(c) If no host is available on the premises, or the host refuses to sign the Notice of Disturbance form, the officer shall write host unavailable or refused to sign on the signature line. A copy of the Notice of Disturbance form shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the premises.

(d) The officer shall note the following information on the back of the officer's copy of the Notice of Disturbance:

1. Type of event - nature of disturbance.
2. Approximate number of people in attendance.
3. Reporting party information.
4. Number of units/officers and hours expended.
5. Any damage to equipment.
6. Any pertinent officer observations.

(e) All completed Notice of Disturbance forms will be turned in and processed by Records. Notices for second and subsequent responses (requiring fines) will be forwarded to the Patrol Operations Division, who will be responsible for coordination, billing, and accounting procedures with the City Revenue Manager in accordance with City ordinances and regulations.

(f) The ordinance would be used in conjunction with established procedures for handling parties/disturbances. This policy does not limit or prohibit an officer from making arrests for Penal Code §§ 415 and 594, ABC violations, etc., as appropriate.

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Patrol Rifles

433.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

In order to more effectively and accurately address the increasing level of fire power and body armor utilized by criminal suspects, the Ventura Police Department will make patrol rifles available to qualified patrol officers as an additional and more immediate tactical resource.

433.2 PATROL RIFLE

433.2.1 DEFINITION

A patrol rifle is an authorized weapon which is owned by the Department and which is made available to properly trained and qualified officers as a supplemental resource to their duty handgun or shotgun. No personally owned rifles may be carried for patrol duty unless pre-approved in writing by the Chief of Police and the department armorer.

433.3 SPECIFICATIONS

Only weapons and ammunition that meet agency authorized specifications, approved by the Chief of Police, and issued by the Department may be used by officers in their law enforcement responsibilities. The authorized patrol rifle issued by the Department is the Colt AR-15 or equivalent.

433.3.1 RIFLE AMMUNITION

The only ammunition authorized for the patrol rifle is that which has been issued by the Department. This will consist of a quality factory load in a .223 caliber.

433.4 RIFLE MAINTENANCE

(a) Primary responsibility for maintenance of patrol rifles shall fall on the Rangemaster, who shall inspect and service each patrol rifle on a monthly basis.

(b) Each patrol officer carrying a patrol rifle may be required to field strip and clean an assigned patrol rifle as needed.

(c) Each patrol officer shall be responsible for promptly reporting any damage or malfunction of an assigned patrol rifle.

(d) Any patrol rifle found to be unserviceable shall be removed from service. The rifle shall be clearly labeled as ?out of service? and details regarding the weapon's condition shall be included on the label.

(e) Each patrol rifle shall be subject to inspection by a supervisor or the Armorer at any time.

(f) No modification shall be made to any patrol rifle without prior written authorization from the Armorer.

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433.5 TRAINING

Officers shall not carry or utilize the patrol rifle unless they have successfully completed departmental training. This training shall consist of an initial 24-hour patrol rifle user's course and qualification score with a certified patrol rifle instructor. Officers shall thereafter be required to successfully complete quarterly training and qualification conducted by a certified patrol rifle instructor.

Any officer who fails to qualify or who fails to successfully complete two or more department sanctioned training/qualification sessions within a calendar year will no longer be authorized to carry the patrol rifle without successfully retaking the initial patrol officers user's course and qualification.

433.6 DEPLOYMENT OF THE PATROL RIFLE

Officers may deploy the patrol rifle in any circumstance where the officer can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be needed. Examples of some general guidelines for deploying the patrol rifle may include, but are not limited to:

(a) Situations where the officer reasonably anticipates an armed encounter.

(b) When an officer is faced with a situation that may require the delivery of accurate and effective fire at long range.

(c) Situations where an officer reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.

(d) When an officer reasonably believes that there may be a need to deliver fire on a barricaded suspect or a suspect with a hostage.

(e) When an officer reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor.

(f) When authorized or requested by a supervisor.

(g) When needed to euthanize an animal.

433.7 DISCHARGE OF THE PATROL RIFLE

The discharge of the patrol rifle shall be governed by the Department's Deadly Force Policy, Policy Manual § 300.

433.8 PATROL READY

Any qualified officer carrying a patrol rifle in the field shall maintain the weapon in a patrol ready condition until deployed. A rifle is considered in a patrol ready condition when it has been inspected by the assigned officer, the fire selector switch is in the safe position, the chamber is empty and a fully loaded magazine is inserted into the magazine well.

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433.9 RIFLE STORAGE

(a) When not in use, patrol rifles will be stored in the department armory in rifle racks. Personally owned rifles may be stored in assigned lockers.

b. When not deployed, in-service patrol rifles should be secured in the vehicle in a locked gun rack or locked in the trunk.

c. At the end of the assigned officer's shift, the patrol rifle should be returned and secured in the department armory.

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Field Training Officer Program

435.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Field Training Officer Program is intended to provide a standardized program to facilitate the officer's transition from the academic setting to the actual performance of general law enforcement duties of the Ventura Police Department.

It is the policy of this department to assign all new police officers to a structured Field Training Officer Program that is designed to prepare the new officer to perform in a patrol assignment, and possessing all skills needed to operate in a safe, productive, and professional manner.

435.2 FIELD TRAINING OFFICER - SELECTION AND TRAINING

The Field Training Officer (FTO) is an experienced officer trained in the art of supervising, training, and evaluating entry level and lateral police officers in the application of their previously acquired knowledge and skills.

435.2.1 SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process for new FTO's at VPD consists of the following elements:

(a) A memo of interest submitted to the FTO Commander.

(b) The officer must be off probationary status (at least one year of patrol/POST Basic Certificate) and have a minimum of 2 years patrol experience.

(c) Applicants who received a rating of unsatisfactory in any category of his/her most recent performance appraisal are ineligible..

(d) The officer's immediate supervisor(s) during the previous year must recommend the officer for the position of FTO.

(e) A 3-panel board consisting of a certified FTO(s), and the FTO Supervisor(s) conducts an oral interview.

(f) The selection of officers is based on the oral interview results, experience and the officer's ability to be a positive role model.

435.2.2 TRAINING

An officer selected as a Field Training Officer shall successfully complete a POST certified (40-hour) Field Training Officer's Course prior to being assigned as an FTO.

All FTOs must complete a 24-hour Field Training Officer update course every three years while assigned to the position of FTO (11 CCR 1004).

All FTOs must meet any training mandate regarding crisis intervention behavioral health training pursuant to Penal Code § 13515.28.

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435.3 FIELD TRAINING OFFICER PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

The FTO Program supervisor should be selected from the rank of sergeant or by the FTO Commander and should possess, or be eligible to receive, a POST Supervisory Certificate.

The responsibilities of the FTO Program supervisor include the following:

(a) Assignment of trainees to FTOs

(b) Conduct FTO meetings

(c) Maintain and ensure FTO/trainee performance evaluations are completed

(d) Maintain, update and issue the Field Training Manual to each trainee

(e) Monitor individual FTO performance

(f) Monitor overall FTO Program

(g) Maintain liaison with FTO coordinators of other agencies

(h) Maintain liaison with academy staff on recruit performance during the academy

(i) Develop ongoing training for FTOs

(j) Complete FTO schedules and incentive pay PAFs

The FTO Program supervisor will be required to successfully complete a POST approved Field Training Administrator's Course within one year of appointment to this position (11 CCR 1004(c)).

435.4 TRAINEE DEFINED

Any entry level or lateral police officer newly appointed to the Ventura Police Department who has successfully completed a POST approved Basic Academy.

435.5 REQUIRED TRAINING

Entry level officers shall be required to successfully complete the Field Training Program, consisting of a minimum of 10 weeks (11 CCR 1004; 11 CCR 1005).

The training period for a lateral officer may be modified depending on the trainee's demonstrated performance and level of experience, but shall consist of a minimum of eight weeks.

To the extent practicable, entry level and lateral officers should be assigned to a variety of Field Training Officers, shifts, and geographical areas during their Field Training Program.

435.5.1 FIELD TRAINING MANUAL

Each new officer will be issued a Field Training Manual at the beginning of his/her Primary Training Phase. This manual is an outline of the subject matter and/or skills necessary to properly function as an officer with the Ventura Police Department. The officer shall become knowledgeable of the subject matter as outlined. He/she shall also become proficient with those skills as set forth in the manual.

The Field Training Manual will specifically cover those policies, procedures, rules, and regulations adopted by the Ventura Police Department.

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435.6 EVALUATIONS

Evaluations are an important component of the training process and shall be completed as outlined below.

435.6.1 FIELD TRAINING OFFICER

The FTO will be responsible for the following:

(a) Complete and submit a written evaluation on the performance of his/her assigned trainee to the FTO Coordinator on a daily basis.

(b) Review the Daily Trainee Performance Evaluations with the trainee each day.

(c) Complete a detailed end-of-phase performance evaluation on his/her assigned trainee at the end of each phase of training.

(d) Sign off all completed topics contained in the Field Training Manual, noting the method(s) of learning and evaluating the performance of his/her assigned trainee.

(e) Complete a detailed final DOR justifying the trainee's release to solo officer status.

435.6.2 IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR

The immediate supervisor shall review and approve the Daily Trainee Performance Evaluations and forward them to the Field Training Commander.

435.6.3 FIELD TRAINING ADMINISTRATOR

The Field Training Sergeant will review and approve the Daily Trainee Performance Evaluations submitted by the FTO through his/her immediate supervisor.

435.6.4 TRAINEE

At the completion of the Field Training Program, the trainee shall be interviewed by the Field Training Sergeant and provide feedback on their FTO program experience.

435.7 DOCUMENTATION

All documentation of the Field Training Program will be retained in the officer’s training files and will consist of the following:

(a) Daily Trainee Performance Evaluations

(b) End-of-phase evaluations

(c) A Certificate of Completion certifying that the trainee has successfully completed the required number of hours of field training

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Obtaining Air Support

437.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The use of a police helicopter can be invaluable in certain situations. This policy specifies potential situations where the use of a helicopter may be requested and the responsibilities for making a request.

437.2 REQUEST FOR HELICOPTER ASSISTANCE

If a supervisor or officer in charge of an incident determines that the use of a helicopter would be beneficial, a request to obtain helicopter assistance may be made.

437.2.1 REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM ANOTHER AGENCY

After consideration and approval of the request for a helicopter, the Watch Commander, or his/her designee, will call the closest agency having helicopter support available. The Watch Commander on duty will apprise that agency of the specific details of the incident prompting the request.

437.2.2 CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH AID MAY BE REQUESTED

Police helicopters may be requested under any of the following conditions:

(a) When the helicopter is activated under existing mutual aid agreements

(b) Whenever the safety of law enforcement personnel is in jeopardy and the presence of the helicopters may reduce such hazard

(c) When the use of the helicopters will aid in the capture of a suspected fleeing felon whose continued freedom represents an ongoing threat to the community

(d) When a helicopter is needed to locate a person who has strayed or is lost and whose continued absence constitutes a serious health or safety hazard

(e) Vehicle pursuits

While it is recognized that the availability of helicopter support will generally provide valuable assistance to ground personnel, the presence of a helicopter will rarely replace the need for officers on the ground.

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Contacts and Temporary Detentions

439.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for temporarily detaining but not arresting persons in the field, conducting field interviews (FI) and pat-down searches, and the taking and disposition of photographs.

439.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Consensual encounter - When an officer contacts an individual but does not create a detention through words, actions, or other means. In other words, a reasonable individual would believe that his/her contact with the officer is voluntary.

Field interview - The brief detainment of an individual, whether on foot or in a vehicle, based on reasonable suspicion for the purpose of determining the individual's identity and resolving the officer's suspicions.

Field photographs - Posed photographs taken of a person during a contact, temporary detention, or arrest in the field. Undercover surveillance photographs of an individual and recordings captured by the normal operation of a Mobile Audio Video (MAV) system, body-worn camera, or public safety camera when persons are not posed for the purpose of photographing are not considered field photographs.

Pat-down search - A type of search used by officers in the field to check an individual for dangerous weapons. It involves a thorough patting-down of clothing to locate any weapons or dangerous items that could pose a danger to the officer, the detainee, or others.

Reasonable suspicion - When, under the totality of the circumstances, an officer has articulable facts that criminal activity may be afoot and a particular person is connected with that possible criminal activity.

Temporary detention - When an officer intentionally, through words, actions, or physical force, causes an individual to reasonably believe he/she is required to restrict his/her movement without an actual arrest. Temporary detentions also occur when an officer actually restrains a person’s freedom of movement.

439.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department respects the right of the public to be free from unreasonable searches or seizures. Due to an unlimited variety of situations confronting the officer, the decision to temporarily detain a person and complete a field interview (FI), pat-down search, or field photograph shall be left to the officer based on the totality of the circumstances, officer safety considerations, and constitutional safeguards.

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439.3 FIELD INTERVIEWS

Based on observance of suspicious circumstances or upon information from investigation, an officer may initiate the stop of a person, and conduct an FI, when there is articulable, reasonable suspicion to do so. A person, however, shall not be detained longer than is reasonably necessary to resolve the officer's suspicion.

Nothing in this policy is intended to discourage consensual contacts. Frequent casual contact with consenting individuals is encouraged by the Ventura Police Department to strengthen community involvement, community awareness, and problem identification.

439.3.1 INITIATING A FIELD INTERVIEW

When initiating the stop, the officer should be able to point to specific facts which, when considered with the totality of the circumstances, reasonably warrant the stop. Such facts include but are not limited to an individual's:

(a) Appearance or demeanor suggesting that he/she is part of a criminal enterprise or is engaged in a criminal act

(b) Actions suggesting that he/she is engaged in a criminal activity

(c) Presence in an area at an inappropriate hour of the day or night

(d) Presence in a particular area is suspicious

(e) Carrying of suspicious objects or items

(f) Excessive clothes for the climate or clothes bulging in a manner that suggest he/she is carrying a dangerous weapon

(g) Location in proximate time and place to an alleged crime

(h) Physical description or clothing worn that matches a suspect in a recent crime

(i) Prior criminal record or involvement in criminal activity as known by the officer

439.4 PAT-DOWN SEARCHES

Once a valid stop has been made, and consistent with the officer's training and experience, an officer may pat a suspect's outer clothing for weapons if the officer has a reasonable, articulable suspicion the suspect may pose a safety risk. The purpose of this limited search is not to discover evidence of a crime, but to allow the officer to pursue the investigation with less fear of violence. Circumstances that may establish justification for performing a pat-down search include but are not limited to:

(a) The type of crime suspected, particularly in crimes of violence where the use or threat of deadly weapons is involved.

(b) Where more than one suspect must be handled by a single officer.

(c) The hour of the day and the location or neighborhood where the stop takes place.

(d) Prior knowledge of the suspect's use of force and/or propensity to carry weapons.

(e) The actions and demeanor of the suspect.

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(f) Visual indications which suggest that the suspect is carrying a firearm or other weapon.

Whenever practicable, a pat-down search should not be conducted by a lone officer. A cover officer should be positioned to ensure safety and should not be involved in the search.

439.5 FIELD PHOTOGRAPHS

Before photographing any field detainee, the officer shall carefully consider, among other things, the factors listed below.

439.5.1 FIELD PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN WITH CONSENT

Field photographs may be taken when the subject being photographed knowingly and voluntarily gives consent. When taking a consensual photograph, the officer should have the individual read and sign the appropriate form accompanying the photograph.

439.5.2 FIELD PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN WITHOUT CONSENT

Field photographs may be taken without consent only if they are taken during a detention that is based upon reasonable suspicion of criminal activity, and the photograph serves a legitimate law enforcement purpose related to the detention. The officer must be able to articulate facts that reasonably indicate that the subject was involved in or was about to become involved in criminal conduct. The subject should not be ordered to remove or lift any clothing for the purpose of taking a photograph.

If, prior to taking a photograph, the officer’s reasonable suspicion of criminal activity has been dispelled, the detention must cease and the photograph should not be taken.

All field photographs and related reports shall be submitted to a supervisor and retained in compliance with this policy.

439.5.3 PERSONALLY OWNED CAMERAS

Members shall not use personally owned cameras or other photo devices in the field without first obtaining permission to do so from their supervisor or the watch commander.

Field photographs taken on personal photo devices shall be used for official law enforcement purposes only and shall be either turned in to the CSI unit for processing or shall be downloaded into the department's photo storage system for disposition.

Field photographs taken on personal photo devices shall not be saved by members for any personal use.

439.6 WITNESS IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVIEWS

Because potential witnesses to an incident may become unavailable or the integrity of their statements compromised with the passage of time, officers should, when warranted by the seriousness of the case, take reasonable steps to promptly coordinate with an on-scene supervisor and/or criminal investigator to utilize available members for the following:

(a) Identifying all persons present at the scene and in the immediate area.

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1. When feasible, a recorded statement should be obtained from those who claim not to have witnessed the incident but who were present at the time it occurred.
2. Any potential witness who is unwilling or unable to remain available for a formal interview should not be detained absent reasonable suspicion to detain or probable cause to arrest. Without detaining the individual for the sole purpose of identification, officers should attempt to identify the witness prior to his/her departure.

(b) Witnesses who are willing to provide a formal interview should be asked to meet at a suitable location where criminal investigators may obtain a recorded statement. Such witnesses, if willing, may be transported by Ventura Police Department members.

1. A written, verbal, or recorded statement of consent should be obtained prior to transporting a witness. When the witness is a minor, consent should be obtained from the parent or guardian, if available, prior to transport.

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Criminal Organizations

441.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Ventura Police Department appropriately utilizes criminal intelligence systems and temporary information files to support investigations of criminal organizations and enterprises.

441.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Criminal intelligence system - Any record system that receives, stores, exchanges or disseminates information that has been evaluated and determined to be relevant to the identification of a criminal organization or enterprise, its members or affiliates. This does not include temporary information files.

441.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department recognizes that certain criminal activities, including but not limited to gang crimes and drug trafficking, often involve some degree of regular coordination and may involve a large number of participants over a broad geographical area.

It is the policy of this department to collect and share relevant information while respecting the privacy and legal rights of the public.

441.3 CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS

No department member may create, submit to or obtain information from a criminal intelligence system unless the Chief of Police has approved the system for department use.

Any criminal intelligence system approved for department use should meet or exceed the standards of 28 CFR 23.20.

A designated supervisor will be responsible for maintaining each criminal intelligence system that has been approved for department use. The supervisor or the authorized designee should ensure the following:

(a) Members using any such system are appropriately selected and trained.

(b) Use of every criminal intelligence system is appropriately reviewed and audited.

(c) Any system security issues are reasonably addressed.

441.3.1 SYSTEM ENTRIES

It is the designated supervisor's responsibility to approve the entry of any information from a report, FI, photo or other relevant document into an authorized criminal intelligence system. If entries are made based upon information that is not on file with this department, such as open or public source documents or documents that are on file at another agency, the designated supervisor should ensure copies of those documents are retained by the Records Unit. Any

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supporting documentation for an entry shall be retained by the Records Unit in accordance with the established records retention schedule and for at least as long as the entry is maintained in the system.

The designated supervisor should ensure that any documents retained by the Records Unit are appropriately marked as intelligence information. The Records Supervisor may not purge such documents without the approval of the designated supervisor.

441.3.2 GANG DATABASES

The Chief of Police may approve participation by the gang unit in a shared criminal gang intelligence database, such as CALGANG®. Members must obtain the requisite training before accessing any such database (11 CCR 751.6).

It is the gang unit supervisor's responsibility to determine whether any report or FI contains information that would qualify for entry into the database. Prior to designating any person as a suspected gang member, associate, or affiliate in a shared gang database; or submitting a document to the Attorney General's office for the purpose of designating a person in a shared gang database; or otherwise identifying the person in a shared gang database, the gang unit supervisor shall provide written notice to the person and, if the person is under the age of 18, to his/her parent or guardian of the designation and the basis for the designation, unless providing that notification would compromise an active criminal investigation or compromise the health or safety of a minor. Notice shall also describe the process to contest the designation (Penal Code § 186.34).

The person, an attorney working on his/her behalf, or his/her parent or guardian (if the person is under 18 years of age) may request, in writing, information as to whether the person is designated as a suspected gang member, associate, or affiliate in a shared gang database accessible by the Department, the basis for that designation, and the name of the agency that made the designation. The Department shall respond to a valid request in writing within 30 days, and shall provide the information requested unless doing so would compromise an active investigation or compromise the health and safety of the person if he/she is under 18 years of age (Penal Code § 186.34).

The person, or his/her parent or guardian if the person is under 18 years of age, may contest the designation by submitting written documentation, which shall be reviewed by the gang unit supervisor. If it is determined that the person is not a suspected gang member, associate, or affiliate, the person shall be removed from the database. The person and the parent or guardian shall be provided written verification of the department's decision within 30 days of receipt of the written documentation contesting the designation and shall include the reason for a denial when applicable (Penal Code § 186.34).

The gang unit supervisor should forward reports or FIs to the Records Unit after appropriate database entries are made. The supervisor should clearly mark the report/FI as gang intelligence information.

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It is the responsibility of the Records Unit supervisor to retain reports and FIs in compliance with the database rules and any applicable end user agreement.

Records contained in a shared gang database shall not be disclosed for employment or military screening purposes, and shall not be disclosed for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law unless required by state or federal statute or regulation (Penal Code § 186.36).

441.4 TEMPORARY INFORMATION FILE

No member may create or keep files on individuals that are separate from the approved criminal intelligence system. However, members may maintain temporary information that is necessary to actively investigate whether a person or group qualifies for entry into the department-approved criminal intelligence system only as provided in this section. Once information qualifies for inclusion, it should be submitted to the supervisor responsible for consideration of criminal intelligence system entries.

441.4.1 FILE CONTENTS

A temporary information file may only contain information and documents that, within one year, will have a reasonable likelihood to meet the criteria for entry into an authorized criminal intelligence system.

Information and documents contained in a temporary information file:

(a) Must only be included upon documented authorization of the responsible department supervisor.

(b) Should not be originals that would ordinarily be retained by the Records Unit or Property Room, but should be copies of, or references to, retained documents such as copies of reports, field interview (FI) forms, Communications Center records or booking forms.

(c) Shall not include opinions. No person, organization or enterprise shall be labeled as being involved in crime beyond what is already in the document or information.

(d) May include information collected from publicly available sources or references to documents on file with another government agency. Attribution identifying the source should be retained with the information.

441.4.2 FILE REVIEW AND PURGING

The contents of a temporary information file shall not be retained longer than one year. At the end of one year, the contents must be purged or entered in an authorized criminal intelligence system, as applicable.

The designated supervisor shall periodically review the temporary information files to verify that the contents meet the criteria for retention. Validation and purging of files is the responsibility of the supervisor.

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441.5 INFORMATION RECOGNITION

Department members should document facts that suggest an individual, organization or enterprise is involved in criminal activity and should forward that information appropriately. Examples include, but are not limited to:

(a) Gang indicia associated with a person or residence.

(b) Information related to a drug-trafficking operation.

(c) Vandalism indicating an animus for a particular group.

(d) Information related to an illegal gambling operation.

Department supervisors who utilize an authorized criminal intelligence system should work with the Professional Standards Sergeant to train members to identify information that may be particularly relevant for inclusion.

441.6 RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Department members shall comply with the rules of an authorized criminal intelligence system regarding inquiries and release of information.

Information from a temporary information file may only be furnished to department members and other law enforcement agencies on a need-to-know basis and consistent with the Records Maintenance and Release Policy.

When an inquiry is made by the parent or guardian of a juvenile as to whether that juvenile's name is in a temporary information file, such information should be provided by the supervisor responsible for the temporary information file, unless there is good cause to believe that the release of such information might jeopardize an ongoing criminal investigation.

441.7 CRIMINAL STREET GANGS

The Detective Bureau supervisor should ensure that there are an appropriate number of department members who can:

(a) Testify as experts on matters related to criminal street gangs, and maintain an above average familiarity with:

1. Any organization, associate or group of three or more persons that meets the definition of a criminal street gang under Penal Code § 186.22(f).

2. Identification of a person as a criminal street gang member and criminal street gang-related crimes.

3. The California Street Terrorism Enforcement and Prevention Act (Penal Code § 186.21 et seq.), associated crimes and what defines a criminal street gang (Penal Code § 186.22).

(b) Coordinate with other agencies in the region regarding criminal street gang-related crimes and information.

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(c) Train other members to identify gang indicia and investigate criminal street gang-related crimes.

441.8 TRAINING

The Professional Standards Sergeant should provide training on best practices in the use of each authorized criminal intelligence system to those tasked with investigating criminal organizations and enterprises. Training should include:

(a) The protection of civil liberties.

(b) Participation in a multiagency criminal intelligence system.

(c) Submission of information into a multiagency criminal intelligence system or the receipt of information from such a system, including any governing federal and state rules and statutes.

(d) The type of information appropriate for entry into a criminal intelligence system or temporary information file.

(e) The review and purging of temporary information files.

441.8.1 SHARED GANG DATABASE TRAINING

The Professional Standards Sergeant should ensure that members who are authorized users of a shared gang database receive the required training from the California Department of Justice (DOJ) or an instructor certified by the DOJ that includes comprehensive and standardized training on the use of shared gang databases, and any other associated training required by the Department (Penal Code § 186.36; 11 CCR 751.6).

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Watch Commanders

443.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Each patrol shift must be directed by supervisors who are capable of making decisions and communicating in a manner consistent with departmental policies, procedures, practices, functions and objectives. To accomplish this goal, a Commander heads each watch.

443.2 DESIGNATION AS ACTING WATCH COMMANDER

When a Commander is unavailable for duty as Watch Commander, in most instances the senior qualified sergeant shall be designated as acting Watch Commander. This policy does not preclude designating a less senior sergeant as an acting Watch Commander when operational needs require or training permits.

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Mobil Data Computer Use

447.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Mobile Digital Computer (MDC) accesses confidential records from the State of California, Department of Justice and Department of Motor Vehicles databases. Employees using the MDC shall comply with all appropriate federal and state rules and regulations.

447.2 MDC USE

The MDC shall be used for official police communications only. Messages that are of a sexual, racist, or offensive nature, or otherwise critical of any member of the Department are strictly forbidden. MDC use is also subject to the Department Technology Use Policy.

Messages may be reviewed by supervisors at anytime without prior notification. Employees generating or transmitting messages not in compliance with this policy are subject to discipline.

All calls dispatched to patrol units should be communicated by voice and MDC unless otherwise authorized by the Watch Commander.

447.2.1 USE WHILE DRIVING

Use of the MDC by the vehicle operator should generally be limited to times when the vehicle is stopped. When the vehicle is in motion, the operator should only attempt to read messages that are likely to contain information that is required for immediate enforcement, investigative or safety needs.

Short transmissions, such as a license plate check, are permitted if it reasonably appears that it can be done safely. In no case shall an operator attempt to send or review lengthy messages while the vehicle is in motion.

447.2.2 DOCUMENTATION OF ACTIVITY

MDC's and voice transmissions are used to record the officer's daily activity. To ensure the most accurate recording of these activities, the following are required:

(a) All contacts or activity shall be documented at the time of the contact;

(b) Whenever the activity or contact is initiated by voice, it shall be entered into the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system by a dispatcher;

(c) Whenever the activity or contact is not initiated by voice, the officer shall record it on the MDC.

447.2.3 STATUS CHANGES

All changes in status (e.g., arrival at scene, meal periods, in service) will be transmitted either verbally over the police radio or through the MDC system.

Officers responding to in-progress Priority 1 and Priority 2 calls shall advise changes in status verbally over the radio to assist other officers responding to the same incident.

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Other changes in status may be entered by depressing the appropriate keys on the MDC's.

447.2.4 EMERGENCY ACTIVATION OF MDC

If the emergency button is depressed on the MDC, the dispatcher will call the unit and ask if Code-4. If there is no emergency, then he/she should answer "Code-4" and all units will resume their normal activity. If there is no response or the officer answers in some other way, the dispatcher shall proceed as follows:

(a) If the unit is not on a call, send available units to assist in locating the unit transmitting the emergency. Whenever a location is known, immediately dispatch the nearest available unit Code-3.

(b) Notify the field sergeant and Watch Commander of the incident without delay.

Units not responding to the emergency shall refrain from transmitting on the radio until there is a Code-4, unless they are themselves handling an emergency.

447.3 MDC CONSIDERATIONS

447.3.1 NON-FUNCTIONING MDC

Whenever possible, officers will not use units with malfunctioning MDC's. Whenever officers must drive a unit in which the MDC is not working, they shall notify Communications Center. It shall be the responsibility of Communications Center to record all information that will then be transmitted verbally over the police radio.

447.3.2 BOMB CALLS

When investigating reports of possible bombs, officers will turn off their MDC's. Operating the MDC may cause some devices to detonate.

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Facial Recognition

448.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for the acceptable use of the images, information, and tools within the face recognition system. This policy applies to all sworn and civilian law enforcement personnel who are granted direct access to the face recognition system as well as personnel who are permitted to request face recognition searches. Any outside agency or personnel from an outside agency, requesting face recognition assistance with an investigation, must adhere to this policy.

448.2 BACKGROUND

Facial recognition refers to an automated process of matching face images utilizing algorithms and biometric scanning technologies. The facial recognition system runs searches against a photo database of known individuals that is updated daily. The system is used to identify possible subjects who are part of a criminal investigation.

448.3 FACIAL RECOGNITION OPERATION

Use of the facial recognition system is restricted to the purposes outlined below. Department personnel shall not use, or allow others to use, the equipment or database records for any unauthorized purpose.

(a) Facial recognition shall only be used for official and legitimate law enforcement business.

(b) No employee shall verify a person's identity based solely on possible match results provided by the facial recognition systems.

(c) Investigative searches shall only be conducted by trained Face Examiners. Face Examiner refers to an individual who has received advanced training in the face recognition system and its features. Examiners have at least a working knowledge of the limitations of face recognition and the ability to use image editing software.

(d) No member of this department shall use the facial recognition system without first completing department-approved training.

(e) Field photographs taken for the purpose of facial recognition shall be booked into evidence or deleted in accordance with relevant department policies and procedures.

448.4 ACCEPTABLE USES OF FACIAL RECOGNITION

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Portable Audio/Video Recorders

449.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the use of portable audio recording devices by members of this department while in the performance of their duties.

This policy does not apply to surreptitious interception of electronic communications for lawful authorized investigative purposes.

449.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department may provide members with access to portable recorders, either audio or video or both, for use during the performance of their duties. The use of recorders is intended to enhance the mission of the Department by accurately capturing contacts between members of the Department and the public.

449.3 MEMBER PRIVACY EXPECTATION

All recordings made by members on any department-issued device at any time, and any recording made while acting in an official capacity for this department, regardless of ownership of the device it was made on, shall remain the property of the Department. Members shall have no expectation of privacy or ownership interest in the content of these recordings.

449.4 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Prior to going into service, each uniformed member will be responsible for making sure that he/she is equipped with a portable recorder issued by the Department, and that the recorder is in good working order. If the recorder is not in working order or the member becomes aware of a malfunction at any time, the member shall promptly report the failure to his/her supervisor and obtain a functioning device as soon as reasonably practicable. Uniformed members should wear the recorder in a conspicuous manner or otherwise notify persons that they are being recorded, whenever reasonably practicable.

Any member assigned to a non-uniformed position may carry an approved portable recorder at any time the member believes that such a device may be useful. Unless conducting a lawful recording in an authorized undercover capacity, non-uniformed members should wear the recorder in a conspicuous manner when in use or otherwise notify persons that they are being recorded, whenever reasonably practicable.

When using a portable recorder, the assigned member shall record his/her name, VPD identification number and the current date and time at the beginning and the end of the shift or other period of use, regardless of whether any activity was recorded. This procedure is not required when the recording device and related software captures the user's unique identification and the date and time of each recording.

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Members should document the existence of a recording in any report or other official record of the contact, including any instance where the recorder malfunctioned or the member deactivated the recording. Members should include the reason for deactivation.

449.5 ACTIVATION OF THE AUDIO RECORDER

Members may activate the recorder during all enforcement stops and field interrogation situations and any other time the member reasonably believes that a recording of an on-duty contact may be useful. Once started, recordings should continue without interruption until the contact ends, if feasible.

At no time is a member expected to jeopardize his/her safety in order to activate a recorder or change the recording media. However, the recorder should be activated in required situations as soon as practicable.

449.5.1 SURREPTITIOUS USE OF THE PORTABLE RECORDER

Members of the Department may surreptitiously record any conversation during the course of a criminal investigation in which the member reasonably believes that such a recording will be lawful and beneficial to the investigation (Penal Code § 633).

Members shall not surreptitiously record another department member without a court order unless lawfully authorized by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

449.5.2 EXPLOSIVE DEVICE

Many portable recorders, including body-worn cameras and audio/video transmitters, emit radio waves that could trigger an explosive device. Therefore, these devices should not be used where an explosive device may be present.

449.6 PROHIBITED USE OF PORTABLE RECORDERS

Members are prohibited from using department-issued portable recorders and recording media for personal use and are prohibited from making personal copies of recordings created while on-duty or while acting in their official capacity.

Members are also prohibited from retaining recordings of activities or information obtained while on-duty, whether the recording was created with department-issued or personally owned recorders. Members shall not duplicate or distribute such recordings, except for authorized legitimate department business purposes. All such recordings shall be retained at the Department.

Members are prohibited from using personally owned recording devices while on-duty without the express consent of the Watch Commander. Any member who uses a personally owned recorder for department-related activities shall comply with the provisions of this policy, including retention and release requirements, and should notify the on-duty supervisor of such use as soon as reasonably practicable.

Recordings shall not be used by any member for the purpose of embarrassment, harassment or ridicule.

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449.7 RETENTION OF RECORDINGS

Any time a member records any portion of a contact that the member reasonably believes constitutes evidence in a criminal case, the member shall record the related case number and transfer the file in accordance with current procedure for storing digital files and document the existence of the recording in the related case report. Transfers should occur at the end of the member's shift, or any time the storage capacity is nearing its limit.

Any time a member reasonably believes a recorded contact may be beneficial in a non-criminal matter (e.g., a hostile contact), the member should promptly notify a supervisor of the existence of the recording.

449.7.1 RETENTION REQUIREMENTS

All recordings shall be retained for a period consistent with the requirements of the organization's records retention schedule but in no event for a period less than 180 days.

449.8 REVIEW OF RECORDED MEDIA FILES

When preparing written reports, members should review their recordings as a resource (see the Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths Policy for guidance in those cases). However, members shall not retain personal copies of recordings. Members should not use the fact that a recording was made as a reason to write a less detailed report.

Supervisors are authorized to review relevant recordings any time they are investigating alleged misconduct or reports of meritorious conduct or whenever such recordings would be beneficial in reviewing the member's performance.

Recorded files may also be reviewed:

(a) Upon approval by a supervisor, by any member of the Department who is participating in an official investigation, such as a personnel complaint, administrative investigation or criminal investigation.

(b) Pursuant to lawful process or by court personnel who are otherwise authorized to review evidence in a related case.

(c) By media personnel with permission of the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

(d) In compliance with a public records request, if permitted, and in accordance with the Records Maintenance and Release Policy.

All recordings should be reviewed by the Custodian of Records prior to public release (see the Records Maintenance and Release Policy). Recordings that unreasonably violate a person's privacy or sense of dignity should not be publicly released unless disclosure is required by law or order of the court.

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Body Worn Video Systems

450.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

(a) To provide policy and procedures for use of the portable video recording system (BWV) including both audio and video recording of field activity in the course of official police duties.

(b) The use of the portable video recording system provides documentary evidence for criminal investigations and prosecutions, internal or administrative investigations, and civil claims/litigation. Officers shall utilize this device in accordance with the provisions in this general order to maximize the effectiveness of the audio/video documentation to achieve operational objectives and to ensure evidence integrity.

450.2 PROCEDURE

(a) Unauthorized use, duplication, and/or distribution of BWV files is prohibited. Personnel shall not make copies or duplicate any BWV file in any manner for non-official police use.

(b) All recorded media, images and audio from the BWV are property of the City of San Buenaventura and shall not be copied, released, or disseminated in any form or manner outside the parameters of this policy without the express written consent of the Chief of Police.

(c) The BWV shall not be used to record non-work related activity and shall not be activated in places where a reasonable expectation of privacy exists, such as locker rooms, dressing rooms or restrooms.

450.3 ACTIVATION OF THE BODY WORN VIDEO RECORDER

There are many situations where the use of the BWV is appropriate. This policy is not intended to describe every possible circumstance. In addition to the required conditions, officers should activate the system any time they feel its use would be appropriate and/or valuable to document an incident.

(a) Unless it is unsafe or impractical to do so, or mechanical issues that impede the use of the device are present, officers shall activate their BWV cameras prior to making contact in any of the following incidents:

1. In anticipation of investigative and/or enforcement encounters where there is a reasonable suspicion that the person is involved in criminal activity or a violation of law. This includes, but is not limited to, dispatched calls, self-initiated activities, traffic stops, pedestrian checks and any other investigative or enforcement encounters.

2. Any other contact that becomes adversarial after the initial contact in a situation that would not otherwise require recording.

3. While maintaining the peace at a protest or rally.

4. Before responding with lights and sirens (Code 3).

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5. While investigating an officer-involved collision. The device shall remain on while obtaining statements from all involved parties.
6. Upon being involved in a traffic collision, when reasonably able to do so.

(b) It shall be deemed a violation of this policy for an officer to intentionally fail to activate the device or intentionally terminate a recording in order to commit a violation of law or department policy.

(c) Officers are not required to obtain consent from a private person when:

1. In a public place.
2. In a location where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g., inside a building or dwelling where the officer is lawfully present and engaged in the performance of official duties).
   - Officers may elect to advise private persons they are recording if the advisement may gain compliance, assist in the investigation, and does not interfere with the investigation or officer safety.

(d) Officers should be aware of certain circumstances when operating the BWV may not be appropriate (none of these circumstances preclude the use of the BWV during enforcement encounters when reasonable suspicion exists that a crime is being committed, or there is a likelihood of force being used):

1. In a hospital emergency room where privacy of patients, including patients not part of the officer's call, should be considered.
2. Anytime a person's private health information is being discussed.
3. Ambulance responses to accidents and illnesses when victims are not involved in any criminal activity.
4. When the use of the BWV causes emotional distress to a victim of a crime, such as a rape victim (audio recording of victim’s statements is encouraged).
5. While on school grounds (K-12), during school hours.
6. Other examples as covered in training.

(e) Officers shall have Body Worn Cameras shut completely off while in VPD headquarters or the courthouse for any reason other than responding to an emergency, taking enforcement action, or while conducting an investigation.

(f) Officers should be aware of other privacy issues relating to a person's place of residence and/or other areas where there could be an expectation of privacy (Examples are to be covered in training).

1. Upon initial contact with private persons at a private residence, officers shall make a reasonable attempt to notify them that the BWV is present before entering the residence unless the officer enters the residence because of a warrant or exigent circumstances.
2. If a private person objects to the use of BWV inside a private residence, the officer may turn off the device in accordance with this policy. (Officers are not

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required to turn off the device when responding to a potential crime in progress or when there is a likelihood of enforcement activity within a private residence.)

3. In those situations where the officer feels it is necessary to turn off the device in order to gain compliance from a victim or witness but VPD policy recommends a recorded statement, (i.e., domestic violence victim), the officer may use discretion and utilize other means of capturing the audio.

(g) Personnel will use only the BWV system issued and approved by the Department for official police duties. The wearing of any other personal video recorder for the same purpose is not authorized without the permission of the Chief of Police.

(h) Personnel shall not remove, dismantle or tamper with any hardware and/or software component or part of the BWV.

450.4 NON-PATROL PERSONNEL

Any member assigned to a non-patrol position may carry an approved Body Worn Video Recorder at any time the member believes that such a device may be useful.

Non-patrol personnel shall use BWV during pre-planned enforcement encounters such as search warrants (using care to avoid unnecessary public disclosure of current law enforcement tactics), probation searches, gang enforcement, etc., unless a supervisor approves otherwise for tactical or other specifiable reasons.

450.5 RESPONSIBLITIES

(a) System Administrator

- The System Administrator(s) is designated by the Chief of Police and has oversight responsibilities to include, but not limited to, the following:

1. Operation and user administration of the system.
2. System evaluation
3. Training
4. Policy and procedure review and evaluation.
5. Coordination with IT regarding system related issues.
6. Ensure BWV files of evidentiary value are secure and retained per this policy.
7. Ensure BWV files are reviewed and released in accordance with federal, state, local statutes and City of Ventura/Ventura Police Department retention policy.

(b) Supervisory

1. Supervisors shall ensure officers utilize the BWV according to policy guidelines.
2. Supervisors shall ensure videos related to critical incidents are uploaded to Evidence.com.
3. In order to immediately resolve citizen complaints supervisors may review video captured by the BWV. In those circumstances where a complaint is resolved with

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no further action needed, supervisors shall add an additional category of citizen complaint to the video and make an appropriate notes section of Evidence.com. This will allow Professional Standards personnel to capture incidents that are resolved by BWV.

4. Supervisors shall not review recordings for the sole purpose and intent of searching for violations of department policy or law not related to a specific complaint, incident, or pattern of behavior.

(c) Personnel utilizing the BWV shall be responsible for the following:

1. Ensuring the battery is fully charged daily and operating properly before going into service.
2. Immediately reporting unresolved equipment malfunctions and/or problems to their supervisor before going into service.
3. Monitoring system effectiveness and making recommendations for operational improvement and policy revision.
4. Users shall document the existence or absence of a recording in all reports, or other official records of the contact, including an instance where the recorder malfunctioned or the member deactivated the recording prior to the conclusion of an incident. In such instances, members shall, when practical, verbally indicate the reason for the deactivation on the BWV prior to deactivation. In the event, the officer fails to verbalize the deactivation they shall indicate the reason upon reactivating the BWV.
   - Note: Officers should continue to prepare reports in the same manner as prior to the implementation of this camera system. Officers should not substitute "refer to video" for a detailed and thorough report. Officers should avoid using exact quotes, but should represent statements in their reports as a summary of what is contained in the statement/video, such as, "In summary the victim related."

(d) Once video of evidentiary value is captured, and absent CAD integration, officers shall identify BWV files by:

1. When assigned, noting the VPD case number in the Case ID Field.
2. Entering a title. The title should include sufficient information to identify the file, such as crime code, suspect name, location, event, etc.
3. Selecting the appropriate category(s).
4. The information may be entered via hand held device, MDC, or VPD computer workstation via the evidence.com website

450.6 OPERATION

(a) Officers shall test BWV equipment prior to going into service and ensure the unit is properly charged.

(b) Officers shall position the camera on the front of their outermost garment, above the belt line, to facilitate optimum recording field of view.

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(c) Officers shall dock their issued camera for automated upload of BWV data files daily at the end of their shift at the docking station to ensure storage capacity is not exceeded and/or to view uploaded audio/video.

(d) Officers operating Department Motorcycles shall dock their camera once during each shift. If docked at the end of the shift it will be the responsibility of the officer to pick up their camera as soon as practical at the beginning of their next shift. It is recocognized traffic officers may make enforcement stops to and from work, which may result in those stops not being recorded.

450.7 REVIEW OF BODY WORN VIDEO FILES

(a) Although the data captured by the BWV is not considered Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI), it shall be treated in the same manner as CORI data (General Order 812). All access to the system is logged and subject to audit at any time. Access to the data from the system is permitted on a right to know, need to know basis. Employees authorized under this policy may review video according to the provisions of this policy.

(b) Once uploaded to Evidence.com, personnel may view their own audio/video data. Evidence.com automatically time/date stamps and records each access by officer name.

(c) An employee may review BWV files as it relates to:

1. Their involvement in an incident for the purposes of completing a criminal investigation and preparing official reports.
2. Prior to courtroom testimony or for courtroom presentation.
3. Providing a statement pursuant to an administrative inquiry as set forth in Policy 302 Deadly Force Review Boards.
4. Personnel Complaints: Officers are encouraged to consult legal representation and may request to review their video prior to providing a statement pursuant to the administrative inquiry.

(d) For official use, Evidence.com shall only be accessed from Department authorized computers, Department workstations or MDC's.

1. Exception: Administrative users of Evidence.com may access Evidence.com from a computer or device outside of the Department for the purpose of completing administrative tasks, such as locking or unlocking users, etc

450.8 AUDITING

The Professional Standards Unit will be responsible for reviewing and updating applicable policies to meet state and federal law and industry best practices.

The BWV program, in its entirety, should be audited annually to ensure fulfillment of the purpose and objectives of the program, compliance with operational procedures, retention policy, storage, data security, access, use, and release of BWC recordings, data, and files specified in this policy

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and applicable laws and ordinances. (The purpose of this audit is not to randomly or selectively review individual BWV)

450.9 BMV FILES REQUEST

(a) Internal Departmental Requests:

1. Any request shall be completed by the system administrator with the approval of the Chief of Police or his designee.

(b) Non-Department Requests:

1. All other requests for a BWV file shall be accepted and processed in accordance with federal, state, and local statutes and Departmental policy (Public Records Act, etc.) as set forth in Policy 810 Public Information Release.

(c) Outside Law Enforcement agency BWV requests.

1. A request shall be completed by the system administrator with the approval of the Chief of Police or his designee for the following purposes only:

   (a) An administrative investigation into the on or off-duty conduct of one or more of its employees.

   (b) To assist with a criminal investigation which is conducted by the requesting agency.

(d) Media inquiries and/or requests shall be received and processed in accordance with Policy 346 Media Relations.

(e) Request for Deletion of Accidental Recording

1. In the event of an accidental activation of the BWV where the resulting recording is of no investigative or evidentiary value, the recording employee may request that the BWV file be deleted by submitting an email request with sufficient information to locate the PVRS file to the Assistant Chief overseeing the body worn video program or designee who shall review the file, approve or deny the request, and forward to the System Administrator for action.

(f) Copying Procedures

1. Other than as provided in this policy, members of this Department shall not download any video from Evidence.com onto any computer, device, drive, CD, DVD or any other format without the express consent of the Chief of Police or his designee.

(g) Investigators Conducting Criminal or Internal Investigations on VPD personnel Shall:

1. At the direction of an Assistant Chief, advise the System Administrator to restrict access/public disclosure of the BWV file in criminal or internal investigations, when necessary.

2. Document the reason for access by entering the related RN or IA Case number on the BWV "NOTES" field prior to viewing.

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3. Review the file to determine whether the BWV file is of evidentiary value and process in accordance with established procedures.
4. Investigators shall notify the System Administrator to remove the access restriction when the investigation is closed.

(h) A BWV file may be utilized as a training tool for individuals, specific units, and the Department as a whole. A recommendation to utilize a BWV file for such purpose may come from any source.

(a) A person recommending utilization of a BWV file for training purposes shall submit the recommendation through the chain of command to the Assistant Chief overseeing the body worn video program.

(b) If an involved officer or employee objects to the showing of a recording, his/her objection will be submitted to the Chief of Police or his designee to determine if the employee's objection outweighs the training value.

(c) After a meeting with the affected employee and his/her chosen VPOA representative, the Chief of Police or designee shall review the recommendation and determine how best to utilize the BWV file considering the identity of the person(s) involved, sensitivity of the incident, and the benefit of utilizing the file versus other means (e.g. General Order, Training Bulletin, Officer Safety Bulletin, briefing or other training).

450.10 CATEGORY AND RETENTION

(a) Categories: Absent automated CAD integration, employees utilizing the BWV shall identify each video by category. In the event a video is taken that does not fall into a listed category and has no apparent evidentiary or administrative value, the officer may leave the video as Uncategorized.

1. Uncategorized
2. Arrests
3. Assist
4. Cite
5. Evidence
6. Field Interview
7. Incident
8. Non-Event
9. Pending Review
10. RTF
11. Training Demo
12. Unmatched

(b) Retention

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1. The standard retention period for Body Worn Video evidence shall be 30 months.
2. In incidents involving the use of force upon minors, the evidence shall be copied onto electronic media (eg.: CD, DVD) and shall accompany the Use of Force Report. The report and evidence shall be labeled and preserved until the minor is 21 years of age.
3. At the request of the City Attorney's Office, BWV files related to potential liability shall be flagged and preserved until the City determines they are no longer needed.

450.11 REPAIR PROCEDURE

(a) Personnel shall immediately report any recognized problems with the BWV to their immediate supervisor.Personnel shall obtain and assign to themselves a replacement device as soon as practicable before going back into service.

(b) Upon notification, the supervisor shall contact the System Administrator or designee stating the problem or malfunction.

(c) The System Administrator or designee will report unresolved deficiencies to Axon via web based support at https://help.axon.com by completing the required information on-line and describing the issue or defect in detail in the "Message" window provided.

(d) Provide the serial number of the unit needing service or repair and identify the unit as a Axon Body or Flex camera or battery pack as appropriate. An Axon representative will contact the VPD BWV System Administrator for resolution.

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Medical Marijuana

451.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide members of this department with guidelines for investigating the acquisition, possession, transportation, delivery, production or use of marijuana under California's medical marijuana laws.

451.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Cardholder - A person issued a current identification card.

Compassionate Use Act (CUA) (Health and Safety Code § 11362.5) - California law intended to provide protection from prosecution to those who are seriously ill and whose health would benefit from the use of marijuana in the treatment of illness for which marijuana provides relief. The CUA does not grant immunity from arrest but rather provides an affirmative defense from prosecution for possession of medical marijuana.

Identification card - A valid document issued by the California Department of Public Health to both persons authorized to engage in the medical use of marijuana and also to designated primary caregivers.

Medical marijuana - Marijuana possessed by a patient or primary caregiver for legitimate medical purposes.

Medical Marijuana Program (MMP) (Health and Safety Code § 11362.7 et seq.) - California laws passed following the CUA to facilitate the prompt identification of patients and their designated primary caregivers in order to avoid unnecessary arrests and provide needed guidance to law enforcement officers. MMP prohibits arrest for possession of medical marijuana in certain circumstances and provides a defense in others.

Patient - A person who is entitled to the protections of the CUA because he/she has received a written or oral recommendation or approval from a physician to use marijuana for medical purposes or any person issued a valid identification card.

Primary caregiver - A person designated by the patient, who has consistently assumed responsibility for the patient's housing, health or safety, who may assist the patient with the medical use of marijuana under the CUA or the MMP (Health and Safety Code § 11362.5; Health and Safety Code § 11362.7).

Statutory amount - No more than 8 ounces of dried, mature, processed female marijuana flowers ("bud") or the plant conversion (e.g., kief, hash, hash oil), and no more than six mature or 12 immature marijuana plants (roots, stems and stem fibers should not be considered) (Health and Safety Code § 11362.77).

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451.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department to prioritize resources to forgo making arrests related to marijuana that the arresting officer reasonably believes would not be prosecuted by state or federal authorities.

California's medical marijuana laws are intended to provide protection to those who are seriously ill and whose health would benefit from the use of medical marijuana.

However, California medical marijuana laws do not affect federal laws and there is no medical exception under federal law for the possession or distribution of marijuana. The Ventura Police Department will exercise discretion to ensure laws are appropriately enforced without unreasonably burdening both those individuals protected under California law and public resources.

451.3 INVESTIGATION

Investigations involving the possession, delivery, production or use of marijuana generally fall into one of several categories:

(a) Investigations when no person makes a medicinal claim.

(b) Investigations when a medicinal claim is made by a cardholder.

(c) Investigations when a medicinal claim is made by a non-cardholder.

451.3.1 INVESTIGATIONS WITH NO MEDICINAL CLAIM

In any investigation involving the possession, delivery, production or use of marijuana or drug paraphernalia where no person claims that the marijuana is used for medicinal purposes, the officer should proceed with a criminal investigation if the amount is greater than permitted for personal use under the Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act (Health and Safety Code § 11362.1; Health and Safety Code § 11362.2). A medicinal defense may be raised at any time, so officers should document any statements and observations that may be relevant to whether the marijuana was possessed or produced for medicinal purposes.

451.3.2 INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING A MEDICINAL CLAIM MADE BY A CARDHOLDER

A cardholder or designated primary caregiver in possession of an identification card shall not be arrested for possession, transportation, delivery or cultivation of medical marijuana at or below the statutory amount unless there is probable cause to believe that (Health and Safety Code § 11362.71; Health and Safety Code § 11362.78):

(a) The information contained in the card is false or falsified.

(b) The card has been obtained or used by means of fraud.

(c) The person is otherwise in violation of the provisions of the MMP.

(d) The person possesses marijuana but not for personal medical purposes.

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Officers who reasonably believe that a person who does not have an identification card in his/her possession has been issued an identification card may treat the investigation as if the person had the card in his/her possession.

Cardholders may possess, transport, deliver or cultivate medical marijuana in amounts above the statutory amount if their doctor has concluded that the statutory amount does not meet the patient's medical needs (Health and Safety Code § 11362.71; Health and Safety Code § 11362.77). Investigations involving cardholders with more than the statutory amount of marijuana should be addressed as provided in this policy for a case involving a medicinal claim made by a non-cardholder.

451.3.3 INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING A MEDICINAL CLAIM MADE BY A NON-CARDHOLDER

No patient or primary caregiver should be arrested for possession or cultivation of an amount of medical marijuana if the officer reasonably believes that marijuana is in a form and amount reasonably related to the qualified patient's current medical needs (Health and Safety Code § 11362.5). This arrest guidance also applies to sales, transportation or delivery of medical marijuana, or maintaining/renting a drug house or building that may be a nuisance if otherwise in compliance with MMP (Health and Safety Code § 11362.765).

Officers are not obligated to accept a person's claim of having a physician's recommendation when the claim cannot be readily verified with the physician but are expected to use their judgment to assess the validity of the person's medical-use claim.

Officers should review any available written documentation for validity and whether it contains the recommending physician's name, telephone number, address and medical license number for verification.

Officers should generally accept verified recommendations by a physician that statutory amounts do not meet the patient's needs (Health and Safety Code § 11362.77).

451.3.4 ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Officers should consider the following when investigating an incident involving marijuana possession, delivery, production, or use:

(a) Because enforcement of medical marijuana laws can be complex, time consuming, and call for resources unavailable at the time of initial investigation, officers may consider submitting a report to the prosecutor for review, in lieu of making an arrest. This can be particularly appropriate when:

1. The suspect has been identified and can be easily located at a later time.
2. The case would benefit from review by a person with expertise in medical marijuana investigations.
3. Sufficient evidence, such as photographs or samples, has been lawfully obtained.

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4. Other relevant factors, such as available department resources and time constraints prohibit making an immediate arrest.

(b) Whenever the initial investigation reveals an amount of marijuana greater than the statutory amount, officers should consider the following when determining whether the form and amount is reasonably related to the patient's needs:

1. The amount of marijuana recommended by a medical professional to be ingested.
2. The quality of the marijuana.
3. The method of ingestion (e.g., smoking, eating, nebulizer).
4. The timing of the possession in relation to a harvest (patient may be storing marijuana).
5. Whether the marijuana is being cultivated indoors or outdoors.

(c) Before proceeding with enforcement related to collective gardens or dispensaries, officers should consider conferring with a supervisor, an applicable state regulatory agency or other member with special knowledge in this area, and/or appropriate legal counsel (Business and Professions Code § 26010; Business and Professions Code § 26060). Licensing, zoning, and other related issues can be complex. Patients, primary caregivers, and cardholders who collectively or cooperatively cultivate marijuana for medical purposes may be licensed or may have a defense in certain circumstances (Business and Professions Code § 26032; Business and Professions Code § 26033).

(d) Investigating members should not order a patient to destroy marijuana plants under threat of arrest.

451.3.5 EXCEPTIONS

This policy does not apply to, and officers should consider taking enforcement action for the following:

(a) Persons who engage in illegal conduct that endangers others, such as driving under the influence of marijuana in violation of the Vehicle Code (Health and Safety Code § 11362.5).

(b) Marijuana possession in jails or other correctional facilities that prohibit such possession (Health and Safety Code § 11362.785).

(c) Smoking marijuana (Health and Safety Code § 11362.79):

1. In any place where smoking is prohibited by law.
2. In or within 1,000 feet of the grounds of a school, recreation center or youth center, unless the medical use occurs within a residence.
3. On a school bus.
4. While in a motor vehicle that is being operated.
5. While operating a boat.

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(d) Use of marijuana by a person on probation or parole, or on bail and use is prohibited by the terms of release (Health and Safety Code § 11362.795).

451.3.6 INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING A STATE LICENSEE

No person issued a state license under the Business and Professions Code shall be arrested or cited for cultivation, possession, manufacture, processing, storing, laboratory testing, labeling, transporting, distribution or sale of medical cannabis or a medical cannabis product related to qualifying patients and primary caregivers when conducted lawfully. Whether conduct is lawful may involve questions of license classifications, local ordinances, specific requirements of the Business and Professions Code and adopted regulations. Officers should consider conferring with a supervisor, the applicable state agency or other member with special knowledge in this area and/or appropriate legal counsel before taking enforcement action against a licensee or an employee or agent (Business and Professions Code § 26032).

451.4 FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Officers should provide information regarding a marijuana investigation to federal law enforcement authorities when it is requested by federal law enforcement authorities or whenever the officer believes those authorities would have a particular interest in the information.

451.5 PROPERTY ROOM SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Property Room supervisor should ensure that marijuana, drug paraphernalia or other related property seized from a person engaged or assisting in the use of medical marijuana is not destroyed pending any charges and without a court order. The Property Room supervisor is not responsible for caring for live marijuana plants.

Upon the prosecutor's decision to forgo prosecution, or the dismissal of charges or an acquittal, the Property Room supervisor should, as soon as practicable, return to the person from whom it was seized any useable medical marijuana, plants, drug paraphernalia or other related property.

The Property Room supervisor may release marijuana to federal law enforcement authorities upon presentation of a valid court order or by a written order of the Detective Bureau supervisor.

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Bicycle Patrol

453.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Ventura Police Department has established the Bicycle Patrol Unit (BPU) for the purpose of enhancing patrol efforts in the community. Bicycle patrol has been shown to be an effective way to increase officer visibility in congested areas and their quiet operation can provide a tactical approach to crimes in progress. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the safe and effective operation of the patrol bicycle.

453.2 POLICY

At the Watch Commanders discretion patrol bicycles may be used for regular patrol duty, traffic enforcement, parking control, or special events. The use of the patrol bicycle will emphasize their mobility and visibility to the community.

Bicycles may be deployed to any area at all hours of the day or night, according to Department needs and as staffing levels allow.

Requests for specific deployment of bicycle patrol officers shall be coordinated through the Bicycle Patrol Unit supervisor or the Watch Commander.

453.3 SELECTION OF PERSONNEL

Interested personnel shall be evaluated by the following criteria:

(a) Recognized competence and ability as evidenced by performance.

(b) Special skills or training as it pertains to the assignment.

(c) Good physical condition.

(d) Willingness to perform duties using the bicycle as a mode of transportation.

453.3.1 BICYCLE PATROL SUPERVISOR

The Bicycle Patrol Coordinator will be selected from the rank of sergeant or corporal by the Patrol Operations Division Commander or his/her designee.

The Bicycle Patrol Unit Coordinator shall have responsibility for the following:

(a) Organizing bicycle patrol training.

(b) Inspecting and maintaining inventory of patrol bicycles and program equipment.

(c) Scheduling maintenance and repairs.

(d) Evaluating performance of bicycle officers.

(e) Coordinating activities with the Patrol Division.

(f) Other activities as required to maintain the efficient operation of the Bicycle Patrol Unit.

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453.4 TRAINING

Participants in the program must complete an initial Department approved bicycle-training course after acceptance into the program. The initial training shall minimally include the following:

- Bicycle patrol strategies.
- Bicycle safety and accident prevention.
- Operational tactics using bicycles.

453.5 UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Officers shall wear the department-approved uniform and safety equipment while operating the department bicycle. Safety equipment includes department-approved helmet, riding gloves, protective eyewear and approved footwear.

The bicycle patrol unit uniform consists of the standard short-sleeve uniform shirt or other department-approved shirt with department badge and patches, and department-approved bicycle patrol pants or shorts.

Optional equipment includes a radio head set and microphone, and jackets in colder weather. Turtleneck shirts or sweaters are permitted when worn under the uniform shirt.

Bicycle patrol officers shall carry the same equipment on the bicycle patrol duty belt as they would on a regular patrol assignment.

Officers will be responsible for obtaining the necessary forms, citation books and other department equipment needed while on bicycle patrol.

453.6 CARE AND USE OF PATROL BICYCLES

Officers will be assigned a specially marked and equipped patrol bicycle, attached gear bag, two batteries and a charger.

Bicycles utilized for uniformed bicycle patrol shall be primarily black or white in color with a “POLICE” decal affixed to each side of the crossbar or the bike's saddlebag. Every such bicycle shall be equipped with front and rear reflectors and front lights. A solid red light and a siren/horn satisfying the requirements of Vehicle Code §2800.1(b) are only needed for the bicycle to be involved in a pursuit.

Bicycles utilized for uniformed bicycle patrol shall be equipped with a rear rack and/or saddle bag(s) sufficient to carry all necessary equipment to handle routine patrol calls including report writing, vehicle storage and citations.

Each bicycle gear bag can include a first aid kit, tire pump, repair tool, tire tube, security lock, equipment information and use manuals. These items are to remain with/on the bicycle at all times.

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Bicycle officers shall conduct an inspection of the bicycle and equipment prior to use to insure proper working order of the equipment. Officers are responsible for the routine care and maintenance of their assigned equipment (e.g., tire pressure, chain lubrication, overall cleaning).

If a needed repair is beyond the ability of the bicycle officer, a repair work order will be completed and forwarded to the program supervisor for repair by an approved technician.

Officers should inspect their bicycle prior to use and shall schedule maintenance when needed to be performed by a department approved repair shop/technician.

At the end of a bicycle assignment, the bicycle shall be returned clean and ready for the next tour of duty.

Electric patrol bicycle batteries shall be rotated on the assigned charger at the end of each tour of duty. During prolonged periods of non-use, each officer assigned an electric bicycle shall periodically rotate the batteries on the respective charges to increase battery life.

Officers shall not modify the patrol bicycle, remove, modify or add components except with the expressed approval of the bicycle supervisor, or in the event of an emergency.

Vehicle bicycle racks are available should the officer need to transport the patrol bicycle. Due to possible component damage, transportation of the patrol bicycle in a trunk or on a patrol car push-bumper is discouraged.

Bicycles shall be properly secured when not in the officer's immediate presence.

453.7 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY

Officers must operate the bicycle in compliance with the vehicle code under normal operation. Officers may operate the bicycle without lighting equipment during hours of darkness when such operation reasonably appears necessary for officer safety and tactical considerations. Officers must use caution and care when operating the bicycle without lighting equipment.

Officers are exempt from the rules of the road under the following conditions (Vehicle Code § 21200(b)(1)):

(a) In response to an emergency call.

(b) While engaged in rescue operations.

(c) In the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law.

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T-3 (Electric Three Wheel Police Vehicle) Protocol

454.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Ventura Police Department has established the T-3 Electric Patrol Vehicle for the purpose of enhancing patrol efforts in our community. The T-3 patrol has been shown to be an effective way to increase officer visibility in congested areas and their quiet operation can provide a tactical approach to crimes in progress. This vehicle is like no other and fulfills patrol applications in many problem areas throughout the city. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the safe and effective operation of the T-3 Police Three Wheel Vehicle (Chariot.)

454.2 POLICY

T-3 vehicles may be used for regular patrol duty, downtown patrol, parking control, special events, and can be used by School Resource Officers. The use of the T-3 vehicle will emphasize their mobility and visibility to the community. T-3's may be deployed to any area at all hours of the day or night, dependent on our Department needs and as staffing levels allow.

Requests for specific deployment of T-3s vehicles shall be coordinated through a Field Supervisor or the Watch Commander.

454.3 T-3 PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The T-3 Program Coordinator will be selected from the rank of sergeant or corporal by the Patrol Operations Division Commander or his/her designee. The T-3 Program Coordinator shall have the following responsibilities:

(a) Organizing T-3 patrol training.

(b) Inspecting and maintaining the inventory of T-3's and program equipment.

(c) Scheduling maintenance and repairs.

(d) Evaluating the performance of T-3 officers.

(e) Coordinating activities with the Patrol Division.

(f) Other activities as required to maintain the efficient operation of the T-3 Program.

454.4 T-3 TRAINING PROGRAM

Participants in the T-3 program must complete an initial Department approved T-3 training course. Thereafter T-3 patrol officers should receive once yearly in-service training to maintain and improve skills and refresh safety, health and operational procedures. The initial training shall minimally include the following:

- T-3 patrol strategies, new developments in application.
- T-3 safety, accident prevention, T-3 battery care.

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- Operational tactics using T-3s.

Officers that regularly use the T-3 vehicles may be required to qualify with their duty firearm while wearing their safety helmet and other safety equipment.

454.5 UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

T-3 officers shall wear approved uniform and safety equipment while operating the T-3 vehicle. Safety equipment may include departmentally approved riding gloves, protective eyewear and approved footwear. A department approved helmet is required. Soft body armor/vest is strongly recommended.

Optional equipment includes jacket in colder weather¾ turtleneck shirts or sweaters are permitted when worn under the uniform shirt, radio head set and microphone. T-3 officers shall carry the same equipment on their duty belt as they carry while on regular patrol assignment.

The T-3 vehicle offers a glove box and attached duty bag in order to carry all necessary report forms, citation books and other equipment that may be needed on T-3 patrol.

454.6 CARE AND USE OF THE ELECTRIC T-3 PATROL VEHICLE

The T-3 patrol vehicles are shared by multiple officers and therefore each officer that uses them must be consistent in the T-3's care and use.

T-3's utilized for uniformed patrol shall be primarily black or white in color with a "POLICE" decal affixed to the front of the vehicle. Every T-3 shall be equipped with front and rear lighting including front lights, and with a siren/horn that satisfy the requirements of Vehicle Code §2800.1(b).

Each T-3 shall be equipped with a steady or flashing red warning light which is visible from the front, sides, or rear of the T-3. (Vehicle Code § 21201.3)

T-3 officers shall conduct an inspection of the T-3 and equipment prior to use to insure proper working order of the equipment. Officers are responsible for the routine care.

The T-3 is an electric vehicle equipped with five large lithium batteries that need to be properly cared for. When officers conduct their pre-patrol inspection they will check to make sure the batteries in the T-3 are properly charged prior to patrol use. Each T-3 vehicle comes with five additional batteries that must be in the charging mode while the T-3 itself is on patrol, this keeps the vehicle available twenty four hours a day. The T-3 batteries shall be rotated on the assigned charger at the end of each tour of duty. During prolonged periods of non-use, the T-3 Coordinator or his/her designee shall periodically rotate the batteries on the respective chargers to increase battery life.

If a needed repair is beyond the ability of the T-3 officer or coordinator, a repair work order will be completed and forwarded to the program supervisor for repair by an approved technician.

At the end of a T-3 assignment, the T-3 shall be returned clean and ready for the next tour of duty.

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Officers shall not modify the T-3 Vehicle; they shall not remove, modify or add components except with the expressed approval of the T-3 program coodinator, or in the event of an emergency.

The T-3 vehicle shall be securely restrained when being transported by truck or trailer.

454.7 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY

Officers must operate the T-3 in compliance with the vehicle code under normal operation. Officers may operate the T-3 without lighting equipment during hours of darkness when such operation reasonably appears necessary for officer safety and tactical considerations. Officers must use caution and care when operating the T-3 without lighting equipment. Officers are exempt from the rules of the road under the following conditions (Vehicle Code § 21200(b) (1) :

(a) In response to an emergency call.

(b) While engaged in rescue operations.

(c) In the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law.

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Foot Pursuit Policy

457.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Foot pursuits are inherently dangerous and require common sense, sound tactics and heightened officer safety awareness. This policy sets forth guidelines to assist officers in making the decision to initiate or continue the pursuit of suspects on foot by balancing the objective of apprehending the suspect with the risk of potential injury to the officer, the public or the suspect.

457.1.1 POLICY

It is the policy of this department when deciding to initiate or continue a foot pursuit that officers must continuously balance the objective of apprehending the suspect with the risk and potential for injury to department personnel, the public or the suspect.

Officers are expected to act reasonably, based on the totality of the circumstances. Absent exigent circumstances, the safety of department personnel and the public should be the primary consideration when determining whether a foot pursuit should be initiated or continued. Officers must be mindful that immediate apprehension of a suspect is rarely more important than the safety of the public and department personnel.

457.2 DECISION TO PURSUE

Officers may be justified in initiating a foot pursuit of any individual the officer reasonably believes is about to engage in, is engaging in or has engaged in criminal activity. The decision to initiate or continue such a foot pursuit, however, must be continuously re-evaluated in light of the circumstances presented at the time.

Mere flight by a person who is not suspected of criminal activity shall not serve as the sole justification for engaging in an extended foot pursuit without the development of reasonable suspicion regarding the individual's involvement in criminal activity.

Deciding to initiate or continue a foot pursuit is a decision that an officer must make quickly and under unpredictable and dynamic circumstances. It is recognized that foot pursuits potentially place department personnel and the public at significant risk. Therefore, no officer or supervisor shall be criticized or disciplined for deciding not to engage in a foot pursuit because of the perceived risk involved.

If circumstances permit, surveillance and containment are generally the safest tactics for apprehending fleeing persons. In deciding whether to initiate or continue a foot pursuit, an officer should continuously consider reasonable alternatives to pursuit based upon the circumstances and resources available, such as the following:

(a) Containment of the area.

(b) Canine search.

(c) Saturation of the area with patrol personnel.

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(d) Aerial support.

(e) Apprehension at another time when the identity of the suspect is known or there is information available that would likely allow for later apprehension, and the need to immediately apprehend the suspect does not reasonably appear to outweigh the risk of continuing the pursuit.

457.3 GUIDELINES FOR FOOT PURSUIT

Unless the officer reasonably believes that exigent circumstances exist (e.g. a serious threat to the safety of personnel or members of the public), officers should consider alternatives to engaging in or continuing a foot pursuit under the following conditions:

(a) When directed by a supervisor to terminate the foot pursuit. Such an order shall be considered mandatory.

(b) When the officer is acting alone.

(c) When two or more officers become separated, lose visual contact with one another, or obstacles separate them to the degree that they cannot immediately assist each other should a confrontation take place. In such circumstances, it is generally recommended that a single officer keep the suspect in sight from a safe distance and coordinate the containment effort.

(d) The officer is unsure of his/her location and direction of travel.

(e) When pursuing multiple suspects and the pursuing officers do not reasonably believe that they would be able to control the suspect should a confrontation occur.

(f) When the physical condition of the officers renders them incapable of controlling the suspect if apprehended.

(g) When the officer loses radio contact with Communications Center or with backup officers.

(h) When the suspect enters a building, structure, confined space or a wooded or otherwise isolated area and there are insufficient officers to provide backup and containment. The primary officer should consider discontinuing the pursuit and coordinating containment pending the arrival of sufficient officers.

(i) The officer becomes aware of unanticipated or unforeseen circumstances that unreasonably increase the risk to officers or the public.

(j) The officer reasonably believes that the danger to the pursuing officers or public outweighs the objective of immediate apprehension.

(k) The officer loses possession of his/her firearm or other essential equipment.

(l) The officer or a third party is injured during the pursuit, requiring immediate assistance, and there are no other emergency personnel available to render assistance.

(m) The suspect's location is no longer definitely known.

(n) The identity of the suspect is established or other information exists that will allow for the suspect's apprehension at a later time, and it reasonably appears that there

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is no immediate threat to department personnel or the public if the suspect is not immediately apprehended.

(o) The officer's ability to safely continue the pursuit is impaired by inclement weather, darkness or other conditions.

457.4 RESPONSIBILITIES IN FOOT PURSUITS

457.4.1 INITIATING OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Unless relieved by another officer or a supervisor, the initiating officer shall be responsible for coordinating the progress of the pursuit. When acting alone and when practicable, the initiating officer should not attempt to overtake and confront the suspect but should attempt to keep the suspect in sight until sufficient officers are present to safely apprehend the suspect.

Early communication of available information from the involved officers is essential so that adequate resources can be coordinated and deployed to bring a foot pursuit to a safe conclusion. Officers initiating a foot pursuit should broadcast the following information as soon as it becomes practicable and available:

(a) Unit identifier

(b) Location and direction of travel

(c) Reason for the foot pursuit

(d) Number of suspects and description

(e) Whether the suspect is known or believed to be armed

Officers should be mindful that radio transmissions made while running may be difficult to understand and may need to be repeated.

Absent extenuating circumstances, any officer unable to promptly and effectively broadcast this information should terminate the pursuit. If the foot pursuit is discontinued for any reason, immediate efforts for containment should be established and alternatives considered based upon the circumstances and available resources.

When a foot pursuit terminates, the officer will notify Communications Center of his/her location and the status of the pursuit termination (e.g., suspect in custody, lost sight of suspect), and will direct further actions as reasonably appear necessary.

457.4.2 ASSISTING OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Whenever any officer announces that he/she is engaged in a foot pursuit, all other officers should minimize non-essential radio traffic to permit the involved officers maximum access to the radio frequency.

Any officer who is in a position to intercept a fleeing suspect or who can assist the primary officer with the apprehension of the suspect, shall act reasonably and in accordance with department policy, based upon available information and his/her own observations.

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457.4.3 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITY

Upon becoming aware of a foot pursuit, the supervisor shall make every reasonable effort to ascertain sufficient information to direct responding resources and to take command, control and coordination of the foot pursuit. The supervisor should respond to the area whenever possible; the supervisor does not, however, need to be physically present to exercise control over the pursuit. The supervisor shall continuously assess the situation in order to ensure the foot pursuit is conducted within established department guidelines.

The supervisor shall terminate the foot pursuit when the danger to pursuing officers or the public appears to unreasonably outweigh the objective of immediate apprehension of the suspect.

Upon apprehension of the suspect, the supervisor shall promptly proceed to the termination point to direct the post-pursuit activity.

457.4.4 COMMUNICATIONS CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon being notified or becoming aware that a foot pursuit is in progress, communication personnel shall, as soon as practicable, notify the field supervisor and provide available information. Communications Center personnel are also responsible for the following:

(a) Clear the radio channel of non-emergency traffic.

(b) Repeat the transmissions of the pursuing officer as needed.

(c) Relay all pertinent information to responding personnel.

(d) Contact additional resources as directed by a supervisor.

(e) Coordinate response of additional resources to assist with the foot pursuit.

457.5 REPORTING

The initiating officer shall complete the appropriate crime/arrest reports documenting, at minimum, the following:

(a) The reason for initiating the foot pursuit.

(b) The identity of involved personnel.

(c) The course and approximate distance of the pursuit.

(d) Whether a suspect was apprehended as well as the means and methods used.

    1. Any use of force shall be reported and documented in compliance with the Department Use of Force Policy.

(e) Any injuries or property damage.

Assisting officers taking an active role in the apprehension of the suspect shall complete supplemental reports as necessary or as directed.

In any case in which a suspect is not apprehended and there is insufficient information to warrant further investigation, a supervisor may authorize that the initiating officer need not complete a formal report.

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Foot Pursuit Policy

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Homeless Persons

463.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that personnel understand the needs and rights of the homeless and to establish procedures to guide officers during all contacts with the homeless, whether consensual or for enforcement purposes. The Ventura Police Department recognizes that members of the homeless community are often in need of special protection and services. The Ventura Police Department will address these needs in balance with the overall mission of this department. Therefore, officers will consider the following when serving the homeless community.

463.1.1 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department to provide law enforcement services to all members of the community, while protecting the rights, dignity and private property of the homeless. Homelessness is not a crime and members of this department will not use homelessness solely as a basis for detention or law enforcement action.

463.2 HOMELESS COMMUNITY LIAISON

The Chief of Police will designate a member of this department to act as the Homeless Liaison Officer. The responsibilities of the Homeless Liaison Officer include the following:

(a) Maintain and make available to all department employees a list of assistance programs and other resources that are available to the homeless.

(b) Meet with social services and representatives of other organizations that render assistance to the homeless.

(c) Maintain a list of the areas within and near this jurisdiction that are used as frequent homeless encampments.

(d) Remain abreast of laws dealing with the removal and/or destruction of the personal property of the homeless. This will include:

1. Proper posting of notices of trespass and clean-up operations.
2. Proper retention of property after clean-up, to include procedures for owners to reclaim their property in accordance with the Property and Evidence Policy and other established procedures.

(e) Be present during any clean-up operation conducted by this department involving the removal of personal property of the homeless to ensure that the rights of the homeless are not violated.

(f) Develop training to assist officers in understanding current legal and social issues relating to the homeless.

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463.3 FIELD CONTACTS

Officers are encouraged to contact the homeless for purposes of rendering aid, support and for community-oriented policing purposes. Nothing in this policy is meant to dissuade an officer from taking reasonable enforcement action when facts support a reasonable suspicion of criminal activity. However, when encountering a homeless person who has committed a non-violent misdemeanor and continued freedom is not likely to result in a continuation of the offense or a breach of the peace, officers are encouraged to consider long-term solutions to problems that may relate to the homeless, such as shelter referrals and counseling in lieu of physical arrest.

Officers should provide homeless persons with resource and assistance information whenever it is reasonably apparent that such services may be appropriate.

463.3.1 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Homeless members of the community will receive the same level and quality of service provided to other members of the community. The fact that a victim or witness is homeless can, however, require special considerations for a successful investigation and prosecution. Officers should consider the following when handling investigations involving homeless victims, witnesses or suspects:

(a) Document alternate contact information. This may include obtaining addresses and phone numbers of relatives and friends.

(b) Document places the homeless person may frequent.

(c) Provide homeless victims with victim/witness resources when appropriate.

(d) Obtain statements from all available witnesses in the event that a homeless victim is unavailable for a court appearance.

(e) Consider whether the person may be a dependent adult or elder, and if so, proceed in accordance with the Senior and Disability Victimization Policy.

(f) Arrange for transportation for investigation-related matters, such as medical exams and court appearances.

(g) Consider whether a crime should be reported and submitted for prosecution, even when a homeless victim indicates that he/she does not desire prosecution.

463.4 PERSONAL PROPERTY

The personal property of homeless persons must not be treated differently than the property of other members of the public. Officers should use reasonable care when handling, collecting and retaining the personal property of homeless persons and should not destroy or discard the personal property of a homeless person.

When a homeless person is arrested or otherwise removed from a public place, officers should make reasonable accommodations to permit the person to lawfully secure his/her personal property. Otherwise, the personal property should be collected for safekeeping. If the arrestee has more personal property than can reasonably be collected and transported by the officer, a supervisor should be consulted. The property should be photographed and measures should be

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taken to remove or secure the property. It will be the supervisor's responsibility to coordinate the removal and safekeeping of the property.

Officers should not conduct or assist in clean-up operations of belongings that reasonably appear to be the property of homeless persons without the prior authorization of a supervisor or the department Homeless Liaison Officer. When practicable, requests by the public for clean-up of a homeless encampment should be referred to the Homeless Liaison Officer.

Officers who encounter unattended encampments, bedding or other personal property in public areas that reasonably appears to belong to a homeless person should not remove or destroy such property and should inform the department Homeless Liaison Officer if such property appears to involve a trespass, blight to the community or is the subject of a complaint. It will be the responsibility of the Homeless Liaison Officer to address the matter in a timely fashion.

463.5 MENTAL ILLNESS AND MENTAL IMPAIRMENT

Some homeless persons may suffer from a mental illness or a mental impairment. Officers shall not detain a homeless person under a mental illness commitment unless facts and circumstances warrant such a detention (See Policy § 418).

When a mental illness hold is not warranted, the contacting officer should provide the homeless person with contact information for mental health assistance as appropriate. In these circumstances, officers may provide transportation to a mental health specialist if requested by the person and approved by a supervisor.

463.6 ECOLOGICAL ISSUES

Sometimes homeless encampments can impact the ecology and natural resources of the community and may involve criminal offenses beyond mere littering. Officers are encouraged to notify other appropriate agencies or departments when a significant impact to the environment has or is likely to occur. Significant impacts to the environment may warrant a crime report, investigation, supporting photographs and supervisor notification.

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Public Recording of Law Enforcement Activity

471.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for handling situations in which members of the public photograph or audio/video record law enforcement actions and other public activities that involve members of this department. In addition, this policy provides guidelines for situations where the recordings may be evidence.

471.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department recognizes the right of persons to lawfully record members of this department who are performing their official duties. Members of this department will not prohibit or intentionally interfere with such lawful recordings. Any recordings that are deemed to be evidence of a crime or relevant to an investigation will only be collected or seized lawfully.

Officers should exercise restraint and should not resort to highly discretionary arrests for offenses such as interference, failure to comply or disorderly conduct as a means of preventing someone from exercising the right to record members performing their official duties.

471.3 RECORDING LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Members of the public who wish to record law enforcement activities are limited only in certain aspects.

(a) Recordings may be made from any public place or any private property where the individual has the legal right to be present (Penal Code § 69; Penal Code § 148).

(b) Beyond the act of photographing or recording, individuals may not interfere with the law enforcement activity. Examples of interference include, but are not limited to:

1. Tampering with a witness or suspect.
2. Inciting others to violate the law.
3. Being so close to the activity as to present a clear safety hazard to the officers.
4. Being so close to the activity as to interfere with an officer's effective communication with a suspect or witness.

(c) The individual may not present an undue safety risk to the officers, him/herself or others.

471.4 OFFICER RESPONSE

Officers should promptly request that a supervisor respond to the scene whenever it appears that anyone recording activities may be interfering with an investigation or it is believed that the recording may be evidence. If practicable, officers should wait for the supervisor to arrive before taking enforcement action or seizing any cameras or recording media.

Whenever practicable, officers or supervisors should give clear and concise warnings to individuals who are conducting themselves in a manner that would cause their recording or

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behavior to be unlawful. Accompanying the warnings should be clear directions on what an individual can do to be compliant; directions should be specific enough to allow compliance. For example, rather than directing an individual to clear the area, an officer could advise the person that he/she may continue observing and recording from the sidewalk across the street.

If an arrest or other significant enforcement activity is taken as the result of a recording that interferes with law enforcement activity, officers shall document in a report the nature and extent of the interference or other unlawful behavior and the warnings that were issued.

471.5 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

A supervisor should respond to the scene when requested or any time the circumstances indicate a likelihood of interference or other unlawful behavior.

The supervisor should review the situation with the officer and:

(a) Request any additional assistance as needed to ensure a safe environment.

(b) Take a lead role in communicating with individuals who are observing or recording regarding any appropriate limitations on their location or behavior. When practical, the encounter should be recorded.

(c) When practicable, allow adequate time for individuals to respond to requests for a change of location or behavior.

(d) Ensure that any enforcement, seizure or other actions are consistent with this policy and constitutional and state law.

(e) Explain alternatives for individuals who wish to express concern about the conduct of Department members, such as how and where to file a complaint.

471.6 SEIZING RECORDINGS AS EVIDENCE

Officers should not seize recording devices or media unless (42 USC § 2000aa):

(a) There is probable cause to believe the person recording has committed or is committing a crime to which the recording relates, and the recording is reasonably necessary for prosecution of the person.

1. Absent exigency or consent, a warrant should be sought before seizing or viewing such recordings. Reasonable steps may be taken to prevent erasure of the recording.

(b) There is reason to believe that the immediate seizure of such recordings is necessary to prevent serious bodily injury or death of any person.

(c) The person consents.

1. To ensure that the consent is voluntary, the request should not be made in a threatening or coercive manner.

2. If the original recording is provided, a copy of the recording should be provided to the recording party, if practicable. The recording party should be permitted to be present while the copy is being made, if feasible.

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Recording devices and media that are seized will be submitted within the guidelines of the Property and Evidence Policy.

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Crisis Intervention Incidents

472.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for interacting with those who may be experiencing a mental health or emotional crisis. Interaction with such individuals has the potential for miscommunication and violence. It often requires an officer to make difficult judgments about a person's mental state and intent in order to effectively and legally interact with the individual.

472.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Person in crisis - A person whose level of distress or mental health symptoms have exceeded the person's internal ability to manage his/her behavior or emotions. A crisis can be precipitated by any number of things, including an increase in the symptoms of mental illness despite treatment compliance; non-compliance with treatment, including a failure to take prescribed medications appropriately; or any other circumstance or event that causes the person to engage in erratic, disruptive or dangerous behavior that may be accompanied by impaired judgment.

472.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department is committed to providing a consistently high level of service to all members of the community and recognizes that persons in crisis may benefit from intervention. The Department will collaborate, where feasible, with mental health professionals to develop an overall intervention strategy to guide its members' interactions with those experiencing a mental health crisis. This is to ensure equitable and safe treatment of all involved.

472.3 SIGNS

Members should be alert to any of the following possible signs of mental health issues or crises:

(a) A known history of mental illness

(b) Threats of or attempted suicide

(c) Loss of memory

(d) Incoherence, disorientation or slow response

(e) Delusions, hallucinations, perceptions unrelated to reality or grandiose ideas

(f) Depression, pronounced feelings of hopelessness or uselessness, extreme sadness or guilt

(g) Social withdrawal

(h) Manic or impulsive behavior, extreme agitation, lack of control

(i) Lack of fear

(j) Anxiety, aggression, rigidity, inflexibility or paranoia

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Members should be aware that this list is not exhaustive. The presence or absence of any of these should not be treated as proof of the presence or absence of a mental health issue or crisis.

472.4 COORDINATION WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The Chief of Police should designate an appropriate Assistant Chief to collaborate with mental health professionals to develop an education and response protocol. It should include a list of community resources, to guide department interaction with those who may be suffering from mental illness or who appear to be in a mental health crisis.

472.5 FIRST RESPONDERS

Safety is a priority for first responders. It is important to recognize that individuals under the influence of alcohol, drugs or both may exhibit symptoms that are similar to those of a person in a mental health crisis. These individuals may still present a serious threat to officers; such a threat should be addressed with reasonable tactics. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to limit an officer's authority to use reasonable force when interacting with a person in crisis.

Officers are reminded that mental health issues, mental health crises and unusual behavior alone are not criminal offenses. Individuals may benefit from treatment as opposed to incarceration.

An officer responding to a call involving a person in crisis should:

(a) Promptly assess the situation independent of reported information and make a preliminary determination regarding whether a mental health crisis may be a factor.

(b) Request available backup officers and specialized resources as deemed necessary and, if it is reasonably believed that the person is in a crisis situation, use conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques to stabilize the incident as appropriate.

(c) If feasible, and without compromising safety, turn off flashing lights, bright lights or sirens.

(d) Attempt to determine if weapons are present or available.

    1. Prior to making contact, and whenever possible and reasonable, conduct a search of the Department of Justice Automated Firearms System via the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) to determine whether the person is the registered owner of a firearm (Penal Code § 11106.4).

(e) Take into account the person's mental and emotional state and potential inability to understand commands or to appreciate the consequences of his/her action or inaction, as perceived by the officer.

(f) Secure the scene and clear the immediate area as necessary.

(g) Employ tactics to preserve the safety of all participants.

(h) Determine the nature of any crime.

(i) Request a supervisor, as warranted.

(j) Evaluate any available information that might assist in determining cause or motivation for the person's actions or stated intentions.

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(k) If circumstances reasonably permit, consider and employ alternatives to force.

472.6 DE-ESCALATION

Officers should consider that taking no action or passively monitoring the situation may be the most reasonable response to a mental health crisis.

Once it is determined that a situation is a mental health crisis and immediate safety concerns have been addressed, responding members should be aware of the following considerations and should generally:

- Evaluate safety conditions.
- Introduce themselves and attempt to obtain the person's name.
- Be patient, polite, calm, courteous and avoid overreacting.
- Speak and move slowly and in a non-threatening manner.
- Moderate the level of direct eye contact.
- Remove distractions or disruptive people from the area.
- Demonstrate active listening skills (e.g., summarize the person's verbal communication).
- Provide for sufficient avenues of retreat or escape should the situation become volatile.

Responding officers generally should not:

- Use stances or tactics that can be interpreted as aggressive.
- Allow others to interrupt or engage the person.
- Corner a person who is not believed to be armed, violent or suicidal.
- Argue, speak with a raised voice or use threats to obtain compliance.

472.7 INCIDENT ORIENTATION

When responding to an incident that may involve mental illness or a mental health crisis, the officer should request that the dispatcher provide critical information as it becomes available. This includes:

(a) Whether the person relies on drugs or medication, or may have failed to take his/her medication.

(b) Whether there have been prior incidents, suicide threats/attempts, and whether there has been previous police response.

(c) Contact information for a treating physician or mental health professional.

Additional resources and a supervisor should be requested as warranted.

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472.8 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

A supervisor should respond to the scene of any interaction with a person in crisis. Responding supervisors should:

(a) Attempt to secure appropriate and sufficient resources.

(b) Closely monitor any use of force, including the use of restraints, and ensure that those subjected to the use of force are provided with timely access to medical care (see the Handcuffing and Restraints Policy).

(c) Consider strategic disengagement. Absent an imminent threat to the public and, as circumstances dictate, this may include removing or reducing law enforcement resources or engaging in passive monitoring.

(d) Ensure that all reports are completed and that incident documentation uses appropriate terminology and language.

(e) Conduct an after-action tactical and operational debriefing, and prepare an after-action evaluation of the incident to be forwarded to the Assistant Chief.

Evaluate whether a critical incident stress management debriefing for involved members is warranted.

472.9 INCIDENT REPORTING

Members engaging in any oral or written communication associated with a mental health crisis should be mindful of the sensitive nature of such communications and should exercise appropriate discretion when referring to or describing persons and circumstances.

Members having contact with a person in crisis should keep related information confidential, except to the extent that revealing information is necessary to conform to department reporting procedures or other official mental health or medical proceedings.

472.9.1 DIVERSION

Individuals who are not being arrested should be processed in accordance with the Mental Illness Commitments Policy.

472.10 PROFESSIONAL STAFF INTERACTION WITH PEOPLE IN CRISIS

Professional Staff members may be required to interact with persons in crisis in an administrative capacity, such as dispatching, records request, and animal control issues.

(a) Members should treat all individuals equally and with dignity and respect.

(b) If a member believes that he/she is interacting with a person in crisis, he/she should proceed patiently and in a calm manner.

(c) Members should be aware and understand that the person may make unusual or bizarre claims or requests.

If a person's behavior makes the member feel unsafe, if the person is or becomes disruptive or violent, or if the person acts in such a manner as to cause the member to believe that the person

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may be harmful to him/herself or others, an officer should be promptly summoned to provide assistance.

472.11 EVALUATION

The Assistant Chief designated to coordinate the crisis intervention strategy for this department should ensure that a thorough review and analysis of the department response to these incidents is conducted annually. The report will not include identifying information pertaining to any involved individuals, officers or incidents and will be submitted to the Chief of Police through the chain of command.

472.12 TRAINING

In coordination with the mental health community and appropriate stakeholders, the Department will develop and provide comprehensive education and training to all department members to enable them to effectively interact with persons in crisis.

This department will endeavor to provide Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)-approved advanced officer training on interaction with persons with mental disabilities, welfare checks and crisis intervention (Penal Code § 11106.4; Penal Code § 13515.25; Penal Code § 13515.27; Penal Code § 13515.30).

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Medical Aid and Response

473.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy recognizes that members often encounter persons who appear to be in need of medical aid and establishes a law enforcement response to such situations.

473.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department that all officers and other designated members be trained to provide emergency medical aid and to facilitate an emergency medical response.

473.3 FIRST RESPONDING MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Whenever practicable, members should take appropriate steps to provide initial medical aid (e.g., first aid, CPR, use of an automated external defibrillator (AED)) in accordance with their training and current certification levels. This should be done for those in need of immediate care and only when the member can safely do so.

Prior to initiating medical aid, the member should contact Communications Center and request response by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as the member deems appropriate.

Members should follow universal precautions when providing medical aid, such as wearing gloves and avoiding contact with bodily fluids, consistent with the Communicable Diseases Policy. Members should use a barrier or bag device to perform rescue breathing.

When requesting EMS, the member should provide Communications Center with information for relay to EMS personnel in order to enable an appropriate response, including:

(a) The location where EMS is needed.

(b) The nature of the incident.

(c) Any known scene hazards.

(d) Information on the person in need of EMS, such as:

1. Signs and symptoms as observed by the member.
2. Changes in apparent condition.
3. Number of patients, sex, and age, if known.
4. Whether the person is conscious, breathing, and alert, or is believed to have consumed drugs or alcohol.
5. Whether the person is showing signs or symptoms of excited delirium or other agitated chaotic behavior.

Members should stabilize the scene whenever practicable while awaiting the arrival of EMS.

Members should not direct EMS personnel whether to transport the person for treatment.

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473.4 TRANSPORTING ILL AND INJURED PERSONS

Except in extraordinary cases where alternatives are not reasonably available, members should not transport persons who are unconscious, who have serious injuries or who may be seriously ill. EMS personnel should be called to handle patient transportation.

Officers should search any person who is in custody before releasing that person to EMS for transport.

An officer should accompany any person in custody during transport in an ambulance when requested by EMS personnel, when it reasonably appears necessary to provide security, when it is necessary for investigative purposes or when so directed by a supervisor.

Members should not provide emergency escort for medical transport or civilian vehicles.

473.5 PERSONS REFUSING EMS CARE

If a person who is not in custody refuses EMS care or refuses to be transported to a medical facility, an officer shall not force that person to receive care or be transported. However, members may assist EMS personnel when EMS personnel determine the person lacks mental capacity to understand the consequences of refusing medical care or to make an informed decision and the lack of immediate medical attention may result in serious bodily injury or the death of the person.

In cases where mental illness may be a factor, the officer should consider proceeding with a 72-hour treatment and evaluation commitment (5150 commitment) process in accordance with the Mental Illness Commitments Policy.

If an officer believes that a person who is in custody requires EMS care and the person refuses, he/she should encourage the person to receive medical treatment. The officer may also consider contacting a family member to help persuade the person to agree to treatment or who may be able to authorize treatment for the person.

If the person who is in custody still refuses, the officer will require the person to be transported to the nearest medical facility. In such cases, the officer should consult with a supervisor prior to the transport.

Members shall not sign refusal-for-treatment forms or forms accepting financial responsibility for treatment.

473.6 MEDICAL ATTENTION RELATED TO USE OF FORCE

Specific guidelines for medical attention for injuries sustained from a use of force may be found in the Use of Force, Handcuffing and Restraints, Control Devices and Techniques, and Conducted Energy Device policies.

473.7 AIR AMBULANCE

Generally, when on-scene, EMS personnel will be responsible for determining whether an air ambulance response should be requested. An air ambulance may be appropriate when there are

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victims with life-threatening injuries or who require specialized treatment (e.g., gunshot wounds, burns, obstetrical cases), and distance or other known delays will affect the EMS response.

The Patrol Assistant Chief should develop guidelines for air ambulance landings or enter into local operating agreements for the use of air ambulances, as applicable. In creating those guidelines, the Department should identify:

- Responsibility and authority for designating a landing zone and determining the size of the landing zone.
- Responsibility for securing the area and maintaining that security once the landing zone is identified.
- Consideration of the air ambulance provider's minimum standards for proximity to vertical obstructions and surface composition (e.g., dirt, gravel, pavement, concrete, grass).
- Consideration of the air ambulance provider's minimum standards for horizontal clearance from structures, fences, power poles, antennas or roadways.
- Responsibility for notifying the appropriate highway or transportation agencies if a roadway is selected as a landing zone.
- Procedures for ground personnel to communicate with flight personnel during the operation.

One department member at the scene should be designated as the air ambulance communications contact. Headlights, spotlights and flashlights should not be aimed upward at the air ambulance. Members should direct vehicle and pedestrian traffic away from the landing zone.

Members should follow these cautions when near an air ambulance:

- Never approach the aircraft until signaled by the flight crew.
- Always approach the aircraft from the front.
- Avoid the aircraft's tail rotor area.
- Wear eye protection during landing and take-off.
- Do not carry or hold items, such as IV bags, above the head.
- Ensure that no one smokes near the aircraft.

473.8 AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) USE

A member may use an AED only after receiving appropriate training from an approved public safety first aid and CPR course (22 CCR 100014; 22 CCR 100017; 22 CCR 100018).

473.8.1 AED USER RESPONSIBILITY

Members who are issued AEDs for use in department vehicles should check the AED at the beginning of the shift to ensure it is properly charged and functioning. Any AED that is not functioning properly will be taken out of service and given to the Professional Standards Sergeant who is responsible for ensuring appropriate maintenance.

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Following use of an AED, the device shall be cleaned and/or decontaminated as required. The electrodes and/or pads will be replaced as recommended by the AED manufacturer.

Any member who uses an AED should contact Communications Center as soon as possible and request response by EMS.

473.8.2 AED REPORTING
Any member using an AED will complete an incident report detailing its use.

473.8.3 AED TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE
The training manager should ensure appropriate training and refresher training is provided to members authorized to use an AED. A list of authorized members and training records shall be made available for inspection by the local EMS agency (LEMSA) or EMS authority upon request (22 CCR 100021; 22 CCR 100022; 22 CCR 100029).

The Ventura Police Department First Aid/CPR Program Manager is responsible for ensuring AED devices are appropriately maintained and will retain records of all maintenance in accordance with the established records retention schedule (22 CCR 100021).

473.9 ADMINISTRATION OF OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION
Trained members may administer opioid overdose medication (Civil Code § 1714.22; Business and Professions Code § 4119.9).

473.9.1 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION USER RESPONSIBILITIES
Members who are qualified to administer opioid overdose medication, such as naloxone, should handle, store and administer the medication consistent with their training. Members should check the medication and associated administration equipment at the beginning of their shift to ensure they are serviceable and not expired. Any expired medication or unserviceable administration equipment should be removed from service and given to the Ventura Police Department Naloxone Program Manager.

Any member who administers an opioid overdose medication should contact Communications Center as soon as possible and request response by EMS.

473.9.2 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION REPORTING
Any member administering opioid overdose medication should detail its use in an appropriate report.

The Ventura Police Department Naloxone Program Manager will ensure that the Records Manager is provided enough information to meet applicable state reporting requirements.

473.9.3 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION TRAINING
The Professional Standards Sergeant should ensure initial and refresher training is provided to members authorized to administer opioid overdose medication. Training should be coordinated with the local health department and comply with the requirements in 22 CCR 100019 and any applicable POST standards (Civil Code § 1714.22).

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473.9.4 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION RECORD MANAGEMENT
Records regarding acquisition and disposition of opioid overdose medications shall be maintained and retained in accordance with the established records retention schedule and at a minimum of three years from the date the record was created (Business and Professions Code § 4119.9).

473.9.5 DESTRUCTION OF OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION
The Ventura Police Department Naloxone Program Manager shall ensure the destruction of any expired opioid overdose medication (Business and Professions Code § 4119.9).

473.10 SICK OR INJURED ARRESTEE

If an arrestee appears ill or injured, or claims illness or injury, he/she should be medically cleared prior to booking. If the officer has reason to believe the arrestee is feigning injury or illness, the officer should contact a supervisor, who will determine whether medical clearance will be obtained prior to booking.

If the jail or detention facility refuses to accept custody of an arrestee based on medical screening, the officer should note the name of the facility person refusing to accept custody and the reason for refusal, and should notify a supervisor to determine the appropriate action.

Arrestees who appear to have a serious medical issue should be transported by ambulance. Officers shall not transport an arrestee to a hospital without a supervisor’s approval.

Nothing in this section should delay an officer from requesting EMS when an arrestee reasonably appears to be exhibiting symptoms that appear to be life threatening, including breathing problems or an altered level of consciousness, or is claiming an illness or injury that reasonably warrants an EMS response in accordance with the officer’s training.

473.11 FIRST AID TRAINING

The Professional Standards Sergeant should ensure officers receive initial first aid training within one year of employment and refresher training every two years thereafter (22 CCR 100016; 22 CCR 100022).

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First Amendment Assemblies

474.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance for responding to public assemblies or demonstrations.

474.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department respects the rights of people to peaceably assemble. It is the policy of this department not to unreasonably interfere with, harass, intimidate or discriminate against persons engaged in the lawful exercise of their rights, while also preserving the peace, protecting life and preventing the destruction of property.

474.3 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Individuals or groups present on the public way, such as public facilities, streets or walkways, generally have the right to assemble, rally, demonstrate, protest or otherwise express their views and opinions through varying forms of communication, including the distribution of printed matter. These rights may be limited by laws or ordinances regulating such matters as the obstruction of individual or vehicle access or egress, trespass, noise, picketing, distribution of handbills and leafleting, and loitering. However, officers shall not take action or fail to take action based on the opinions being expressed.

Participant behavior during a demonstration or other public assembly can vary. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Lawful, constitutionally protected actions and speech.
- Civil disobedience (typically involving minor criminal acts).
- Rioting.

All of these behaviors may be present during the same event. Therefore, it is imperative that law enforcement actions are measured and appropriate for the behaviors officers may encounter. This is particularly critical if force is being used. Adaptable strategies and tactics are essential. The purpose of a law enforcement presence at the scene of public assemblies and demonstrations should be to preserve the peace, to protect life and prevent the destruction of property.

Officers should not:

(a) Engage in assembly or demonstration-related discussion with participants.

(b) Harass, confront or intimidate participants.

(c) Seize the cameras, cell phones or materials of participants or observers unless an officer is placing a person under lawful arrest.

Supervisors should continually observe department members under their commands to ensure that members' interaction with participants and their response to crowd dynamics is appropriate.

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474.3.1 PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO RECORDINGS

Photographs and video recording, when appropriate, can serve a number of purposes, including support of criminal prosecutions by documenting criminal acts; assistance in evaluating department performance; serving as training material; recording the use of dispersal orders; and facilitating a response to allegations of improper law enforcement conduct.

Photographs and videos will not be used or retained for the sole purpose of collecting or maintaining information about the political, religious, or social views of associations, or the activities of any individual, group, association, organization, corporation, business, or partnership, unless such information directly relates to an investigation of criminal activities and there is reasonable suspicion that the subject of the information is involved in criminal conduct.

474.4 UNPLANNED EVENTS

When responding to an unplanned or spontaneous public gathering, the first responding officer should conduct an assessment of conditions, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Location
- Number of participants
- Apparent purpose of the event
- Leadership (whether it is apparent and/or whether it is effective)
- Any initial indicators of unlawful or disruptive activity
- Indicators that lawful use of public facilities, streets or walkways will be impacted
- Ability and/or need to continue monitoring the incident

Initial assessment information should be promptly communicated to Communications Center, and the assignment of a supervisor should be requested. Additional resources should be requested as appropriate. The responding supervisor shall assume command of the incident until command is expressly assumed by another, and the assumption of command is communicated to the involved members. A clearly defined command structure that is consistent with the Incident Command System (ICS) should be established as resources are deployed.

474.5 PLANNED EVENT PREPARATION

For planned events, comprehensive, incident-specific operational plans should be developed. The ICS should be considered for such events.

474.5.1 INFORMATION GATHERING AND ASSESSMENT

In order to properly assess the potential impact of a public assembly or demonstration on public safety and order, relevant information should be collected and vetted. This may include:

- Information obtained from outreach to group organizers or leaders.
- Information about past and potential unlawful conduct associated with the event or similar events.

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- The potential time, duration, scope, and type of planned activities.
- Any other information related to the goal of providing a balanced response to criminal activity and the protection of public safety interests.

Information should be obtained in a transparent manner, and the sources documented. Relevant information should be communicated to the appropriate parties in a timely manner.

Information will be obtained in a lawful manner and will not be based solely on the purpose or content of the assembly or demonstration, or actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, age, cultural group, or disability of the participants (or any other characteristic that is unrelated to criminal conduct or the identification of a criminal subject).

474.5.2 OPERATIONAL PLANS

An operational planning team with responsibility for event planning and management should be established. The planning team should develop an operational plan for the event.

The operational plan will minimally provide for:

(a) Command assignments, chain of command structure, roles and responsibilities.

(b) Staffing and resource allocation.

(c) Management of criminal investigations.

(d) Designation of uniform of the day and related safety equipment (e.g., helmets, shields).

(e) Deployment of specialized resources.

(f) Event communications and interoperability in a multijurisdictional event.

(g) Liaison with demonstration leaders and external agencies.

(h) Liaison with City government and legal staff.

(i) Media relations.

(j) Logistics: food, fuel, replacement equipment, duty hours, relief and transportation.

(k) Traffic management plans.

(l) First aid and emergency medical service provider availability.

(m) Prisoner transport and detention.

(n) Review of policies regarding public assemblies and use of force in crowd control.

(o) Parameters for declaring an unlawful assembly.

(p) Arrest protocol, including management of mass arrests.

(q) Protocol for recording information flow and decisions.

(r) Rules of engagement, including rules of conduct, protocols for field force extraction and arrests, and any authorization required for the use of force.

(s) Protocol for handling complaints during the event.

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(t) Parameters for the use of body-worn cameras and other portable recording devices.

474.5.3 MUTUAL AID AND EXTERNAL RESOURCES
The magnitude and anticipated duration of an event may necessitate interagency cooperation and coordination. The assigned Incident Commander should ensure that any required memorandums of understanding or other agreements are properly executed, and that any anticipated mutual aid is requested and facilitated (see the Mutual Aid and Outside Agency Assistance Policy).

474.6 UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY DISPERSAL ORDERS

If a public gathering or demonstration remains peaceful and nonviolent, and there is no reasonably imminent threat to persons or property, the Incident Commander should generally authorize continued monitoring of the event.

Should the Incident Commander make a determination that public safety is presently or is about to be jeopardized, he/she or the authorized designee should attempt to verbally persuade event organizers or participants to disperse of their own accord. Warnings and advisements may be communicated through established communications links with leaders and/or participants or to the group.

When initial attempts at verbal persuasion are unsuccessful, the Incident Commander or the authorized designee should make a clear standardized announcement to the gathering that the event is an unlawful assembly, and should order the dispersal of the participants. The announcement should be communicated by whatever methods are reasonably available to ensure that the content of the message is clear and that it has been heard by the participants. The announcement should be amplified, made in different languages as appropriate, made from multiple locations in the affected area and documented by audio and video. The announcement should provide information about what law enforcement actions will take place if illegal behavior continues and should identify routes for egress. A reasonable time to disperse should be allowed following a dispersal order.

474.7 USE OF FORCE

Use of force is governed by current department policy and applicable law (see the Use of Force, Handcuffing and Restraints, Control Devices and Techniques, and Conducted Energy Device policies).

Individuals refusing to comply with lawful orders (e.g., nonviolent refusal to disperse) should be given a clear verbal warning and a reasonable opportunity to comply. If an individual refuses to comply with lawful orders, the Incident Commander shall evaluate the type of resistance and adopt a reasonable response in order to accomplish the law enforcement mission (such as dispersal or arrest of those acting in violation of the law). Control devices and TASER® devices should be considered only when the participants' conduct reasonably appears to present the potential to harm officers, others, or will result in substantial property loss or damage (see the Control Devices and Techniques and the Conducted Energy Device policies).

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Force or control devices, including oleoresin capsaicin (OC), should be directed toward individuals and not toward groups or crowds, unless specific individuals cannot reasonably be targeted due to extreme circumstances, such as a riotous crowd.

Any use of force by a member of this department shall be documented promptly, completely and accurately in an appropriate report. The type of report required may depend on the nature of the incident.

474.8 ARRESTS

The Ventura Police Department should respond to unlawful behavior in a manner that is consistent with the operational plan. If practicable, warnings or advisements should be communicated prior to arrest.

Mass arrests should be employed only when alternate tactics and strategies have been, or reasonably appear likely to be, unsuccessful. Mass arrests shall only be undertaken upon the order of the Incident Commander or the authorized designee. There must be probable cause for each arrest.

If employed, mass arrest protocols should fully integrate:

(a) Reasonable measures to address the safety of officers and arrestees.

(b) Dedicated arrest, booking and report writing teams.

(c) Timely access to medical care.

(d) Timely access to legal resources.

(e) Timely processing of arrestees.

(f) Full accountability for arrestees and evidence.

(g) Coordination and cooperation with the prosecuting authority, jail and courts (see the Cite and Release Policy).

474.9 MEDIA RELATIONS

The Public Information Officer should use all available avenues of communication, including press releases, briefings, press conferences, and social media to maintain open channels of communication with media representatives and the public about the status and progress of the event, taking all opportunities to reassure the public about the professional management of the event (see the Media Relations Policy).

474.9.1 MEDIA ACCESS

If officers close the immediate area surrounding any emergency field command post or any other command post, or establish a police line, or rolling closure at a demonstration, march, protest, or rally where individuals are engaged in a protected activity pursuant to the First Amendment, officers shall comply with the requirements of Penal Code § 409.7 relating to media access (i.e., access to closed areas, obtaining information) (Penal Code § 409.7).

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474.10 DEMOBILIZATION

When appropriate, the Incident Commander or the authorized designee should implement a phased and orderly withdrawal of law enforcement resources. All relieved personnel should promptly complete any required reports, including use of force reports, and account for all issued equipment and vehicles to their supervisors prior to returning to normal operational duties.

474.11 POST EVENT

The Incident Commander should designate a member to assemble full documentation of the event, to include the following:

(a) Operational plan

(b) Any incident logs

(c) Any assignment logs

(d) Vehicle, fuel, equipment and supply records

(e) Incident, arrest, use of force, injury and property damage reports

(f) Photographs, audio/video recordings, Communications Center records/tapes

(g) Media accounts (print and broadcast media)

474.11.1 AFTER-ACTION REPORTING

The Incident Commander should work with City legal counsel, as appropriate, to prepare a comprehensive after-action report of the event, explaining all incidents where force was used including the following:

(a) Date, time and description of the event

(b) Actions taken and outcomes (e.g., injuries, property damage, arrests)

(c) Problems identified

(d) Significant events

(e) Recommendations for improvement; opportunities for training should be documented in a generic manner, without identifying individuals or specific incidents, facts or circumstances.

474.12 TRAINING

Department members should receive periodic training regarding this policy, as well as the dynamics of crowd control and incident management (Penal Code § 13514.5). The Department should, when practicable, train with its external and mutual aid partners.

Officers should also receive periodic training on the standards for the use of kinetic energy projectiles and chemical agents for crowd control purposes as identified in Penal Code § 13652.

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474.13 USE OF KINETIC ENERGY PROJECTILES AND CHEMICAL AGENTS FOR CROWD CONTROL

Kinetic energy projectiles and chemical agents for crowd control purposes shall only be deployed by officers who have received POST training for crowd control if the use is objectively reasonable to defend against a threat to life or serious bodily injury to any individual, including an officer, or to bring an objectively dangerous and unlawful situation safely and effectively under control and in accordance with the following requirements of Penal Code § 13652.

(a) De-escalation techniques or other alternatives to force have been attempted, when objectively reasonable, and have failed.

(b) Repeated, audible announcements are made announcing the intent to use kinetic energy projectiles and chemical agents and the type to be used, when objectively reasonable to do so. The announcements shall be made from various locations, if necessary, and delivered in multiple languages, if appropriate.

(c) Individuals are given an objectively reasonable opportunity to disperse and leave the scene.

(d) An objectively reasonable effort has been made to identify individuals engaged in violent acts and those who are not, and kinetic energy projectiles or chemical agents are targeted toward those individuals engaged in violent acts. Projectiles shall not be aimed indiscriminately into a crowd or group of individuals.

(e) Kinetic energy projectiles and chemical agents are used only with the frequency, intensity, and in a manner that is proportional to the threat and objectively reasonable.

(f) Officers shall minimize the possible incidental impact of their use of kinetic energy projectiles and chemical agents on bystanders, medical personnel, journalists, or other unintended targets.

(g) An objectively reasonable effort has been made to extract individuals in distress.

(h) Medical assistance is promptly provided, if properly trained personnel are present, or procured, for injured persons, when it is reasonable and safe to do so.

(i) Kinetic energy projectiles shall not be aimed at the head, neck, or any other vital organs.

(j) Kinetic energy projectiles or chemical agents shall not be used solely due to any of the following:

1. A violation of an imposed curfew.
2. A verbal threat.
3. Noncompliance with a law enforcement directive.

(k) If the chemical agent to be deployed is tear gas, only an Incident Commander at the scene of the assembly, protest, or demonstration may authorize its use.

474.13.1 USE SUMMARY

The Patrol Assistant Chief or the authorized designee should ensure that a summary of each deployment of kinetic energy projectiles or chemical agents for crowd control purposes is prepared

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and published on the department website within 60 days of each incident. The time frame may be extended for another 30 days where just cause is demonstrated, but no longer than 90 days from the time of the incident. The summary shall be limited to the information known to the Department at the time of the report and include the information required in Penal Code § 13652.1.

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Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs)

475.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for the capture, storage and use of digital data obtained through the use of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology.

475.2 POLICY

The policy of the Ventura Police Department is to utilize ALPR technology to capture and store digital license plate data and images while recognizing the established privacy rights of the public.

All data and images gathered by the ALPR are for the official use of this department. Because such data may contain confidential information, it is not open to public review.

475.3 ADMINISTRATION

The ALPR technology, also known as License Plate Recognition (LPR), allows for the automated detection of license plates. It is used by the Ventura Police Department to convert data associated with vehicle license plates for official law enforcement purposes, including identifying stolen or wanted vehicles, stolen license plates, and missing persons. It may also be used to gather information related to active warrants, homeland security, electronic surveillance, suspect interdiction and stolen property recovery.

All installation and maintenance of ALPR equipment, as well as ALPR data retention and access, shall be managed by the Administrative Operations Assistant Chief. The Administrative Operations Assistant Chief will assign members under his/her command to administer the day-to-day operation of the ALPR equipment and data.

475.3.1 ALPR ADMINISTRATOR

The Administrative Operations Assistant Chief shall be responsible for developing guidelines and procedures to comply with the requirements of Civil Code § 1798.90.5 et seq. This includes, but is not limited to (Civil Code § 1798.90.51; Civil Code § 1798.90.53):

(a) A description of the job title or other designation of the members and independent contractors who are authorized to use or access the ALPR system or to collect ALPR information.

(b) Training requirements for authorized users.

(c) A description of how the ALPR system will be monitored to ensure the security of the information and compliance with applicable privacy laws.

(d) Procedures for system operators to maintain records of access in compliance with Civil Code § 1798.90.52.

(e) The title and name of the current designee in overseeing the ALPR operation.

(f) Working with the Custodian of Records on the retention and destruction of ALPR data.

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(g) Ensuring this policy and related procedures are conspicuously posted on the department's website.

475.4 OPERATIONS

Use of an ALPR is restricted to the purposes outlined below. Department members shall not use, or allow others to use the equipment or database records for any unauthorized purpose (Civil Code § 1798.90.51; Civil Code § 1798.90.53).

(a) An ALPR shall only be used for official law enforcement business.

(b) An ALPR may be used in conjunction with any routine patrol operation or criminal investigation. Reasonable suspicion or probable cause is not required before using an ALPR.

(c) While an ALPR may be used to canvass license plates around any crime scene, particular consideration should be given to using ALPR-equipped cars to canvass areas around homicides, shootings and other major incidents. Partial license plates reported during major crimes should be entered into the ALPR system in an attempt to identify suspect vehicles.

(d) No member of this department shall operate ALPR equipment or access ALPR data without first completing department-approved training.

(e) No ALPR operator may access department, state or federal data unless otherwise authorized to do so.

(f) If practicable, the officer should verify an ALPR response through the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) before taking enforcement action that is based solely on an ALPR alert.

(g) Only designated staff engaged in official duties, conducting audits of ALPR, or database maintenance will have access to ALPR data.

475.5 DATA COLLECTION AND RETENTION

The Administrative Operations Assistant Chief is responsible for ensuring systems and processes are in place for the proper collection and retention of ALPR data. Data will be transferred from vehicles to the designated storage in accordance with department procedures.

All ALPR data downloaded to a City maintained server should be stored for a minimum of one year (Government Code § 34090.6) and in accordance with the established records retention schedule. Thereafter, ALPR data should be purged unless it has become, or it is reasonable to believe it will become, evidence in a criminal or civil action or is subject to a discovery request or other lawful action to produce records. In those circumstances the applicable data should be downloaded from the server onto portable media and booked into evidence.

475.6 ACCOUNTABILITY

All data will be closely safeguarded and protected by both procedural and technological means. The Ventura Police Department will observe the following safeguards regarding access to and use of stored data (Civil Code § 1798.90.51; Civil Code § 1798.90.53):

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(a) All ALPR data downloaded to the mobile workstation and in storage shall be accessible only through a login/password-protected system capable of documenting all access of information by name, date and time (Civil Code § 1798.90.52).

(b) Members approved to access ALPR data under these guidelines are permitted to access the data for legitimate law enforcement purposes only, such as when the data relate to a specific criminal investigation or department-related civil or administrative action.

(c) Professional Standards Division will conduct ALPR system audits on a regular basis.

For security or data breaches, see the Records Release and Maintenance Policy.

475.7 RELEASING ALPR DATA

The ALPR data may be shared only with other law enforcement or prosecutorial agencies for official law enforcement purposes or as otherwise permitted by law, using the following procedures:

(a) The agency makes a written request for the ALPR data that includes:

1. The name of the agency.
2. The name of the person requesting.
3. The intended purpose of obtaining the information.

(b) The request is reviewed by the Administrative Operations Assistant Chief or the authorized designee and approved before the request is fulfilled.

(c) The approved request is retained on file.

Requests for ALPR data by non-law enforcement or non-prosecutorial agencies will be processed as provided in the Records Maintenance and Release Policy (Civil Code § 1798.90.55).

475.8 TRAINING

The Professional Standards Sergeant shall ensure that members receive department-approved training for those authorized to use or access the ALPR system and department policy regarding ALPR (Civil Code § 1798.90.51; Civil Code § 1798.90.53).

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Chapter 5 - Traffic Operations

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Traffic Function and Responsibility

500.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The ultimate goal of traffic law enforcement is to reduce traffic collisions. This may be achieved through the application of such techniques as geographic/temporal assignment of personnel and equipment and the establishment of preventive patrols to deal with specific categories of unlawful driving behavior. Traffic enforcement techniques are based on accident data, enforcement activity records, traffic volume, and traffic conditions. This department provides enforcement efforts toward violations, not only in proportion to the frequency of their occurrence in accident situations, but also in terms of traffic-related needs.

500.2 TRAFFIC OFFICER DEPLOYMENT

Several factors are considered in the development of deployment schedules for officers of the Ventura Police Department. Information provided by the California Statewide Integrated Traffic Reporting System (SWITRS) is a valuable resource for traffic accident occurrences and therefore officer deployment. Some of the factors for analysis include:

- Location
- Time
- Day
- Violation factors

All officers assigned to patrol or traffic enforcement functions will emphasize enforcement of accident causing violations during high accident hours and at locations of occurrence. While all potential accident causing violations are important, officers should be aware that safety belt and child safety restraint laws, speed violations, and impaired driving violations are a priority for enforcement. All officers will take directed enforcement action on request, and random enforcement action when appropriate against violators as a matter of routine. All officers shall maintain high visibility while working general enforcement, especially at high accident locations.

Other factors to be considered for deployment are citizen requests, construction zones or special events.

500.3 ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement actions are commensurate with applicable laws and take into account the degree and severity of the violation committed. This department does not establish ticket quotas and the number of arrests or citations issued by any officer shall not be used as the sole criterion for evaluating officer overall performance (Vehicle Code § 41603). The visibility and quality of an officer's work effort will be commensurate with the philosophy of this policy. Several methods are effective in the reduction of collisions:

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500.3.1 WARNINGS
Warnings or other non-punitive enforcement actions should be considered in each situation and substituted for arrests or citations when circumstances warrant, especially in the case of inadvertent violations.

500.3.2 CITATIONS
Citations may be issued when an officer believes it is appropriate. It is essential that officers fully explain the rights and requirements imposed on motorists upon issuance of a citation for a traffic violation. Officers should provide the following information at a minimum:

(a) Explanation of the violation or charge

(b) Court appearance procedure including the optional or mandatory appearance by the motorist

(c) Notice of whether the motorist can enter a plea and pay the fine by mail or at the court

500.3.3 PHYSICAL ARREST
Physical arrest can be made on a number of criminal traffic offenses outlined in the Vehicle Code or Penal Code. These physical arrest cases usually deal with, but are not limited to:

(a) Vehicular manslaughter

(b) Felony and misdemeanor driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs

(c) Felony or misdemeanor hit-and-run

(d) Refusal to sign notice to appear

(e) Any other misdemeanor at the discretion of the officer, such as reckless driving with extenuating circumstances

500.4 SUSPENDED OR REVOKED DRIVERS LICENSES
If an officer contacts a traffic violator for driving on a suspended or revoked license, the officer may issue a traffic citation pursuant to Vehicle Code § 14601.

If a computer check of a traffic violator's license status reveals a suspended or revoked driver license and the traffic violator still has his or her license in possession, the license shall be seized by the officer. The officer shall verbally advise the traffic violator of the suspension or revocation and issue the citation. The officer will be responsible for filling out the Verbal Notice form (DMV form DL-310) and causing that form and license to be forwarded to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

500.5 HIGH-VISIBILITY VESTS
The Department has provided American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Class II high-visibility vests to increase the visibility of department members who may be exposed to hazards presented by passing traffic, maneuvering or operating vehicles, machinery and equipment (23 CFR 655.601; 8 CCR 1598).

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Although intended primarily for use while performing traffic related assignments, high-visibility vests should be worn at any time increased visibility would improve the safety or efficiency of the member.

500.5.1 REQUIRED USE

Except when working in a potentially adversarial or confrontational role, such as during vehicle stops, high-visibility vests should be worn at any time it is anticipated that an employee will be exposed to the hazards of approaching traffic or construction and recovery equipment. Examples of when high-visibility vests should be worn include traffic control duties, accident investigations, lane closures and while at disaster scenes, or anytime high visibility is desirable. When emergency conditions preclude the immediate donning of the vest, officers should retrieve and wear the vest as soon as conditions reasonably permit. Use of the vests shall also be mandatory when directed by a supervisor.

Vests maintained in the investigation units may be used any time a plainclothes officer might benefit from being readily identified as a member of law enforcement.

500.5.2 CARE AND STORAGE OF HIGH-VISIBILITY VESTS

High-visibility vests shall be maintained in the trunk of each patrol and investigation unit, in the side box of each police motorcycle and in the saddlebag or gear bag of each police bicycle. Each vest should be stored inside the re-sealable plastic bag provided to protect and maintain the vest in a serviceable condition. Before going into service each employee shall ensure a serviceable high-visibility vest is properly stored.

A supply of high-visibility vests will be maintained in the equipment room for replacement of damaged or unserviceable vests. The Professional Standards Sergeantor Traffic Sergeant should be promptly notified whenever the supply of vests in the equipment room needs replenishing.

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Traffic Collision Reporting

502.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Ventura Police Department prepares traffic collision reports in compliance with the California Highway Patrol Collision Investigation Manual (CIM) and as a public service makes traffic collision reports available to the community with some exceptions.

502.2 RESPONSIBILITY

The Traffic Commander will be responsible for distribution of the Collision Investigation Manual. The Traffic Commander will receive all changes in the state manual and ensure conformity with this policy.

502.3 TRAFFIC COLLISION REPORTING

All traffic collision reports taken by members of this department shall be forwarded to the appropriate supervisor for approval and data entry into the Records Management System. The Crime Analysis Unit will be responsible for monthly and quarterly reports on traffic collision statistics to be forwarded to the Patrol Operations Division Commander, or other persons as required.

502.4 REPORTING SITUATIONS

502.4.1 TRAFFIC COLLISIONS INVOLVING CITY VEHICLES

Traffic collision investigation reports shall be taken when a [CityCounty]-owned vehicle is involved in a traffic collision upon a roadway or highway wherein any damage or injury results. A general information report may be taken in lieu of a traffic collision report (CHP 555 form) at the direction of a supervisor when the collision occurs on private property or does not involve another vehicle. Whenever there is damage to a [CityCounty] vehicle, a Vehicle Damage Report shall be completed and forwarded to the appropriate [DivisionCommander].

Employees involved in a traffic collision in a city-owned vehicle shall complete a DMV SR 1A (Report of Traffic Accident in California) form, regardless if the accident occurred within or outside our jurisdiction. Employees must complete the DMV SR 1A report regardless of fault and location, including private property. Once the involved employee completes the SR 1A form, it shall be submitted to Professional Standards for routing to the DMV. The SR 1A form shall be completed before the mandatory 20 day period required by DMV. (Current SR 1A form is located in the Forms Drive).

Photographs of the collision scene and vehicle damage shall be taken at the discretion of the traffic investigator or any supervisor.

502.4.2 TRAFFIC COLLISIONS WITH POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

When an employee of this department, either on-duty or off-duty, is involved in a traffic collision within the jurisdiction of the Ventura Police Department resulting in a serious injury or fatality,

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the Traffic Sergeant or the Watch Commander, may notify the California Highway Patrol for assistance.

The term serious injury is defined as any injury that may result in a fatality.

502.4.3 TRAFFIC COLLISIONS WITH OTHER CITY EMPLOYEES OR OFFICIALS
The Traffic Sergeant or on-duty Watch Commander may request assistance from the California Highway Patrol for the investigation of any traffic collision involving any City official or employee where a serious injury or fatality has occurred.

502.4.4 TRAFFIC COLLISIONS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY
In compliance with the Collision Investigation Manual, traffic collision reports shall not be taken for traffic collisions occurring on private property unless there is a death or injury to any person involved, a hit-and-run violation, or Vehicle Code violation. An Incident Report may be taken at the discretion of any supervisor.

502.4.5 TRAFFIC COLLISIONS ON ROADWAYS OR HIGHWAYS
Traffic collision reports shall be taken when they occur on a roadway or highway within the jurisdiction of this department when there is a death or injury to any persons involved in the collision. For the purposes of collision reporting, an injury is defined as any visible injury or any complaint of pain. All traffic reports involving injury shall be completed on the CHP 555 form.

As a general rule, traffic collision reports will only consist of the VPD 555-03 form when they occur on a roadway or highway within the jurisdiction of this department when there is no death or injury; however, the on-duty field supervisor or Watch Commander have the discretion to direct that a traffic collision report be filed for any traffic collision they deem necessary and appropriate.

502.5 NOTIFICATION OF TRAFFIC BUREAU SUPERVISION

In the event of a serious injury or death related traffic collision, the Watch Commander shall notify the Traffic Sergeant to relate the circumstances of the traffic collision and seek assistance from the Traffic Bureau. In the absence of a Traffic Sergeant, the Watch Commander or any supervisor may assign an accident investigator or motor officer to investigate the traffic collision.

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Vehicle Towing and Release

510.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides the procedures for towing a vehicle by or at the direction of the Ventura Police Department. Nothing in this policy shall require the Department to tow a vehicle.

510.2 STORAGE AND IMPOUNDS

When circumstances permit, for example when towing a vehicle for parking or registration violations, the handling employee should, prior to having the vehicle towed, make a good faith effort to notify the owner of the vehicle that it is subject to removal. This may be accomplished by personal contact, telephone or by leaving a notice attached to the vehicle at least 24 hours prior to removal. If a vehicle presents a hazard, such as being abandoned on the roadway, it may be towed immediately.

The responsibilities of those employees towing, storing or impounding a vehicle are listed below.

510.2.1 VEHICLE STORAGE REPORT

Department members requesting towing, storage or impound of a vehicle shall complete CHP Form 180 and accurately record the mileage and a description of property within the vehicle (Vehicle Code § 22850). A copy of the storage report should be given to the tow truck operator, and the original shall be submitted to the Records Unit as soon as practicable after the vehicle is stored.

510.2.2 REMOVAL FROM TRAFFIC COLLISION SCENES

When a vehicle has been involved in a traffic collision and must be removed from the scene, the officer shall have the driver select a towing company, if possible, and shall relay the request for the specified towing company to the dispatcher. When there is no preferred company requested, a company will be selected from the rotational list of towing companies in Communications Center.

If the owner is incapacitated, or for any reason it is necessary for the Department to assume responsibility for a vehicle involved in a collision, the officer shall request the dispatcher to call the official towing garage for the City of Ventura. The officer will then store the vehicle using a CHP Form 180.

510.2.3 STORAGE AT ARREST SCENES

Whenever a person in charge or in control of a vehicle is arrested, it is the policy of this department to provide reasonable safekeeping by storing the arrestee’s vehicle subject to the exceptions described below. The vehicle, however, shall be stored whenever it is needed for the furtherance of the investigation or prosecution of the case, or when the community caretaker doctrine would reasonably suggest that the vehicle should be stored (e.g., traffic hazard, high-crime area).

The following are examples of situations where consideration should be given to leaving a vehicle at the scene in lieu of storing, provided the vehicle can be lawfully parked and left in a reasonably secured and safe condition:

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- Traffic-related warrant arrest.
- Situations where the vehicle was not used to further the offense for which the driver was arrested.
- Whenever the licensed owner of the vehicle is present, willing, and able to take control of any vehicle not involved in criminal activity.
- Whenever the vehicle otherwise does not need to be stored and the owner requests that it be left at the scene. In such cases, the owner shall be informed that the Department will not be responsible for theft or damages.

510.2.4 IMPOUNDMENT AT SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS

Whenever a driver is stopped at a sobriety checkpoint and the only violation is that the operator is driving without a valid driver's license, the officer shall make a reasonable attempt to identify the registered owner of the vehicle (Vehicle Code § 2814.2). The officer shall release the vehicle to the registered owner if the person is a licensed driver, or to another licensed driver authorized by the registered owner, provided the vehicle is claimed prior to the conclusion of the checkpoint operation.

If the vehicle is released at the checkpoint, the officer shall list on his/her copy of the notice to appear the name and driver's license number of the person to whom the vehicle is released.

When a vehicle cannot be released at the checkpoint, it shall be towed (Vehicle Code § 22651(p)). When a vehicle is removed at the checkpoint, it shall be released during the normal business hours of the storage facility to the registered owner or his/her agent upon presentation of a valid driver's license and current vehicle registration.

510.2.5 DRIVING A NON-CITY VEHICLE

Vehicles which have been towed by or at the direction of the Department should not be driven by police personnel unless it is necessary to move a vehicle a short distance to eliminate a hazard, prevent the obstruction of a fire hydrant or to comply with posted signs.

510.2.6 DISPATCHER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon receiving a request for towing, the dispatcher shall promptly telephone the specified authorized towing service. The officer shall be advised when the request has been made and the towing service has been dispatched.

When there is no preferred company requested, the dispatcher shall call the next firm in rotation from the list of approved towing companies and shall make appropriate entries on that form to ensure the following firm is called on the next request.

510.2.7 RECORDS UNIT RESPONSIBILITY

Records personnel shall promptly enter pertinent data from the completed storage form (CHP Form 180) into the Stolen Vehicle System and return the form to the [watchCommander] for approval (Vehicle Code § 22651.5(b); Vehicle Code § 22851.3(b); Vehicle Code § 22854.5).

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Approved storage forms shall be promptly placed into the auto-file so that they are immediately available for release or review should inquiries be made.

Within 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays, of the storage of any such vehicle it shall be the responsibility of the [recordsBureau] to determine the names and addresses of any individuals having an interest in the vehicle through DMV or CLETS computers. A notice shall be sent to all such individuals by first-class mail (Vehicle Code § 22851.3(d); Vehicle Code § 22852(a); Vehicle Code § 14602.6(a)(2)). The notice shall include the following (Vehicle Code § 22852(b)):

(a) The name, address, and telephone number of this Department.

(b) The location of the place of storage and description of the vehicle, which shall include, if available, the name or make, the manufacturer, the license plate number, and the mileage.

(c) The authority and purpose for the removal of the vehicle.

(d) A statement that, in order to receive their post-storage hearing, the owners, or their agents, shall request the hearing in person, in writing, or by telephone within 10 days of the date appearing on the notice.

510.3 TOWING SERVICES

The City of Ventura periodically selects a firm to act as the official tow service and awards a contract to that firm. This firm will be used in the following situations:

(a) When it is necessary to safeguard a vehicle due to the inability of the owner or operator to take the required action.

(b) When a vehicle is being held as evidence in connection with an investigation.

(c) When it is otherwise necessary to store a motor vehicle. This would include situations involving the recovery of stolen or abandoned vehicles, and the removal of vehicles obstructing traffic in violation of state or local regulations.

510.3.1 NO PREFERENCE TOW SERVICES

Upon proper application, the department may approve qualified towing services to be called when a citizen needs towing but has no preference as to which service to call.

Any complaint alleging a violation of the agreement or other misconduct by a tow operator shall be referred to the Police Department for investigation. The department may periodically review the performance of each authorized no preference tow operator.

The Police Department will assist citizens by calling any towing company desired. If the citizen has no preference and requests that an officer call a towing company, one of the authorized firms shall be called in rotation.

All officers are specifically prohibited from directly or indirectly soliciting for or recommending any garage or tow service.

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510.4 VEHICLE INVENTORY

All property in a stored or impounded vehicle shall be inventoried and listed on the vehicle storage form. This includes the trunk and any compartments or containers, even if closed and/or locked. Members conducting inventory searches should be as thorough and accurate as practical in preparing an itemized inventory. These inventory procedures are for the purpose of protecting an owner's property while in police custody, to provide for the safety of officers, and to protect the Department against fraudulent claims of lost, stolen, or damaged property.

510.5 SECURITY OF VEHICLES AND PROPERTY

Unless it would cause an unreasonable delay in the completion of a vehicle impound/storage or create an issue of officer safety, officers should make reasonable accommodations to permit a driver/owner to retrieve small items of value or personal need (e.g., cash, jewelry, cell phone, prescriptions) that are not considered evidence or contraband.

If a search of a vehicle leaves the vehicle or any property contained therein vulnerable to unauthorized entry, theft, or damage, personnel conducting the search shall take such steps as are reasonably necessary to secure and/or preserve the vehicle or property from such hazards.

510.6 RELEASE OF VEHICLE

The Department will maintain a listed, 24-hour telephone number to provide information regarding impoundment of vehicles and the right of the registered owner to request a storage hearing. Releases for towed vehicles will be made available during regular, non-emergency business hours (Vehicle Code § 14602.6).

(a) Vehicles removed pursuant to Vehicle Code § 22850 shall be released after proof of current registration is provided by the owner or the person in control of the vehicle and after all applicable fees are paid (Vehicle Code § 22850.3; Vehicle Code § 22850.5).

(b) Vehicles removed that require payment of parking fines or proof of valid driver’s license shall only be released upon presentation of proof of compliance, proof of payment, completion of affidavit, and payment of applicable fees related to the removal (Vehicle Code § 22651 et seq., Vehicle Code § 22652 et seq., Vehicle Code § 22850.3; Vehicle Code § 22850.5).

(c) A vehicle removed pursuant to Vehicle Code § 14602.6(a) shall be released to the registered owner or his/her agent with proof of current registration, proof of a valid driver’s license, and applicable fees paid prior to the end of the 30-day impoundment period under any of the following circumstances:

1. The vehicle was stolen.
2. If the driver reinstates his/her driver's license or acquires a license and provides proof of proper insurance.
3. Any other circumstance as set forth in Vehicle Code § 14602.6.
4. When there is no remaining community caretaking need to continue impound of the vehicle or the continued impound would not otherwise comply with the Fourth Amendment.

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(d) An autonomous vehicle removed under authority of Vehicle Code § 22651(o)(1)(D) shall be released to the registered owner or person in control of the autonomous vehicle if the requirements of Vehicle Code § 22651(o)(3)(B) are met.

Personnel whose duties include releasing towed vehicles should consult the Vehicle Code under which the vehicle was towed or impounded for any specific requirements prior to release.

Employees who suspect that a vehicle was impounded in error should promptly advise a supervisor. Supervisors should approve, when appropriate, the release of the vehicle without requiring the registered owner or his/her agent to request a hearing, as described in the Vehicle Impound Hearings Policy.

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Vehicle Impound Hearings

512.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes a procedure for the requirement to provide vehicle storage or impound hearings pursuant to Vehicle Code § 22852.

512.2 STORED OR IMPOUND HEARING

When a vehicle is stored or impounded by any member of the Ventura Police Department, a hearing will be conducted upon the request of the registered or legal owner of the vehicle or his/her agent (Vehicle Code § 22650(a); Vehicle Code § 22852(a)).

The hearing shall be conducted within 48 hours of the request, excluding weekends and holidays. The hearing officer must be a person other than the person who directed the storage or impound of the vehicle (Vehicle Code § 22852(c)).

512.2.1 HEARING PROCEDURES

The vehicle storage hearing is an informal process to evaluate the validity of an order to store or impound a vehicle. The employee who caused the storage or removal of the vehicle does not need to be present for this hearing.

All requests for a hearing on a stored or impounded vehicle shall be submitted in person, in writing or by telephone within 10 days of the date appearing on the notice (Vehicle Code § 22852(b)). The Traffic Sergeant will generally serve as the hearing officer. The person requesting the hearing may record the hearing at his/her own expense.

The failure of either the registered or legal owner or interested person or his/her agent to request a hearing in a timely manner or to attend a scheduled hearing shall be considered a waiver of and satisfaction of the post-storage hearing requirement (Vehicle Code § 22851.3(e)(2); Vehicle Code § 22852(d)).

Any relevant evidence may be submitted and reviewed by the hearing officer to determine if reasonable grounds have been established for the storage or impound of the vehicle. The initial burden of proof established by a preponderance of the evidence that the storage/impound was based on probable cause rests with the Department.

After consideration of all information, the hearing officer shall determine the validity of the storage or impound of the vehicle in question and then render a decision. The hearing officer shall also consider any mitigating circumstances attendant to the storage that reasonably would warrant the release of the vehicle or a modification or reduction of the period the vehicle is impounded (Vehicle Code §14602.6(b); Vehicle Code § 14602.8(b)).

Aside from those mitigating circumstances enumerated in the Vehicle Code, the registered owner's lack of actual knowledge that the driver to whom the vehicle was loaned was not validly licensed may constitute a mitigating circumstance under Vehicle Code § 14602.6(b) or 14602.8(b), warranting release of the vehicle. This mitigating circumstance exception is not limited to situations

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where the owner made a reasonable inquiry as to the licensed status of the driver before lending the vehicle.

The legislative intent and this department's policy is to prevent unlicensed driving pursuant to Vehicle Code §14602.6. If this purpose is not furthered by the continued impoundment of a vehicle, release is most often appropriate.

(a) If a decision is made that reasonable grounds for storage or impound have been established, the hearing officer shall advise the inquiring party of the decision and that the inquiring party may pursue further civil remedies if desired.

1. If mitigating circumstances are found to be relevant, the hearing officer shall make reasonable adjustments to the impound period, storage or assessment of fees as warranted.

(b) If a decision is made that reasonable grounds for storage or impound have not been established or sufficient mitigating circumstances exist, the vehicle in storage shall be released immediately. Towing and storage fees will be paid at the Department's expense (Vehicle Code § 22852(e)).

(c) If a decision is made that reasonable grounds for storage have not been established or sufficient mitigating circumstances exist, and the vehicle has been released with fees having been paid, the receipt for such fees will be forwarded with a letter to the appropriate Assistant Chief. The hearing officer will recommend to the appropriate Assistant Chief that the fees paid by the registered or legal owner of the vehicle in question or their agent be reimbursed by the Department.

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Impaired Driving

514.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance to those department members who play a role in the detection and investigation of driving under the influence (DUI).

514.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department is committed to the safety of the roadways and the community and will pursue fair but aggressive enforcement of California's impaired driving laws.

514.3 INVESTIGATIONS

Officers should not enforce DUI laws to the exclusion of their other duties unless specifically assigned to DUI enforcement. All officers are expected to enforce these laws with due diligence.

514.4 FIELD TESTS

The Traffic Sergeant should identify standardized FSTs and any approved alternate tests for officers to use when investigating violations of DUI laws.

514.5 CHEMICAL TESTS

A person implies consent to a chemical test or tests, and to providing the associated chemical sample, under any of the following (Vehicle Code § 23612):

(a) The person is arrested for driving a vehicle while under the influence, pursuant to Vehicle Code § 23152.

(b) The person is under 21 years of age and is arrested by an officer having reasonable cause to believe that the person's blood alcohol content is 0.05 or more (Vehicle Code § 23140).

(c) The person is under 21 years of age and detained by an officer having reasonable cause to believe that the person was driving a vehicle while having a blood alcohol content of 0.01 or more (Vehicle Code § 23136).

(d) The person was operating a vehicle while under the influence and proximately caused bodily injury to another person (Vehicle Code § 23153).

If a person withdraws this implied consent, or is unable to withdraw consent (e.g., the person is unconscious), the officer should consider implied consent revoked and proceed as though the person has refused to provide a chemical sample.

514.5.1 CHOICE OF TESTS

Officers shall respect a viable choice of chemical test made by an arrestee, as provided for by law (e.g., breath will not be acceptable for suspected narcotics influence).

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A person arrested for DUI has the choice of whether the test is of his/her blood or breath, and the officer shall advise the person that he/she has that choice. If the person arrested either is incapable, or states that he/she is incapable, of completing the chosen test, the person shall submit to the remaining test.

If the person chooses to submit to a breath test and there is reasonable cause to believe that the person is under the influence of a drug or the combined influence of alcohol and any drug, the officer may also request that the person submit to a blood test. If the person is incapable of completing a blood test, the person shall submit to and complete a urine test (Vehicle Code § 23612(a)(2)(C)).

514.5.2 BREATH SAMPLES

The Traffic Sergeant should ensure that all devices used for the collection and analysis of breath samples are properly serviced and tested, and that a record of such service and testing is properly maintained.

Officers obtaining a breath sample should monitor the device for any sign of malfunction. Any anomalies or equipment failures should be noted in the appropriate report and promptly reported to the Traffic Sergeant.

When the arrested person chooses a breath test, the handling officer shall advise the person that the breath-testing equipment does not retain a sample, and the person may, if desired, provide a blood or urine specimen, which will be retained to facilitate subsequent verification testing (Vehicle Code § 23614).

The officer should also require the person to submit to a blood test if the officer has a clear indication that a blood test will reveal evidence of any drug or the combined influence of an alcoholic beverage and any drug. Evidence of the officer's belief shall be included in the officer's report (Vehicle Code § 23612(a)(2)(C)).

514.5.3 BLOOD SAMPLES

Only persons authorized by law to draw blood shall collect blood samples (Vehicle Code § 23158). The blood draw should be witnessed by the assigned officer. No officer, even if properly certified, should perform this task.

Officers should inform an arrestee that if he/she chooses to provide a blood sample, a separate sample can be collected for alternate testing. Unless medical personnel object, two samples should be collected and retained as evidence, so long as only one puncture is required.

The blood sample shall be packaged, marked, handled, stored and transported as required by the testing facility.

If an arrestee cannot submit to a blood draw because he/she has a bleeding disorder or has taken medication that inhibits coagulation, he/she shall not be required to take a blood test. Such inability to take a blood test should not be considered a refusal. However, that arrestee may be required to complete another available and viable test.

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514.5.4 URINE SAMPLES

If a urine test will be performed, the arrestee should be promptly transported to the appropriate testing site. The officer shall follow any directions accompanying the urine evidence collection kit.

Urine samples shall be collected and witnessed by an officer or jail staff member of the same sex as the individual giving the sample. The arrestee should be allowed sufficient privacy to maintain his/her dignity, to the extent possible, while still ensuring the accuracy of the sample (Vehicle Code § 23158(i)).

The sample shall be packaged, marked, handled, stored and transported as required by the testing facility.

514.5.5 STATUTORY NOTIFICATIONS

Officers requesting that a person submit to chemical testing shall provide the person with the mandatory warning pursuant to Vehicle Code § 23612(a)(1)(D) and Vehicle Code § 23612(a)(4).

514.5.6 PRELIMINARY ALCOHOL SCREENING

Officers may use a preliminary alcohol screening (PAS) test to assist in establishing reasonable cause to believe a person is DUI. The officer shall advise the person that the PAS test is being requested to assist in determining whether the person is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or a combination of the two. Unless the person is under the age of 21, he/she shall be advised that the PAS test is voluntary. The officer shall also advise the person that submitting to a PAS test does not satisfy his/her obligation to submit to a chemical test as otherwise required by law (Vehicle Code § 23612).

514.5.7 PRELIMINARY ALCOHOL SCREENING FOR A PERSON UNDER AGE 21

If an officer lawfully detains a person under 21 years of age who is driving a motor vehicle and the officer has reasonable cause to believe that the person has a blood alcohol content of 0.01 or more, the officer shall request that the person take a PAS test to determine the presence of alcohol in the person, if a PAS test device is immediately available. If a PAS test device is not immediately available, the officer may request the person to submit to chemical testing of his/her blood, breath or urine, conducted pursuant to Vehicle Code § 23612 (Vehicle Code § 13388).

If the person refuses to take or fails to complete the PAS test or other chemical test, or if the result of either test reveals a blood alcohol content of 0.01 or more, the officer shall proceed to serve the person with a notice of order of suspension pursuant to this policy (Vehicle Code § 13388).

514.6 REFUSALS

When an arrestee refuses to provide a viable chemical sample, officers should:

(a) Advise the person of the requirement to provide a sample (Vehicle Code § 23612).

(b) Audio- and/or video-record the admonishment when it is practicable.

(c) Document the refusal in the appropriate report.

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Upon refusal to submit to a chemical test as required by law, officers shall personally serve the notice of order of suspension upon the person and take possession of any state-issued license to operate a motor vehicle that is held by that person (Vehicle Code § 23612(e); Vehicle Code § 23612(f)).

514.6.1 BLOOD SAMPLE WITHOUT CONSENT

A blood sample may be obtained from a person who refuses a chemical test when any of the following conditions exist:

(a) A search warrant has been obtained (Penal Code § 1524).

(b) The officer can articulate that exigent circumstances exist. Exigency does not exist solely because of the short time period associated with the natural dissipation of alcohol or controlled or prohibited substances in the person's bloodstream. Exigency can be established by the existence of special facts such as a lengthy time delay in obtaining a blood sample due to an accident investigation or medical treatment of the person.

514.6.2 FORCED BLOOD SAMPLE

If an arrestee indicates by word or action that he/she will physically resist a blood draw, the officer should request a supervisor to respond.

The responding supervisor should:

(a) Evaluate whether using force to obtain a blood sample is appropriate under the circumstances.

(b) Ensure that all attempts to obtain a blood sample through force cease if the person agrees to, and completes a viable form of testing in a timely manner.

(c) Advise the person of his/her duty to provide a sample (even if this advisement was previously done by another officer) and attempt to persuade the individual to submit to such a sample without physical resistance.

    1. This dialogue should be recorded on audio and/or video if practicable.

(d) Ensure that the blood sample is taken in a medically approved manner.

(e) Ensure the forced blood draw is recorded on audio and/or video when practicable.

(f) Monitor and ensure that the type and level of force applied appears reasonable under the circumstances:

    1. Unless otherwise provided in a warrant, force should generally be limited to handcuffing or similar restraint methods.

    2. In misdemeanor cases, if the arrestee becomes violent or more resistant, no additional force will be used and a refusal should be noted in the report.

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3. In felony cases, force which reasonably appears necessary to overcome the resistance to the blood draw may be permitted.

(g) Ensure the use of force and methods used to accomplish the collection of the blood sample are documented in the related report.

If a supervisor is unavailable, officers are expected to use sound judgment and perform as a responding supervisor, as set forth above.

514.7 RECORDS UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

The Records Supervisor will ensure that all case-related records are transmitted according to current records procedures and as required by the prosecuting attorney's office.

514.8 ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

The Records Supervisor will ensure that all appropriate reports and documents related to administrative license suspensions are reviewed and forwarded to DMV.

Any officer who receives notice of required attendance to an administrative license suspension hearing should promptly notify the prosecuting attorney.

An officer called to testify at an administrative hearing should document the hearing date and DMV file number in a supplemental report. Specific details of the hearing generally should not be included in the report unless errors, additional evidence or witnesses are identified.

514.9 TRAINING

The Professional Standards Sergeant should ensure that officers participating in the enforcement of DUI laws receive regular training. Training should include, at minimum, current laws on impaired driving, investigative techniques and rules of evidence pertaining to DUI investigations. The Professional Standards Sergeant should confer with the prosecuting attorney's office and update training topics as needed.

514.10 ARREST AND INVESTIGATION

514.10.1 WARRANTLESS ARREST

In addition to the arrest authority granted to officers pursuant to Penal Code § 836, an officer may make a warrantless arrest of a person that the officer has reasonable cause to believe has been driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage or any drug, or under the combined influence of the same when (Vehicle Code § 40300.5):

(a) The person is involved in a traffic accident.

(b) The person is observed in or about a vehicle that is obstructing the roadway.

(c) The person will not be apprehended unless immediately arrested.

(d) The person may cause injury to him/herself or damage property unless immediately arrested.

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(e) The person may destroy or conceal evidence of a crime unless immediately arrested.

514.10.2 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

The officer serving the arrested person with a notice of an order of suspension shall immediately (Vehicle Code § 23612):

(a) Forward a copy of the completed notice of suspension or revocation form and any confiscated driver's license to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

(b) Forward a sworn report to DMV that contains the required information in Vehicle Code § 13380.

(c) Forward the results to the appropriate forensic laboratory if the person submitted to a blood or urine test.

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Traffic Citations

516.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy outlines the responsibility for traffic citations, the procedure for dismissal, correction, and voiding of traffic citations.

516.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

The Traffic Sergeant shall be responsible for the development and design of all Department traffic citations in compliance with state law and the Judicial Council.

The Records Unit shall be responsible for the supply and accounting of all traffic citations issued to employees of this department.

516.3 DISMISSAL OF TRAFFIC CITATIONS

Employees of this department do not have the authority to dismiss a citation once it has been issued. Only the court has the authority to dismiss a citation that has been issued (Vehicle Code § 40500(d)). Any request from a recipient to dismiss a citation shall be referred to the Traffic and Special Operations Division Commander. Upon a review of the circumstances involving the issuance of the traffic citation, the Traffic and Special Operations Division Commander may recommend dismissal of the traffic citation. The citation will be forwarded to the appropriate court with a request for dismissal. All recipients of traffic citations whose request for the dismissal of a traffic citation has been denied shall be referred to the appropriate court.

Should an officer determine during a court proceeding that a traffic citation should be dismissed in the interest of justice or where prosecution is deemed inappropriate the officer may request the court to dismiss the citation. Upon dismissal of the traffic citation by the court, the officer shall notify his/her immediate supervisor of the circumstances surrounding the dismissal and shall complete any paperwork as directed or required. The citation dismissal shall then be forwarded to the Patrol Operations Division Commander for review.

516.4 VOIDING TRAFFIC CITATIONS

Voiding a traffic citation may occur when a traffic citation has not been completed or where it is completed, but not issued. All copies of the citation shall be presented to a supervisor to approve the voiding of the citation. A memo shall then be prepared and forwarded to the Assistant Chief via the chain of command. The memo is to be signed by the approving supervisor, the Watch Commander and finally the Operations Assistant Chief. The citation and copies shall then be forwarded to the Records Bureau.

516.5 CORRECTION OF TRAFFIC CITATIONS

When a traffic citation is issued and in need of correction, the officer issuing the citation shall submit the citation and a letter requesting a specific correction to his/her immediate supervisor.

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The citation and letter shall then be forwarded to the Traffic Bureau. The Traffic Bureau shall prepare a letter of correction to the court having jurisdiction and to the recipient of the citation.

516.6 DISPOSITION OF TRAFFIC CITATIONS

The court and file copies of all traffic citations issued by members of this department shall be forwarded to the employee's immediate supervisor for review. The citation copies shall then be filed with the Records Unit.

Upon separation from employment with this department, all employees issued traffic citation books shall return any unused citations to the Records Unit.

516.7 NOTICE OF PARKING VIOLATION APPEAL PROCEDURE

Disposition of notice of parking violation appeals is conducted pursuant to Vehicle Code § 40215.

516.7.1 APPEAL STAGES

Appeals may be pursued sequentially at three different levels (Vehicle Code § 40215; Vehicle Code § 40230):

(a) Administrative reviews are conducted by the Traffic Bureau who will review written/documentary data. Requests for administrative reviews are available at the front desk or Traffic Bureau of the Ventura Police Department. These requests are informal written statements outlining why the notice of parking violation should be dismissed. Copies of documentation relating to the notice of parking violation and the request for dismissal must be mailed to the current mailing address of the processing agency.

(b) If the appellant wishes to pursue the matter beyond administrative review, an administrative hearing may be conducted in person or by written application, at the election of the appellant. Independent referees review the existent administrative file, amendments, and/or testimonial material provided by the appellant and may conduct further investigation or follow-up on their own.

(c) If the appellant wishes to pursue the matter beyond an administrative hearing, a Superior Court review may be presented in person by the appellant after an application for review and designated filing fees have been paid to the Superior Court of California.

516.7.2 TIME REQUIREMENTS

Administrative review or appearance before a hearing examiner will not be provided if the mandated time limits are not adhered to by the violator.

(a) Requests for an administrative review must be postmarked within 21 calendar days of issuance of the notice of parking violation, or within 14 calendar days of the mailing of the Notice of Delinquent Parking Violation (Vehicle Code § 40215(a)).

(b) Requests for administrative hearings must be made no later than 21 calendar days following the notification mailing of the results of the administrative review (Vehicle Code § 40215(b)).

(c) An administrative hearing shall be held within 90 calendar days following the receipt of a request for an administrative hearing, excluding time tolled pursuant to Vehicle Code

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§ 40200 - 40225. The person requesting the hearing may request one continuance, not to exceed 21 calendar days (Vehicle Code § 40215).

(d) Registered owners of vehicles may transfer responsibility for the violation via timely affidavit of non-liability when the vehicle has been transferred, rented or under certain other circumstances (Vehicle Code § 40209; Vehicle Code § 40210).

516.7.3 COSTS

(a) There is no cost for an administrative review.

(b) Appellants must deposit the full amount due for the citation before receiving an administrative hearing, unless the person is indigent, as defined in Vehicle Code § 40220, and provides satisfactory proof of inability to pay (Vehicle Code § 40215).

(c) An appeal through Superior Court requires prior payment of filing costs, including applicable court charges and fees. These costs will be reimbursed to the appellant in addition to any previously paid fines if appellant's liability is overruled by the Superior Court.

516.8 JUVENILE CITATIONS

Completion of traffic citation forms for juveniles may vary slightly from the procedure for adults. The juvenile’s age, place of residency, and the type of offense should be considered before issuing the juvenile a citation.

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Disabled Vehicles

520.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Vehicle Code § 20018 provides that all law enforcement agencies having responsibility for traffic enforcement may develop and adopt a written policy to provide assistance to motorists in disabled vehicles within their primary jurisdiction.

520.2 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY

When an on-duty officer observes a disabled vehicle on the roadway, the officer should make a reasonable effort to provide assistance. If that officer is assigned to a call of higher priority, the dispatcher should be advised of the location of the disabled vehicle and the need for assistance. The dispatcher should then assign another available officer to respond for assistance as soon as practical.

520.3 EXTENT OF ASSISTANCE

In most cases, a disabled motorist will require assistance. After arrangements for assistance are made, continued involvement by department personnel will be contingent on the time of day, the location, the availability of departmental resources, and the vulnerability of the disabled motorist.

520.3.1 RELOCATION OF DISABLED VEHICLES

The relocation of disabled vehicles by members of this department by pushing or pulling a vehicle should only occur when the conditions reasonably indicate that immediate movement is necessary to reduce a hazard presented by the disabled vehicle.

The relocation of a disabled motorist should only occur with the person's consent and should be suggested when conditions reasonably indicate that immediate movement is necessary to mitigate a potential hazard. The department member may stay with the disabled motorist or transport him/her to a safe area to await pickup.

520.3.2 MECHANICAL REPAIRS

Department personnel shall not make mechanical repairs to a disabled vehicle. The use of push bumpers to relocate vehicles to a position of safety is not considered a mechanical repair.

520.4 PUBLIC ACCESS TO THIS POLICY

This written policy is available upon request.

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72-Hour Parking Violations

524.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides procedures for the marking, recording, and storage of vehicles parked in violation of the Ventura City Ordinance regulating 72-hour parking violations and abandoned vehicles under the authority of Vehicle Code § 22669.

524.2 MARKING VEHICLES

Vehicles suspected of being in violation of the City of Ventura 72-Hour Parking Ordinance shall be marked and noted on the Ventura Police Department Marked Vehicle Card. No case number is required at this time.

A visible chalk mark should be placed on the left rear tire tread at the fender level unless missing tires or other vehicle conditions prevent marking. Any deviation in markings shall be noted on the Marked Vehicle Card.

All Marked Vehicle Cards shall be submitted to the Traffic Bureau for computer data entry.

If a marked vehicle has been moved or the markings have been removed during a 72-hour investigation period, the vehicle shall be marked again for the 72-hour parking violation and a Marked Vehicle Card completed and forwarded to the Traffic Bureau.

Parking citations for the 72-hour parking ordinance shall not be issued when the vehicle is stored for the 72-hour parking violation.

Covert marking of a parked vehicle's position may be used in the following situations:

(a) In the instance of a repeated violator of the 72-hour ordinance. The covert marking shall be noted in the comment section of the database.

(b) Upon the third complaint being received on the same vehicle or owner. The covert marking shall be noted in the comment section of the database.

524.2.1 MARKED VEHICLE FILE

The Traffic Bureau shall be responsible for maintaining a file for all Marked Vehicle Cards.

Parking control officers assigned to the Traffic Bureau shall be responsible for the follow up investigation of all 72-hour parking violations noted on the Marked Vehicle Cards.

524.2.2 VEHICLE STORAGE

Any vehicle in violation shall be stored by the authorized towing service and a vehicle storage report (CHP form 180) shall be completed by the officer authorizing the storage of the vehicle.

The storage report form shall be submitted to the Records Unit immediately following the storage of the vehicle. It shall be the responsibility of the Records Unit to immediately notify the Stolen

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Vehicle System (SVS) of the Department of Justice in Sacramento (Vehicle Code § 22851.3(b)). Notification may also be made to the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS)(Vehicle Code § 22854.5).

Within 48 hours of the storage of any such vehicle, excluding weekends and holidays, it shall be the responsibility of the Records Unit to determine the names and addresses of any individuals having an interest in the vehicle through DMV or CLETS computers. Notice to all such individuals shall be sent first-class or certified mail pursuant to Vehicle Code § 22851.3(d).

524.3 VEHICLE DISPOSAL

If, after 15 days from the notification, the vehicle remains unclaimed and the towing and storage fees have not been paid, and if no request for a post storage hearing has been made, the Department may provide the lien holder storing the vehicle with authorization on an approved DMV form to dispose of any vehicle which the lien holder has determined has an estimated value of $500 or less (Vehicle Code § 22851.3(h).

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Chapter 6 - Investigation Operations

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Investigation and Prosecution

600.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to set guidelines and requirements pertaining to the handling and disposition of criminal investigations.

When assigned to a case for initial or follow-up investigation, detectives shall proceed with due diligence in evaluating and preparing the case for appropriate clearance or presentation to a prosecutor for filing of criminal charges.Generally, the Patrol Division will be responsible for misdemeanor follow-up investigations and the Investigations Division will conduct follow-up on felony cases once the initial investigation is complete. On occasion, and at the discretion of the Investigations Supervisor, a felony case may be reassigned to the originating officer for completion of the follow-up investigation.

600.2 MODIFICATION OF CHARGES FILED

Employees are not authorized to recommend to the District Attorney, City Attorney, or to any other official of the court that charges on a pending case be altered or the case dismissed. In all cases resulting in court prosecution, any request to modify the charges filed or to recommend dismissal of charges in a pending case shall be made to the District Attorney's Office or City Attorney's Office only as authorized by a Assistant Chief or the Chief of Police.

600.3 CUSTODIAL INTERROGATION REQUIREMENTS

Any custodial interrogation of a person who is suspected of having committed any violent felony offense should be electronically recorded (audio/video or both as available) in its entirety as otherwise allowed by law. Regardless of where the interrogation occurs, every reasonable effort should be made to secure functional recording equipment to accomplish such recordings.

Officers should also consider electronically recording a custodial interrogation, or any investigative interview, for any other offense when the officer reasonably believes it would be appropriate and beneficial to the investigation and is otherwise allowed by law.

No recording of an interrogation should be destroyed or altered without written authorization from the District Attorney and the Detective Bureau supervisor. Copies of recorded interrogations or interviews may be made in the same or different format provided they are true, accurate and complete copies and are made only for authorized and legitimate law enforcement purposes.

Officers should not allow the recording to take the place of a thorough report and investigative interviews and should continue to obtain written statements from suspects when applicable.

600.3.1 MANDATORY RECORDINGS OF JUVENILES

Any interrogation of an individual under 18 years of age who in custody and suspected of committing murder shall be audio and video recorded when the interview takes place at a department facility, jail, detention facility or other official setting. The recording shall include the entire interview and a *Miranda* advisement preceding the interrogation (Penal Code § 859.5).

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This recording is not mandatory when (Penal Code § 859.5):

(a) Recording is not feasible because of exigent circumstances that are later documented in a report.

(b) The individual refuses to have the interrogation recorded, including refusal anytime during interrogation, and the refusal is documented in a report. If feasible, the refusal shall be electronically recorded.

(c) The custodial interrogation took place in another state by law enforcement officers of that state, unless the interrogation was conducted with the intent to avoid the requirements of Penal Code § 859.5.

(d) The interrogation occurs when no member conducting the interrogation has a reason to believe that the individual may have committed murder. Continued custodial interrogation concerning that offense shall be electronically recorded if the interrogating member develops a reason to believe the individual committed a murder.

(e) The interrogation would disclose the identity of a confidential informant or jeopardize the safety of an officer, the individual being interrogated or another individual. Such circumstances shall be documented in a report.

(f) A recording device fails despite reasonable maintenance and the timely repair or replacement was not feasible.

(g) Questions are part of a routine processing or booking, and not an interrogation.

These recordings shall be retained until a conviction is final and all direct and habeas corpus appeals are exhausted, a court no longer has any jurisdiction of the individual or the prosecution for that offense is barred (Penal Code § 859.5; Welfare and Institution Code § 626.8).

600.4 CELLULAR COMMUNICATIONS INTERCEPTION TECHNOLOGY

The Investigation Assistant Chief is responsible for ensuring the following for cellular communications interception technology operations (Government Code § 53166):

(a) Security procedures are developed to protect information gathered through the use of the technology.

(b) A usage and privacy policy is developed that includes:

1. The purposes for which using cellular communications interception technology and collecting information is authorized.

2. Identification by job title or other designation of employees who are authorized to use or access information collected through the use of cellular communications interception technology.

3. Training requirements necessary for those authorized employees.

4. A description of how the Department will monitor the use of its cellular communications interception technology to ensure the accuracy of the information collected and compliance with all applicable laws.

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5. Process and time period system audits.
6. Identification of the existence of any memorandum of understanding or other agreement with any other local agency or other party for the shared use of cellular communications interception technology or the sharing of information collected through its use, including the identity of signatory parties.
7. The purpose of, process for and restrictions on the sharing of information gathered through the use of cellular communications interception technology with other local agencies and persons.
8. The length of time information gathered through the use of cellular communications interception technology will be retained, and the process the local agency will utilize to determine if and when to destroy retained information.

Members shall only use approved devices and usage shall be in compliance with department security procedures, the department's usage and privacy procedures and all applicable laws.

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Sexual Assault Investigations

602.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the investigation of sexual assaults. These guidelines will address some of the unique aspects of such cases and the effects that these crimes have on the victims.

Mandatory notifications requirements are addressed in the Child Abuse and Senior and Disability Victimization policies.

602.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Sexual assault - Any crime or attempted crime of a sexual nature, to include but not limited to offenses defined in Penal Code § 243.4, Penal Code § 261 et seq., and Penal Code § 285 et seq.

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) - A multidisciplinary team generally comprised of advocates; law enforcement officers; forensic medical examiners, including sexual assault forensic examiners (SAFEs) or sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs) if possible; forensic laboratory personnel; and prosecutors. The team is designed to coordinate a broad response to sexual assault victims.

602.2 INVESTIGATION CONSIDERATIONS

602.2.1 VICTIM CONFIDENTIALITY

Officers investigating or receiving a report of an alleged sex offense shall inform the victim, or the victim's parent or guardian if the victim is a minor, that his/her name will become a matter of public record unless the victim requests that his/her name not be made public. The reporting officer shall document in his/her report that the victim was properly informed and shall include any related response made by the victim, or if a minor, any response made by the victim's parent or guardian (Penal Code 293 § (a) and (b)).

(a) Except as authorized by law, members of this department shall not publicly disclose the name or address of any victim of a sex crime who has exercised his/her right to confidentiality (Penal Code § 293 (c) and (d)).

602.2.2 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY

Whenever there is an alleged violation of Penal Code §§ 243(e), 261, 261.5, 262, 273.5, 286, 288a or 289, the assigned [officer_deputy] shall accomplish the following:

(a) Immediately provide the victim with the "Sexual Abuse Victim's Rights" card containing the names and locations of rape victim counseling centers within the county and their 24-hour counseling service telephone numbers, or provide the victim access to the resources online via the VPD resource card. (Penal Code § 264.2(a)).

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(b) If the victim is transported to a hospital for any medical evidentiary or physical examination, the officer shall immediately cause the local rape victim counseling center to be notified (Penal Code § 264.2(b)(1)).

1. Prior to any such examination, the assigned [officer_deputy] shall ensure that the victim has been properly informed of his/her right to have a sexual assault victim counselor and at least one other support person present (Penal Code § 264.2(b)(2)).

2. A support person may be excluded from the examination by the [officer_deputy] or the medical provider if his/her presence would be detrimental to the purpose of the examination (Penal Code § 264.2(b)(4)).

602.3 TESTING OF SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE

(a) Subject to available resources and other law enforcement considerations which may affect the ability to process and analyze rape kits or other sexual assault victim evidence and other crime scene evidence, any member of this department assigned to investigate a sexual assault offense (Penal Code §§ 261, 261.5, 262, 286, 288a or 289) should take every reasonable step to ensure that DNA testing of such evidence is performed in a timely manner and within the time periods prescribed by Penal Code § 803(g).

(b) In order to maximize the effectiveness of such testing and identifying the perpetrator of any sexual assault, the assigned officer should further ensure that the results of any such test have been timely entered into and checked against both the Department of Justice Cal-DNA database and the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS).

(c) If, for any reason, DNA evidence in a sexual assault case in which the identity of the perpetrator is in issue is not going to be analyzed within two years of the crime, the assigned officer shall notify the victim of such fact in writing within no less than 60 days prior to the expiration of the two-year period (Penal Code § 680(d)).

602.4 VICTIM NOTIFICATION OF DNA STATUS

(a) Upon receipt of a written request from a sexual assault victim or the victim's authorized designee, the assigned officer may inform the victim of the status of the DNA testing of any evidence from the victim's case.

1. Although such information may be communicated orally, the assigned officer should thereafter follow-up with and retain a copy of confirmation by either written or electronic mail.

2. Absent a written request, no member of this department is required to, but may, communicate with the victim or victim's designee regarding the status of any DNA testing.

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(b) Subject to the commitment of sufficient resources to respond to requests for information, sexual assault victims shall further have the following rights:

1. To be informed whether or not a DNA profile of the assailant was obtained from the testing of the rape kit or other crime scene evidence from their case.
2. To be informed whether or not there is a match between the DNA profile of the assailant developed from the evidence and a DNA profile contained in the Department of Justice Convicted Offender DNA Database, providing that disclosure would not impede or compromise an ongoing investigation.
3. To be informed whether or not the DNA profile of the assailant developed from the evidence has been entered into the Department of Justice Data Bank of case evidence.

(c) Provided that the sexual assault victim or victim's designee has kept the assigned officer informed with regard to current address, telephone number and e-mail address (if available), any victim or victim's designee shall, upon request, be advised of any known significant changes regarding the victim's case.

1. Although such information may be communicated orally, the assigned officer should thereafter follow-up with and retain a copy of confirmation by either written or electronic mail.
2. No officer shall be required to or expected to release any information which might impede or compromise any ongoing investigation.

602.5 DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE

Any destruction of evidence related to a sexual assault shall occur only after victim notification is made as required pursuant to Penal Code § 680 and only in compliance with the Property and Evidence Policy.

602.6 RELEASING INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC

In cases where the perpetrator is not known to the victim, and especially if there are multiple crimes where more than one appear to be related, consideration should be given to releasing information to the public whenever there is a reasonable likelihood that doing so may result in developing helpful investigative leads. The Detective Bureau supervisor should weigh the risk of alerting the suspect to the investigation with the need to protect the victim and the public, and to prevent more crimes.

602.7 VICTIM INTERVIEWS

The primary considerations in sexual assault investigations, which begin with the initial call to Communications Center, should be the health and safety of the victim, the preservation of evidence, and preliminary interviews to determine if a crime has been committed and to attempt to identify the suspect.

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Whenever possible, a member of SART should be included in the initial victim interviews. An in-depth follow-up interview should not be conducted until after the medical and forensic examinations are completed and the personal needs of the victim have been met (e.g., change of clothes, bathing). The follow-up interview may be delayed to the following day based upon the circumstances. Whenever practicable, the follow-up interview should be conducted by a qualified investigator.

No opinion of whether the case is unfounded shall be included in the report.

Victims shall not be asked or required to take a polygraph examination (34 USC § 10451; Penal Code § 637.4).

Victims should be apprised of applicable victim's rights provisions, as outlined in the Victim and Witness Assistance Policy.

602.7.1 VICTIM RIGHTS

Whenever there is an alleged sexual assault, the assigned officer shall accomplish the following:

(a) Advise the victim in writing of the right to have a victim advocate and a support person of the victim's choosing present at any interview or contact by law enforcement, any other rights of a sexual assault victim pursuant to Penal Code § 680.2, and the right to have a person of the same or opposite gender present in the room during any interview with a law enforcement official unless no such person is reasonably available (Penal Code § 679.04).

(b) If the victim is transported to a hospital for any medical evidentiary or physical examination, the officer shall immediately cause the local rape victim counseling center to be notified (Penal Code § 264.2).

    1. The officer shall not discourage a victim from receiving a medical evidentiary or physical examination (Penal Code § 679.04).

    2. A support person may be excluded from the examination by the officer or the medical provider if his/her presence would be detrimental to the purpose of the examination (Penal Code § 264.2).

602.7.2 VICTIM CONFIDENTIALITY

Officers investigating or receiving a report of an alleged sex offense shall inform the victim, or the victim's parent or guardian if the victim is a minor, that his/her name will become a matter of public record unless the victim requests that his/her name not be made public. The reporting officer shall document in his/her report that the victim was properly informed and shall include any related response made by the victim, or if a minor, any response made by the victim's parent or guardian (Penal Code § 293).

Except as authorized by law, members of this department shall not publicly disclose the name of any victim of a sex crime who has exercised his/her right to confidentiality (Penal Code § 293).

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602.8 COLLECTION AND TESTING OF BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Whenever possible, a SART member should be involved in the collection of forensic evidence from the victim.

When the facts of the case indicate that collection of biological evidence is warranted, it should be collected regardless of how much time has elapsed since the reported assault.

If a drug-facilitated sexual assault is suspected, urine and blood samples should be collected from the victim as soon as practicable.

Subject to requirements set forth in this policy, biological evidence from all sexual assault cases, including cases where the suspect is known by the victim, should be submitted for testing.

Victims who choose not to assist with an investigation, do not desire that the matter be investigated, or wish to remain anonymous may still consent to the collection of evidence under their control. In these circumstances, the evidence should be collected and stored appropriately.

602.8.1 COLLECTION AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Members investigating a sexual assault offense should take every reasonable step to ensure that DNA testing of such evidence is performed in a timely manner and within the time periods prescribed by Penal Code § 803(g). SAFE kits should be submitted to the crime lab within 20 days after being booked into evidence (Penal Code § 680).

In order to maximize the effectiveness of such testing and identify the perpetrator of any sexual assault, the assigned officer shall ensure that an information profile for the SAFE kit evidence has been created in the California Department of Justice (DOJ) SAFE-T database within 120 days of collection and should further ensure that the results of any such test have been timely entered into and checked against both the DOJ Cal-DNA database and the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) (Penal Code § 680.3).

If the assigned officer determines that a SAFE kit submitted to a private laboratory for analysis has not been tested within 120 days after submission, the officer shall update the SAFE-T database to reflect the reason for the delay in testing. The assigned officer shall continue to update the status every 120 days thereafter until the evidence has been analyzed or the statute of limitations has run (Penal Code § 680.3).

If, for any reason, DNA evidence in a sexual assault case in which the identity of the perpetrator is in issue and is not going to be analyzed within 18 months of the crime, the assigned officer shall notify the victim of such fact in writing no less than 60 days prior to the expiration of the 18-month period (Penal Code § 680).

Additional guidance regarding evidence retention and destruction is found in the Property and Evidence Policy.

602.8.2 DNA TEST RESULTS

A SART member should be consulted regarding the best way to deliver biological testing results to a victim so as to minimize victim trauma, especially in cases where there has been a significant

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delay in getting biological testing results (e.g., delays in testing the evidence or delayed DNA databank hits). Members should make reasonable efforts to assist the victim by providing available information on local assistance programs and organizations as provided in the Victim and Witness Assistance Policy.

(a) Upon receipt of a written request from a sexual assault victim or the victim's authorized designee, members investigating sexual assault cases shall inform the victim of the status of the DNA testing of any evidence from the victim's case (Penal Code § 680).

1. Although such information may be communicated orally, the assigned officer should thereafter follow-up with and retain a copy of confirmation by either written or electronic mail.

2. Absent a written request, no member of this department is required to, but may, communicate with the victim or the victim's authorized designee regarding the status of any DNA testing.

(b) Subject to the commitment of sufficient resources to respond to requests for information, sexual assault victims shall further have the following rights (Penal Code § 680):

1. To be informed if a DNA profile of the assailant was obtained from the testing of the SAFE kit or other crime scene evidence from their case.

2. To be informed if there is a match between the DNA profile of the assailant developed from the evidence and a DNA profile contained in the DOJ Convicted Offender DNA Database, providing that disclosure would not impede or compromise an ongoing investigation.

3. To be informed if the DNA profile of the assailant developed from the evidence has been entered into the DOJ Databank of case evidence.

(c) Provided that the sexual assault victim or the victim's authorized designee has kept the assigned officer informed with regard to current address, telephone number, and email address (if available), any victim or the victim's authorized designee shall, upon request, be advised of any known significant changes regarding the victim's case (Penal Code § 680).

1. Although such information may be communicated orally, the assigned officer should thereafter follow-up with and retain a copy of confirmation by either written or electronic mail.

2. No officer shall be required or expected to release any information which might impede or compromise any ongoing investigation.

602.8.3 STANDARDIZED SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC MEDICAL EVIDENCE KIT

The Property Room supervisor should make California standardized sexual assault forensic medical evidence (SAFE) kits available to members who may investigate sexual assault cases. Members investigating a sexual assault should use these SAFE kits when appropriate and follow related usage guidelines issued by the California Clinical Forensic Medical Training Center (Penal Code § 13823.14).

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602.9 DISPOSITION OF CASES

If the assigned investigator has reason to believe the case is without merit, the case may be classified as unfounded only upon review and approval of the Detective Bureau supervisor.

Classification of a sexual assault case as unfounded requires the Detective Bureau supervisor to determine that the facts have significant irregularities with reported information and that the incident could not have happened as it was reported. When a victim has recanted his/her original statement, there must be corroborating evidence that the allegations were false or baseless (i.e., no crime occurred) before the case should be determined as unfounded.

602.10 CASE REVIEW

The Detective Bureau supervisor should ensure case dispositions are reviewed on a periodic basis, at least annually, using an identified group that is independent of the investigation process. The reviews should include an analysis of:

- Case dispositions.
- Decisions to collect biological evidence.
- Submissions of biological evidence for lab testing.

The SART and/or victim advocates should be considered for involvement in this audit. Summary reports on these reviews should be forwarded through the chain of command to the Chief of Police.

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Asset Forfeiture

606.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy describes the authority and procedure for the seizure, forfeiture and liquidation of property associated with designated offenses.

606.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Fiscal agent - The person designated by the Chief of Police to be responsible for securing and maintaining seized assets and distributing any proceeds realized from any forfeiture proceedings. This includes any time the Ventura Police Department seizes property for forfeiture or when the Ventura Police Department is acting as the fiscal agent pursuant to a multi-agency agreement.

Forfeiture - The process by which legal ownership of an asset is transferred to a government or other authority.

Forfeiture reviewer - The department member assigned by the Chief of Police who is responsible for reviewing all forfeiture cases and for acting as the liaison between the Department and the assigned attorney.

Property subject to forfeiture - The following may be subject to forfeiture:

(a) Property related to a narcotics offense, which includes (Heath and Safety Code § 11470; Health and Safety Code § 11470.1):

1. Property (not including real property or vehicles) used, or intended for use, as a container for controlled substances, materials to manufacture controlled substances, etc.
2. Interest in a vehicle (car, boat, airplane, other vehicle) used to facilitate the manufacture, possession for sale or sale of specified quantities of controlled substances.
3. Money, negotiable instruments, securities or other things of value furnished or intended to be furnished by any person in exchange for a controlled substance, proceeds traceable to an exchange, etc.
4. Real property when the owner is convicted of violating Health and Safety Code § 11366, Health and Safety Code § 11366.5 or Health and Safety Code § 11366.6 (drug houses) when the property was not used as a family residence or for other lawful purposes, or property owned by two or more persons, one of whom had no knowledge of its unlawful use.
5. The expenses of seizing, eradicating, destroying or taking remedial action with respect to any controlled substance or its precursors upon conviction for the unlawful manufacture or cultivation of any controlled substance or its precursors.

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(b) Property related to criminal profiteering (may include gang crimes), to include (Penal Code § 186.2; Penal Code § 186.3):

1. Any property interest, whether tangible or intangible, acquired through a pattern of criminal profiteering activity.
2. All proceeds acquired through a pattern of criminal profiteering activity, including all things of value that may have been received in exchange for the proceeds immediately derived from the pattern of criminal profiteering activity.

Seizure - The act of law enforcement officials taking property, cash or assets that have been used in connection with or acquired by specified illegal activities.

606.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department recognizes that appropriately applied forfeiture laws are helpful to enforce the law, deter crime and reduce the economic incentive of crime. However, the potential for revenue should never compromise the effective investigation of criminal offenses, officer safety or any person's due process rights.

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department that all members, including those assigned to internal or external law enforcement task force operations, shall comply with all state and federal laws pertaining to forfeiture.

606.2.1 SPECIAL GUIDELINES APPLICABLE TO AUTOMOBILES

Special guidelines apply regarding the minimum amounts of controlled substances contained in a vehicle in order for it to be seized as a conveyance used to facilitate narcotic activity. The minimum amounts of a controlled substance within a vehicle are as follows:

- 14.25 grams (1/2 oz) or more of rock cocaine or a substance containing heroin;
- 28.5 grams (1 oz) or more of cut cocaine or methamphetamine;
- 57.0 grams (2 oz) of a substance containing cocaine or methamphetamine;
- 10 pounds of marijuana, peyote or psilocybin.

606.3 ASSET SEIZURE

Property may be seized for forfeiture as provided in this policy.

606.3.1 PROPERTY SUBJECT TO SEIZURE

The following may be seized upon review and approval of a supervisor and in coordination with the forfeiture reviewer:

(a) Property subject to forfeiture authorized for seizure under the authority of a search warrant or court order.

(b) Property subject to forfeiture not authorized for seizure under the authority of a search warrant or court order when any of the following apply (Health and Safety Code § 11471; Health and Safety Code § 11488):

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1. The property subject to forfeiture is legally seized incident to an arrest.
2. There is probable cause to believe that the property was used or is intended to be used in a violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act and the seizing officer can articulate a nexus between the property and the controlled substance offense that would lead to the item being property subject for forfeiture.

Officers aware of assets that may be forfeitable as a result of criminal profiteering or human trafficking should consider contacting the district attorney regarding a court order to protect the assets (Penal Code § 186.6; Penal Code § 236.6).

Whenever practicable, a search warrant or court order for seizure prior to making a seizure is the preferred method.

A large amount of money standing alone is insufficient to establish the probable cause required to make a seizure.

606.3.2 PROPERTY NOT SUBJECT TO SEIZURE
The following property should not be seized for forfeiture:

(a) Cash and property that does not meet the forfeiture counsel's current minimum forfeiture thresholds should not be seized.

(b) Real property is not subject to seizure, absent exigent circumstances, without a court order (Health and Safety Code § 11471).

(c) A vehicle which may be lawfully driven on the highway if there is a community property interest in the vehicle by a person other than the suspect and the vehicle is the sole vehicle available to the suspect's immediate family (Health and Safety Code § 11470).

(d) Vehicles, boats or airplanes owned by an "innocent owner," such as a common carrier with no knowledge of the suspected offense (Health and Safety Code § 11490).

(e) Any property when the associated activity involves the possession of marijuana or related paraphernalia that is permissible under the Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act (Health and Safety Code § 11362.1).

606.4 PROCESSING SEIZED PROPERTY FOR FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS

When property or cash subject to this policy is seized, the officer making the seizure should ensure compliance with the following:

(a) Complete applicable seizure forms and present the appropriate copy to the person from whom the property is seized. If cash or property is seized from more than one person, a separate copy must be provided to each person, specifying the items seized. When property is seized and no one claims an interest in the property, the officer must leave the copy in the place where the property was found, if it is reasonable to do so.

(b) Complete and submit a report and original seizure forms within 24 hours of the seizure, if practicable.

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(c) Forward the original seizure forms and related reports to the forfeiture reviewer within two days of seizure.

The officer will book seized property as evidence with the notation in the comment section of the property form, “Seized Subject to Forfeiture.” Property seized subject to forfeiture should be booked on a separate property form. No other evidence from the case should be booked on this form.

Photographs should be taken of items seized, particularly cash, jewelry and other valuable items.

Officers who suspect property may be subject to seizure but are not able to seize the property (e.g., the property is located elsewhere, the whereabouts of the property is unknown, it is real estate, bank accounts, non-tangible assets) should document and forward the information in the appropriate report to the forfeiture reviewer.

606.5 MAINTAINING SEIZED PROPERTY

The Property Room Supervisor is responsible for ensuring compliance with the following:

(a) All property received for forfeiture is reasonably secured and properly stored to prevent waste and preserve its condition.

(b) All property received for forfeiture is checked to determine if the property has been stolen.

(c) All property received for forfeiture is retained in the same manner as evidence until forfeiture is finalized or the property is returned to the claimant or the person with an ownership interest.

(d) Property received for forfeiture is not used unless the forfeiture action has been completed.

606.6 FORFEITURE REVIEWER

The Chief of Police will appoint an officer as the forfeiture reviewer. Prior to assuming duties, or as soon as practicable thereafter, the forfeiture reviewer should attend a department-approved course on asset forfeiture.

The responsibilities of the forfeiture reviewer include:

(a) Remaining familiar with forfeiture laws, particularly Health and Safety Code § 11469 et seq. and Penal Code § 186.2 et seq. and the forfeiture policies of the forfeiture counsel.

(b) Serving as the liaison between the Department and the forfeiture counsel and ensuring prompt legal review of all seizures.

(c) Making reasonable efforts to obtain annual training that includes best practices in pursuing, seizing and tracking forfeitures.

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(d) Reviewing each seizure-related case and deciding whether the seizure is more appropriately made under state or federal seizure laws. The forfeiture reviewer should contact federal authorities when appropriate.

(e) Ensuring that responsibilities, including the designation of a fiscal agent, are clearly established whenever multiple agencies are cooperating in a forfeiture case.

(f) Ensuring that seizure forms are available and appropriate for department use. These should include notice forms, a receipt form and a checklist that provides relevant guidance to officers. The forms should be available in languages appropriate for the region and should contain spaces for:

1. Names and contact information for all relevant persons and law enforcement officers involved.
2. Information as to how ownership or other property interests may have been determined (e.g., verbal claims of ownership, titles, public records).
3. A space for the signature of the person from whom cash or property is being seized.
4. A tear-off portion or copy, which should be given to the person from whom cash or property is being seized, that includes the legal authority for the seizure, information regarding the process to contest the seizure and a detailed description of the items seized.

(g) Ensuring that officers who may be involved in asset forfeiture receive training in the proper use of the seizure forms and the forfeiture process. The training should be developed in consultation with the appropriate legal counsel and may be accomplished through traditional classroom education, electronic media, Daily Training Bulletins (DTBs) or Department Directives. The training should cover this policy and address any relevant statutory changes and court decisions.

(h) Reviewing each asset forfeiture case to ensure that:

1. Written documentation of the seizure and the items seized is in the case file.
2. Independent legal review of the circumstances and propriety of the seizure is made in a timely manner.
3. Notice of seizure has been given in a timely manner to those who hold an interest in the seized property.
4. Property is promptly released to those entitled to its return (Health and Safety Code § 11488.2).
5. All changes to forfeiture status are forwarded to any supervisor who initiates a forfeiture case.
6. Any cash received is deposited with the fiscal agent.

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7. Assistance with the resolution of ownership claims and the release of property to those entitled is provided.
8. Current minimum forfeiture thresholds are communicated appropriately to officers.
9. This policy and any related policies are periodically reviewed and updated to reflect current federal and state statutes and case law.

(i) Ensuring that a written plan that enables the Chief of Police to address any extended absence of the forfeiture reviewer, thereby ensuring that contact information for other law enforcement officers and attorneys who may assist in these matters is available.

(j) Ensuring that the process of selling or adding forfeited property to the department's regular inventory is in accordance with all applicable laws and consistent with the department's use and disposition of similar property.

(k) Keeping a manual that details the statutory grounds for forfeitures and department procedures related to asset forfeiture, including procedures for prompt notice to interest holders, the expeditious release of seized property, where appropriate, and the prompt resolution of claims of innocent ownership (Heath and Safety Code § 11469).

(l) Providing copies of seized business records to the person or business from whom such records were seized, when requested (Heath and Safety Code §11471).

(m) Notifying the California Franchise Tax Board when there is reasonable cause to believe that the value of seized property exceeds $5,000.00 (Health and Safety Code § 11471.5).

Forfeiture proceeds should be maintained in a separate fund or account subject to appropriate accounting control, with regular reviews or audits of all deposits and expenditures.

Forfeiture reporting and expenditures should be completed in the manner prescribed by the law and City financial directives (Health and Safety Code § 11495).

606.7 DISPOSITION OF FORFEITED PROPERTY

Forfeited funds distributed under Health and Safety Code § 11489 et seq. shall only be used for purposes allowed by law, but in no case shall a peace officer's employment or salary depend upon the level of seizures or forfeitures he/she achieves (Heath and Safety Code § 11469).

The Department may request a court order so that certain uncontaminated science equipment is relinquished to a school or school district for science classroom education in lieu of destruction (Health and Safety Code § 11473; Health and Safety Code § 11473.5).

606.7.1 RECEIVING EQUITABLE SHARES

When participating in a joint investigation with a federal agency, the Ventura Police Department shall not receive an equitable share from the federal agency of all or a portion of the forfeiture

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proceeds absent either a required conviction under Health and Safety Code § 11471.2 or the flight, death or willful failure to appear of the defendant. This does not apply to forfeited cash or negotiable instruments of $40,000 or more.

606.8 CLAIM INVESTIGATIONS

An investigation shall be made as to any claimant of a vehicle, boat or airplane whose right, title, interest or lien is on the record in the Department of Motor Vehicles or in an appropriate federal agency. If investigation reveals that any person, other than the registered owner, is the legal owner, and that ownership did not arise subsequent to the date and time of arrest or notification of the forfeiture proceedings or seizure of the vehicle, boat or airplane, notice shall be made to the legal owner at his/her address appearing on the records of the Department of Motor Vehicles or the appropriate federal agency (Health and Safety Code § 11488.4).

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Informants

608.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

In many instances, a successful investigation cannot be conducted without the use of confidential informants. To protect the integrity of the Ventura Police Department and the officers using informants, it shall be the policy of this department to take appropriate precautions by developing sound informant policies.

608.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Informant - A person who covertly interacts with other individuals or suspects at the direction of, request of, or by agreement with, the Ventura Police Department for law enforcement purposes. This also includes a person agreeing to supply information to the Ventura Police Department for a benefit (e.g., a quid pro quo in the form of a reduced criminal penalty, money).

608.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department recognizes the value of informants to law enforcement efforts and will strive to protect the integrity of the informant process. It is the policy of this department that all funds related to informant payments will be routinely audited and that payments to informants will be made according to the criteria outlined in this policy.

608.3 USE OF INFORMANTS

608.3.1 INITIAL APPROVAL

Before using an individual as an informant, an officer must receive approval from the SCU or Major Crimes Sergeant. The officer shall compile sufficient information through a background investigation and experience with the informant in order to determine the suitability of the individual, including age, maturity and risk of physical harm, as well as any indicators of his/her reliability and credibility.

Members of this department should not guarantee absolute safety or confidentiality to an informant.

608.3.2 JUVENILE INFORMANTS

The use of informants under the age of 13 is prohibited.

Except for the enforcement of laws related to the commercial sale of alcohol or tobacco products the use of any juvenile 13 years of age or older as an informant is only permitted when authorized by court order (Penal Code § 701.5).

In all cases, a juvenile 13 years of age or older may only be used as an informant with the written consent of each of the following:

(a) The juvenile’s parents or legal guardians

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(b) The juvenile's attorney, if any

(c) The court in which the juvenile's case is being handled, if applicable

(d) The Chief of Police or the authorized designee

608.3.3 INFORMANT AGREEMENTS

All informants are required to sign and abide by the provisions of the designated department informant agreement. The officer using the informant shall discuss each of the provisions of the agreement with the informant.

Details of the agreement are to be approved in writing by a supervisor before being finalized with the informant.

608.4 INFORMANT INTEGRITY

To maintain the integrity of the informant process, the following must be adhered to:

(a) The identity of an informant acting in a confidential capacity shall not be withheld from the Chief of Police, Assistant Chief, Street Crimes Unit supervisor or their authorized designees.

1. Identities of informants acting in a confidential capacity shall otherwise be kept confidential.

(b) Criminal activity by informants shall not be condoned.

(c) Informants shall be told they are not acting as police officers, employees or agents of the Ventura Police Department, and that they shall not represent themselves as such.

(d) The relationship between department members and informants shall always be ethical and professional.

1. Members shall not become intimately involved with an informant.

2. Social contact shall be avoided unless it is necessary to conduct an official investigation, and only with prior approval of the Street Crimes Unit supervisor.

3. Members shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities or engage in any private business transaction with an informant.

(e) Officers shall not meet with informants in a private place unless accompanied by at least one additional officer or with prior approval of the Street Crimes Unit supervisor.

1. Officers may meet informants alone in an occupied public place, such as a restaurant.

(f) When contacting informants for the purpose of making payments, officers shall arrange for the presence of another officer.

(g) In all instances when department funds are paid to informants, a voucher shall be completed in advance, itemizing the expenses.

(h) Since the decision rests with the appropriate prosecutor, officers shall not promise that the informant will receive any form of leniency or immunity from criminal prosecution.

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608.4.1 UNSUITABLE INFORMANTS

The suitability of any informant should be considered before engaging him/her in any way in a covert or other investigative process. Members who become aware that an informant may be unsuitable will notify the supervisor, who will initiate a review to determine suitability. Until a determination has been made by a supervisor, the informant should not be used by any member. The supervisor shall determine whether the informant should be used by the Department and, if so, what conditions will be placed on his/her participation or any information the informant provides. The supervisor shall document the decision and conditions in file notes and mark the file “unsuitable” when appropriate.

Considerations for determining whether an informant is unsuitable include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) The informant has provided untruthful or unreliable information in the past.

(b) The informant behaves in a way that may endanger the safety of an officer.

(c) The informant reveals to suspects the identity of an officer or the existence of an investigation.

(d) The informant appears to be using his/her affiliation with this department to further criminal objectives.

(e) The informant creates officer-safety issues by providing information to multiple law enforcement agencies simultaneously, without prior notification and approval of each agency.

(f) The informant engages in any other behavior that could jeopardize the safety of officers or the integrity of a criminal investigation.

(g) The informant commits criminal acts subsequent to entering into an informant agreement.

608.5 INFORMANT FILES

Informant files shall be utilized as a source of background information about the informant, to enable review and evaluation of information provided by the informant, and to minimize incidents that could be used to question the integrity of department members or the reliability of the informant.

Informant files shall be maintained in a secure area within the Street Crimes Unit. The Street Crimes Unit supervisor or the authorized designee shall be responsible for maintaining informant files. Access to the informant files shall be restricted to the Chief of Police, Assistant Chief, Street Crimes Unit supervisor or their authorized designees.

The Investigation Assistant Chief should arrange for an audit using a representative sample of randomly selected informant files on a periodic basis, but no less than one time per year. If the Street Crimes Unit supervisor is replaced, the files will be audited before the new supervisor takes over management of the files. The purpose of the audit is to ensure compliance with file content and updating provisions of this policy. The audit should be conducted by a supervisor who does not have normal access to the informant files.

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608.5.1 FILE SYSTEM PROCEDURE

A separate file shall be maintained on each informant and shall be coded with an assigned informant control number. An informant history that includes the following information shall be prepared for each file:

(a) Name and aliases

(b) Date of birth

(c) Physical description: sex, race, height, weight, hair color, eye color, scars, tattoos or other distinguishing features

(d) Photograph

(e) Current home address and telephone numbers

(f) Current employers, positions, addresses and telephone numbers

(g) Vehicles owned and registration information

(h) Places frequented

(i) Briefs of information provided by the informant and his/her subsequent reliability

1. If an informant is determined to be unsuitable, the informant's file is to be marked "unsuitable" and notations included detailing the issues that caused this classification.

(j) Name of the officer initiating use of the informant

(k) Signed informant agreement

(l) Update on active or inactive status of informant

608.6 INFORMANT PAYMENTS

No informant will be told in advance or given an exact amount or percentage for his/her service. The amount of funds to be paid to any informant will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- The extent of the informant's personal involvement in the case
- The significance, value or effect on crime
- The value of assets seized
- The quantity of the drugs or other contraband seized
- The informant’s previous criminal activity
- The level of risk taken by the informant

The Street Crimes Unit supervisor will discuss the above factors with the Investigations Assistant Chief and recommend the type and level of payment subject to approval by the Chief of Police.

608.6.1 PAYMENT PROCESS

Approved payments to an informant should be in cash using the following process:

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(a) Payments of $500 and under may be paid in cash from a Street Crimes Unit buy/expense fund.

1. The Street Crimes Unit supervisor shall sign the voucher for cash payouts from the buy/expense fund.

(b) Payments exceeding $500 shall be made by issuance of a check, payable to the officer who will be delivering the payment.

1. The check shall list the case numbers related to and supporting the payment.
2. A written statement of the informant's involvement in the case shall be placed in the informant's file.
3. The statement shall be signed by the informant verifying the statement as a true summary of his/her actions in the case.
4. Authorization signatures from the Chief of Police and the City Manager are required for disbursement of the funds.

(c) To complete the payment process for any amount, the officer delivering the payment shall complete a cash transfer form.

1. The cash transfer form shall include the following:
   (a) Date
   (b) Payment amount
   (c) Ventura Police Department case number
   (d) A statement that the informant is receiving funds in payment for information voluntarily rendered.
2. The cash transfer form shall include the informant's control number.
3. A record of the cash transfer shall be documented in the informant's file.

608.6.2 REPORTING OF PAYMENTS

Each informant receiving a cash payment shall be advised of his/her responsibility to report the cash to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as income. If funds distributed exceed $600 in any reporting year, the informant should be provided IRS Form 1099 (26 CFR 1.6041-1). If such documentation or reporting may reveal the identity of the informant and by doing so jeopardize any investigation, the safety of officers or the safety of the informant (26 CFR 1.6041-3), then IRS Form 1099 should not be issued.

In such cases, the informant shall be provided a letter identifying the amount he/she must report on a tax return as “other income” and shall be required to provide a signed acknowledgement of receipt of the letter. The completed acknowledgement form and a copy of the letter shall be retained in the informant’s file.

608.6.3 AUDIT OF PAYMENTS

The Street Crimes Unit supervisor or the authorized designee shall be responsible for compliance with any audit requirements associated with grant provisions and applicable state and federal law.

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Informants

At least once every six months, the Chief of Police or the authorized designee should conduct an audit of all informant funds for the purpose of accountability and security of the funds. The funds and related documents (e.g., buy/expense fund records, cash transfer forms, invoices, receipts and logs) will assist with the audit process.

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Eyewitness Identification

610.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy sets forth guidelines to be used when members of this department employ eyewitness identification techniques (Penal Code § 859.7).

610.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to the policy include:

Eyewitness identification process - Any field identification, live lineup or photographic identification.

Field identification - A live presentation of a single individual to a witness following the commission of a criminal offense for the purpose of identifying or eliminating the person as the suspect.

Live lineup - A live presentation of individuals to a witness for the purpose of identifying or eliminating an individual as the suspect.

Photographic lineup - Presentation of photographs to a witness for the purpose of identifying or eliminating an individual as the suspect.

Blind administration - The administrator of an eyewitness identification procedure does not know the identity of the suspect.

Blinded administration - The administrator of an eyewitness identification procedure may know who the suspect is, but does not know where the suspect, or his or her photo, as applicable, has been placed or positioned in the identification procedure through the use of any of the following:

(a) An automated computer program that prevents the administrator from seeing which photos the eyewitness is viewing until after the identification procedure is completed.

(b) The folder shuffle method, which refers to a system for conducting a photo lineup by placing photographs in folders, randomly numbering the folders, shuffling the folders, and then presenting the folders sequentially so that the administrator cannot see or track which photograph is being presented to the eyewitness until after the procedure is completed.

(c) Any other procedure that achieves neutral administration and prevents the lineup administrator from knowing where the suspect or his or her photo, as applicable, has been placed or positioned in the identification procedure.

610.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department will strive to use eyewitness identification techniques, when appropriate, to enhance the investigative process and will emphasize identifying persons responsible for crime and exonerating the innocent.

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610.3 INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

Members should make a reasonable effort to arrange for an interpreter before proceeding with eyewitness identification if communication with a witness is impeded due to language or hearing barriers.

Before the interpreter is permitted to discuss any matter with the witness, the investigating member should explain the identification process to the interpreter. Once it is determined that the interpreter comprehends the process and can explain it to the witness, the eyewitness identification may proceed as provided for within this policy.

610.4 EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION PROCESS AND FORM

The Detective Bureau supervisor shall be responsible for the development and maintenance of an eyewitness identification process for use by members when they are conducting eyewitness identifications.

The process should include appropriate forms or reports that provide (Penal Code § 859.7):

(a) The date, time and location of the eyewitness identification procedure.

(b) The name and identifying information of the witness.

(c) The name of the person administering the identification procedure.

(d) If applicable, the names of all of the individuals present during the identification procedure.

(e) An instruction to the witness that it is as important to exclude innocent persons as it is to identify a perpetrator.

(f) An instruction to the witness that the perpetrator may or may not be among those presented and that the witness is not obligated to make an identification.

(g) If the identification process is a photographic or live lineup, an instruction to the witness that the perpetrator may not appear exactly as he/she did on the date of the incident.

(h) An instruction to the witness that the investigation will continue regardless of whether an identification is made by the witness.

(i) A signature line where the witness acknowledges that he/she understands the identification procedures and instructions.

(j) A statement from the witness in the witness's own words describing how certain he/she is of the identification or non-identification. This statement should be taken at the time of the identification procedure.

(k) Any other direction to meet the requirements of Penal Code § 859.7, including direction regarding blind or blinded administrations and filler selection.

The process and related forms should be reviewed at least annually and modified when necessary.

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610.5 EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION

Members are cautioned not to, in any way, influence a witness as to whether any subject or photo presented in a lineup is in any way connected to the case.

Members should avoid mentioning that:

- The individual was apprehended near the crime scene.
- The evidence points to the individual as the suspect.
- Other witnesses have identified or failed to identify the individual as the suspect.

In order to avoid undue influence, witnesses should view suspects or a lineup individually and outside the presence of other witnesses. Witnesses should be instructed to avoid discussing details of the incident or of the identification process with other witnesses.

The eyewitness identification procedure should be audio and video recorded and the recording should be retained according to current evidence procedures. When it is not feasible to make a recording with both audio and visual representations, an audio recording should be made (Penal Code § 859.7).

610.6 DOCUMENTATION

A thorough description of the eyewitness process and the result of any eyewitness identification should be documented in the case report.

If a photographic lineup is utilized, a copy of the photographic lineup presented to the witness should be included in the case report. In addition, the order in which the photographs were presented to the witness should be documented in the case report.

610.6.1 DOCUMENTATION RELATED TO RECORDINGS

The handling member shall document the reason that a video recording or any other recording of an identification was not obtained (Penal Code § 859.7).

610.6.2 DOCUMENTATION RELATED TO BLIND ADMINISTRATION

If a presentation of a lineup is not conducted using blind administration, the handling member shall document the reason (Penal Code § 859.7).

610.7 PHOTOGRAPHIC LINEUP AND LIVE LINEUP CONSIDERATIONS

When practicable, the member presenting the lineup should not be involved in the investigation of the case or know the identity of the suspect. In no case should the member presenting a lineup to a witness know which photograph or person in the lineup is being viewed by the witness (Penal Code § 859.7). Techniques to achieve this include randomly numbering photographs, shuffling folders, or using a computer program to order the persons in the lineup.

Individuals in the lineup should reasonably match the description of the perpetrator provided by the witness and should bear similar characteristics to avoid causing any person to unreasonably stand

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out. In cases involving multiple suspects, a separate lineup should be conducted for each suspect. The suspects should be placed in a different order within each lineup (Penal Code § 859.7).

The member presenting the lineup should do so sequentially (i.e., show the witness one person at a time) and not simultaneously. The witness should view all persons in the lineup.

A live lineup should only be used before criminal proceedings have been initiated against the suspect. If there is any question as to whether any criminal proceedings have begun, the investigating member should contact the appropriate prosecuting attorney before proceeding.

610.7.1 OTHER SAFEGUARDS

Witnesses should be asked for suspect descriptions as close in time to the incident as possible and before conducting an eyewitness identification. No information concerning a suspect should be given prior to obtaining a statement from the witness describing how certain he/she is of the identification or non-identification. Members should not say anything to a witness that may validate or invalidate an eyewitness' identification. In photographic lineups, writings or information concerning any previous arrest of a suspect shall not be visible to the witness (Penal Code § 859.7).

610.8 FIELD IDENTIFICATION CONSIDERATIONS

Field identifications, also known as field elimination show-ups or one-on-one identifications, may be helpful in certain cases, where exigent circumstances make it impracticable to conduct a photo or live lineup identifications. A field elimination, show-up, or one-on-one identification may not be necessary when independent probable cause exists to arrest a suspect.

When initiating a field identification, the member should observe the following guidelines:

(a) Obtain a complete description of the suspect from the witness.

(b) Assess whether a witness should be included in a field identification process by considering:

1. The length of time the witness observed the suspect.
2. The distance between the witness and the suspect.
3. Whether the witness could view the suspect’s face.
4. The quality of the lighting when the suspect was observed by the witness.
5. Whether there were distracting noises or activity during the observation.
6. Any other circumstances affecting the witness’s opportunity to observe the suspect.
7. The length of time that has elapsed since the witness observed the suspect.

(c) If safe and practicable, the person who is the subject of the show-up should not be handcuffed or in a patrol vehicle.

(d) When feasible, members should bring the witness to the location of the subject of the show-up, rather than bring the subject of the show-up to the witness.

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(e) The person who is the subject of the show-up should not be shown to the same witness more than once.

(f) In cases involving multiple suspects, witnesses should only be permitted to view the subjects of the show-up one at a time.

(g) The person who is the subject of the show-up should not be required to put on clothing worn by the suspect, to speak words uttered by the suspect or to perform other actions mimicking those of the suspect.

(h) If a witness positively identifies a subject of the show-up as the suspect, members should not conduct any further field identifications with other witnesses for that suspect. In such instances members should document the contact information for any additional witnesses for follow up, if necessary.

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Brady Material Disclosure

612.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines for identifying and releasing potentially exculpatory or impeachment information (so-called "*Brady* information") to a prosecuting attorney.

612.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

***Brady* information** -Information known or possessed by the Ventura Police Department that is both favorable and material to the current prosecution or defense of a criminal defendant.

612.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department will conduct fair and impartial criminal investigations and will provide the prosecution with both incriminating and exculpatory evidence, as well as information that may adversely affect the credibility of a witness. In addition to reporting all evidence of guilt, the Ventura Police Department will assist the prosecution by complying with its obligation to disclose information that is both favorable and material to the defense. The Department will identify and disclose to the prosecution potentially exculpatory information, as provided in this policy.

612.3 DISCLOSURE OF INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION

Officers must include in their investigative reports adequate investigative information and reference to all material evidence and facts that are reasonably believed to be either incriminating or exculpatory to any individual in the case. If an officer learns of potentially incriminating or exculpatory information any time after submission of a case, the officer or the handling investigator must prepare and submit a supplemental report documenting such information as soon as practicable. Supplemental reports shall be promptly processed and transmitted to the prosecutor's office.

If information is believed to be privileged or confidential (e.g., confidential informant or attorney-client information, attorney work product), the officer should discuss the matter with a supervisor and/or prosecutor to determine the appropriate manner in which to proceed.

Evidence or facts are considered material if there is a reasonable probability that they would affect the outcome of a criminal proceeding or trial. Determining whether evidence or facts are material often requires legal or even judicial review. If an officer is unsure whether evidence or facts are material, the officer should address the issue with a supervisor.

Supervisors who are uncertain about whether evidence or facts are material should address the issue in a written memo to an appropriate prosecutor. A copy of the memo should be retained in the Department case file.

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612.4 DISCLOSURE OF PERSONNEL INFORMATION

Whenever it is determined that *Brady* information is located in the personnel file of a member of this department who is a material witness in a criminal case, the following procedure shall apply:

(a) In the event that a *Pitchess* motion has not already been filed by the criminal defendant or other party pursuant to Evidence Code § 1043, the prosecuting attorney shall be notified of the potential presence of *Brady* information in the officer's personnel file.

(b) The prosecuting attorney should then be requested to file a *Pitchess* motion in order to initiate an in camera review by the court.

(c) Any member who is the subject of such a motion shall be notified in writing that a motion has been filed.

(d) The Custodian of Records shall accompany all relevant files during any in camera inspection and address any issues or questions raised by the court in determining whether any information contained in the files is both material and favorable to the criminal defendant.

(e) If the court determines that there is relevant *Brady* information contained in the files, only that information ordered released will be copied and released to the parties filing the motion.

1. Prior to the release of any information pursuant to this process, the Custodian of Records should request a protective order from the court limiting the use of such information to the involved case and requiring the return of all copies upon completion of the case.

612.5 INVESTIGATING BRADY ISSUES

If the Department receives information from any source that a member may have issues of credibility, dishonesty or has been engaged in an act of moral turpitude or criminal conduct, the information shall be investigated and processed in accordance with the Personnel Complaints Policy.

612.6 TRAINING

Department members should receive periodic training on the requirements of this policy.

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Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Operations

613.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of an unmanned aerial system (UAS) and for the storage, retrieval and dissemination of images and data captured by the UAS.

613.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) - An unmanned aircraft of any type that is capable of sustaining directed flight, whether preprogrammed or remotely controlled (commonly referred to as an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)), and all of the supporting or attached systems designed for gathering information through imaging, recording or any other means.

613.2 POLICY

Unmanned aerial systems may be utilized to enhance the department's mission of protecting lives and property when other means and resources are not available or are less effective. Any use of a UAS will be in strict accordance with constitutional and privacy rights and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations.

613.3 PRIVACY

The use of the UAS potentially involves privacy considerations. Absent a warrant or exigent circumstances, operators and observers shall adhere to FAA altitude regulations and shall not intentionally record or transmit images of any location where a person would have a reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g., residence, yard, enclosure). Operators and observers shall take reasonable precautions to avoid inadvertently recording or transmitting images of areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Reasonable precautions can include, for example, deactivating or turning imaging devices away from such areas or persons during UAS operations.

613.4 PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Chief of Police will appoint a program coordinator who will be responsible for the management of the UAS program. The program coordinator will ensure that policies and procedures conform to current laws, regulations and best practices and will have the following additional responsibilities:

- Coordinating the FAA Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (COA) application process and ensuring that the COA is current. If no COA is used or needed, maintain appropriate licensing and training as required by 14 CFR Part 107 through the FAA.
- Ensuring that all authorized operators and required observers have completed all required FAA and department-approved training in the operation, applicable laws, policies and procedures regarding the use of the UAS.
- Developing uniform protocol for submission and evaluation of requests to deploy a UAS, including urgent requests made during ongoing or emerging incidents.

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Deployment of a UAS shall require authorization from the Watch Commander or on-duty sergeant.

- Developing a protocol for conducting criminal investigations involving a UAS, including documentation of time spent monitoring a subject.
- Implementing a system for public notification of UAS deployment.
- Developing an operational protocol governing the deployment and operation of a UAS including, but not limited to, safety oversight, use of visual observers, the establishment of lost link procedures and secure communication with air traffic control facilities.
- Developing a protocol for fully documenting all missions.
- Developing a UAS inspection, maintenance, and record-keeping protocol to ensure continuing airworthiness of a UAS, up to and including its overhaul or life limits.
- Developing protocols to ensure that all data intended to be used as evidence are accessed, maintained, stored and retrieved in a manner that ensures its integrity as evidence, including strict adherence to the chain of custody requirements. Electronic trails, including encryption, authenticity certificates and date and time stamping, shall be used as appropriate to preserve individual rights and to ensure the authenticity and maintenance of a secure evidentiary chain of custody.
- Developing protocols that ensure retention and purge periods are maintained in accordance with established records retention schedules.
- Facilitating law enforcement access to images and data captured by the UAS.
- Recommending program enhancements, particularly regarding safety and information security.
- Ensuring that established protocols are followed by monitoring and providing periodic reports on the program to the Chief of Police.

613.5 USE OF UAS

Only authorized operators who have completed the required training shall be permitted to operate the UAS.

Use of vision enhancement technology (e.g., thermal and other imaging equipment not generally available to the public) is permissible in viewing areas only where there is no protectable privacy interest or when in compliance with a search warrant, court order or exigent circumstances. In all other instances, legal counsel should be consulted.

UAS operations should only be conducted during daylight hours unless the operator is endorsed for nighttime operations.

613.6 PROHIBITED USE

The UAS video surveillance equipment shall not be used:

- To conduct random surveillance activities.

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- To target a person based solely on actual or perceived characteristics, such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, age, cultural group, or disability.
- To harass, intimidate, or discriminate against any individual or group.
- To conduct personal business of any type.

The UAS shall not be weaponized.

613.7 RETENTION OF UAS DATA

Data collected by the UAS shall be retained as provided in the established records retention schedule.

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Warrant Service

614.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines for the planning and serving of arrest and search warrants by members of this department. It is understood that this policy cannot address every variable or circumstance that can arise in the service of a search or arrest warrant, as these tasks can involve rapidly evolving and unique circumstances.

This policy is intended to be used in conjunction with the Operations Planning and Deconfliction Policy, which has additional guidance on planning and serving high-risk warrants.

This policy is not intended to address the service of search warrants on locations or property already secured or routine field warrant arrests by patrol officers.

614.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department to balance the safety needs of the public, the safety of department members, privacy interests and other relevant factors when making decisions related to the service of search and arrest warrants.

614.3 OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

The operations director (see the Operations Planning and Deconfliction Policy) shall review all risk assessment forms with the involved supervisor to determine the risk level of the warrant service.

The operations director will also have the responsibility to coordinate service of those warrants that are categorized as high risk. Deconfliction, risk assessment, operational planning, briefing and debriefing should follow guidelines in the Operations Planning and Deconfliction Policy.

614.4 SEARCH WARRANTS

Officers should receive authorization from a supervisor before preparing a search warrant application. Once authorization is received, the officer will prepare the affidavit and search warrant, consulting with the applicable prosecuting attorney as needed. He/she will also complete the risk assessment form and submit it, along with the warrant affidavit, to the appropriate supervisor and the operations director for review and classification of risk (see the Operations Planning and Deconfliction Policy).

614.5 ARREST WARRANTS

If an officer reasonably believes that serving an arrest warrant may pose a higher risk than commonly faced on a daily basis, the officer should complete the risk assessment form and submit it to the appropriate supervisor and the operations director for review and classification of risk (see the Operations Planning and Deconfliction Policy).

If the warrant is classified as high risk, service will be coordinated by the operations director. If the warrant is not classified as high risk, the supervisor should weigh the risk of entry into a residence

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to make an arrest against other alternatives, such as arresting the person outside the residence where circumstances may pose a lower risk.

614.6 WARRANT PREPARATION

An officer who prepares a warrant should ensure the documentation in support of the warrant contains as applicable:

(a) Probable cause to support the search or arrest, including relevant dates and times to demonstrate timeliness and facts to support any request for nighttime warrant execution.

(b) A clear explanation of the affiant's training, experience and relevant education.

(c) Adequately supported opinions, when relevant, that are not left to unsubstantiated conclusions.

(d) A nexus between the place to be searched and the persons or items central to the investigation. The facts supporting this nexus should be clear and current. For example, the affidavit shall explain why there is probable cause to believe that a particular person is currently residing at a particular location or that the items sought are present at a particular location.

(e) Full disclosure of known or suspected residents at the involved location and any indication of separate living spaces at the involved location. For example, it should be disclosed that several people may be renting bedrooms at a single location, even if the exact location of the rooms is not known.

(f) A specific description of the location to be searched, including photographs of the location, if reasonably available.

(g) A sufficient description of the items to be seized.

(h) Full disclosure of any known exculpatory information relevant to the warrant application (refer to the Brady Material Disclosure Policy).

614.7 HIGH-RISK WARRANT SERVICE

The operations director or the authorized designee shall coordinate the service of warrants that are categorized as high risk and shall have sole authority in determining the manner in which the warrant will be served, including the number of officers deployed.

The member responsible for directing the service should ensure the following as applicable:

(a) When practicable and when doing so does not cause unreasonable risk, video or photographic documentation is made of the condition of the location prior to execution of a search warrant. The images should include the surrounding area and persons present.

(b) The warrant service is audio- and video-recorded when practicable and reasonable to do so.

(c) Evidence is handled and collected only by those members who are designated to do so. All other members involved in the service of the warrant should alert one of the

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designated members to the presence of potential evidence and not touch or disturb the items.

(d) Reasonable efforts are made during the search to maintain or restore the condition of the location.

(e) Persons who are detained as part of the warrant service are handled appropriately under the circumstances.

(f) Reasonable care provisions are made for children and dependent adults (see the Child and Dependent Adult Safety Policy).

(g) A list is made of all items seized and a copy provided to the person in charge of the premises if present or otherwise left in a conspicuous place.

(h) A copy of the search warrant is left at the location.

(i) The condition of the property is documented with video recording or photographs after the search.

614.8 DETENTIONS DURING WARRANT SERVICE

Officers must be sensitive to the safety risks of all persons involved with the service of a warrant. Depending on circumstances and facts present, it may be appropriate to control movements of any or all persons present at a warrant service, including those who may not be the subject of a warrant or suspected in the case. However, officers must be mindful that only reasonable force may be used and weapons should be displayed no longer than the officer reasonably believes is necessary (see the Use of Force Policy).

As soon as it can be determined that an individual is not subject to the scope of a warrant and that no further reasonable suspicion or safety concerns exist to justify further detention, the person should be promptly released.

Officers should, when and to the extent reasonable, accommodate the privacy and personal needs of people who have been detained.

614.9 ACTIONS AFTER WARRANT SERVICE

The supervisor shall ensure that all affidavits, warrants, receipts and returns, regardless of any associated cases, are filed with the issuing judge or magistrate as soon as reasonably possible, but in any event no later than any date specified on the warrant.

614.10 OUTSIDE AGENCIES AND CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL WARRANTS

The operations director will ensure that cooperative efforts with other agencies in the service of warrants conform to existing mutual aid agreements or other memorandums of understanding and will work cooperatively to mitigate risks including, but not limited to, the following:

- Identity of team members
- Roles and responsibilities
- Familiarity with equipment

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- Rules of engagement
- Asset forfeiture procedures

Any outside agency requesting assistance in the service of a warrant within this jurisdiction should be referred to the operations director. The director should review and confirm the warrant, including the warrant location, and should discuss the service with the appropriate supervisor from the other agency. The director should ensure that members of the Ventura Police Department are utilized appropriately. Any concerns regarding the requested use of Ventura Police Department members should be brought to the attention of the Chief of Police or the authorized designee. The actual service of the warrant will remain the responsibility of the agency requesting assistance.

If the operations director is unavailable, the Watch Commander should assume this role.

If officers intend to serve a warrant outside Ventura Police Department jurisdiction, the operations director should provide reasonable advance notice to the applicable agency, request assistance as needed and work cooperatively on operational planning and the mitigation of risks detailed in this policy.

Officers will remain subject to the policies of the Ventura Police Department when assisting outside agencies or serving a warrant outside Ventura Police Department jurisdiction.

614.11 MEDIA ACCESS

No advance information regarding warrant service operations shall be released without the approval of the Chief of Police. Any media inquiries or press release after the fact shall be handled in accordance with the News Media Relations Policy.

614.12 TRAINING

The Professional Standards Sergeant should ensure officers receive periodic training on this policy and associated topics, such as legal issues, warrant preparation, warrant service and reporting requirements.

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Operations Planning and Deconfliction

615.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for planning, deconfliction and execution of high-risk operations.

Additional guidance on planning and serving high-risk warrants is provided in the Warrant Service Policy.

615.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

High-risk operations - Operations, including service of search and arrest warrants and sting operations, that are likely to present higher risks than are commonly faced by officers on a daily basis, including suspected fortified locations, reasonable risk of violence or confrontation with multiple persons, or reason to suspect that persons anticipate the operation.

615.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department to properly plan and carry out high-risk operations, including participation in a regional deconfliction system, in order to provide coordination, enhance the safety of members and the public, decrease the risk of compromising investigations and prevent duplicating efforts.

615.3 OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

The SWAT Commander isdesignated to be the operations director.

The operations director will develop and maintain a risk assessment form to assess, plan and coordinate operations. This form should provide a process to identify high-risk operations.

The operations director will review risk assessment forms with involved supervisors to determine whether a particular incident qualifies as a high-risk operation. The director will also have the responsibility for coordinating operations that are categorized as high risk.

615.4 RISK ASSESSMENT

615.4.1 RISK ASSESSMENT FORM PREPARATION

Officers assigned as operational leads for any operation that may qualify as a high-risk operation shall complete a risk assessment form.

When preparing the form, the officer should query all relevant and reasonably available intelligence resources for information about the subject of investigation, others who may be present and the involved location. These sources may include regional intelligence and criminal justice databases, target deconfliction systems, firearm records, commercial databases and property records. Where appropriate, the officer should also submit information to these resources.

The officer should gather available information that includes, but is not limited to:

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(a) Photographs, including aerial photographs, if available, of the involved location, neighboring yards and obstacles.

(b) Maps of the location.

(c) Diagrams of any property and the interior of any buildings that are involved.

(d) Historical information about the subject of investigation (e.g., history of weapon possession or use, known mental illness, known drug use, threats against police, gang affiliation, criminal history).

(e) Historical information about others who may be present at the location (e.g., other criminals, innocent third parties, dependent adults, children, animals).

(f) Obstacles associated with the location (e.g., fortification, booby traps, reinforced doors/windows, surveillance measures, number and type of buildings, geographic and perimeter barriers, the number and types of weapons likely to be present, information that suggests the presence of explosives, chemicals or other hazardous materials, the potential for multiple dwellings or living spaces, availability of keys/door combinations).

(g) Other environmental factors (e.g., nearby venues such as schools and day care centers, proximity of adjacent homes or other occupied buildings, anticipated pedestrian and vehicle traffic at the time of service).

(h) Other available options that may minimize the risk to officers and others (e.g., making an off-site arrest or detention of the subject of investigation).

615.4.2 RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW

Officers will present the risk assessment form and other relevant documents (such as copies of search warrants and affidavits and arrest warrants) to their supervisor and the operations director.

The supervisor and operations director shall confer and determine the level of risk. Supervisors should take reasonable actions if there is a change in circumstances that elevates the risks associated with the operation.

615.4.3 HIGH-RISK OPERATIONS

If the operations director, after consultation with the involved supervisor, determines that the operation is high risk, the operations director should:

(a) Determine what resources will be needed at the location, and contact and/or place on standby any of the following appropriate and available resources:

  (a) CNT

  (b) Additional personnel

  (c) Outside agency assistance

  (d) Special equipment

  (e) Medical personnel

  (f) Persons trained in negotiation

  (g) Additional surveillance

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(h) Canines

(i) Property Room or analytical personnel to assist with cataloguing seizures

(j) Forensic specialists

(k) Specialized mapping for larger or complex locations

(b) Contact the appropriate department members or other agencies as warranted to begin preparation.

(c) Ensure that all legal documents such as search warrants are complete and have any modifications reasonably necessary to support the operation.

(d) Coordinate the actual operation.

615.5 DECONFLICTION

Deconfliction systems are designed to identify persons and locations associated with investigations or law enforcement operations and alert participating agencies when others are planning or conducting operations in close proximity or time or are investigating the same individuals, groups or locations.

The officer who is the operations lead shall ensure the subject of investigation and operations information have been entered in an applicable deconfliction system to determine if there is reported conflicting activity. This should occur as early in the process as practicable, but no later than two hours prior to the commencement of the operation. The officer should also enter relevant updated information when it is received.

If any conflict is discovered, the supervisor will contact the involved jurisdiction and resolve the potential conflict before proceeding.

615.6 OPERATIONS PLAN

The operations director should ensure that a written operations plan is developed for all high-risk operations. Plans should also be considered for other operations that would benefit from having a formal plan.

The plan should address such issues as:

(a) Operation goals, objectives, and strategies.

(b) Operation location and people:

1. The subject of investigation (e.g., history of weapon possession/use, known mental illness issues, known drug use, threats against police, gang affiliation, criminal history)

2. The location (e.g., fortification, booby traps, reinforced doors/windows, surveillance cameras and/or lookouts, number/type of buildings, geographic and perimeter barriers, the number and types of weapons likely to be present, information that suggests the presence of explosives, chemicals or other hazardous materials, the potential for multiple dwellings or living spaces,

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availability of keys/door combinations), including aerial photos, if available, and maps of neighboring yards and obstacles, diagrams and other visual aids

3. Other environmental factors (e.g., nearby venues such as schools and day care centers, proximity of adjacent homes or other occupied buildings, anticipated pedestrian and vehicle traffic at the time of service)

4. Identification of other people who may be present in or around the operation, such as other criminal suspects, innocent third parties, and children

(c) Information from the risk assessment form by attaching a completed copy in the operational plan.

1. The volume or complexity of the information may indicate that the plan includes a synopsis of the information contained on the risk assessment form to ensure clarity and highlighting of critical information.

(d) Participants and their roles.

1. An adequate number of uniformed officers should be included in the operation team to provide reasonable notice of a legitimate law enforcement operation.

2. How all participants will be identified as law enforcement.

(e) Whether deconfliction submissions are current and all involved individuals, groups, and locations have been deconflicted to the extent reasonably practicable.

(f) Identification of all communications channels and call-signs.

(g) Use of force issues.

(h) Contingencies for handling medical emergencies (e.g., services available at the location, closest hospital, closest trauma center).

(i) Plans for detaining people who are not under arrest.

(j) Contingencies for handling children, dependent adults, animals, and other people who might be at the location in accordance with the Child Abuse, Senior and Disability Victimization, Child and Dependent Adult Safety, and Animal Control policies.

(k) Communications plan.

(l) Responsibilities for writing, collecting, reviewing, and approving reports.

615.6.1 OPERATIONS PLAN RETENTION

Since the operations plan contains intelligence information and descriptions of law enforcement tactics, it shall not be filed with the report. The operations plan shall be stored separately and retained in accordance with the established records retention schedule.

615.7 OPERATIONS BRIEFING

A briefing should be held prior to the commencement of any high-risk operation to allow all participants to understand the operation, see and identify each other, identify roles and responsibilities and ask questions or seek clarification as needed. Anyone who is not present at the briefing should not respond to the operation location without specific supervisory approval.

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(a) The briefing should include a verbal review of plan elements, using visual aids, to enhance the participants' understanding of the operations plan.

(b) All participants should be provided a copy of the operations plan and search warrant, if applicable. Participating personnel should be directed to read the search warrant and initial a copy that is retained with the operation plan. Any items to be seized should be identified at the briefing.

(c) The operations director shall ensure that all participants are visually identifiable as law enforcement officers.

1. Exceptions may be made by the operations director for officers who are conducting surveillance or working under cover. However, those members exempt from visual identification should be able to transition to a visible law enforcement indicator at the time of enforcement actions, such as entries or arrests, if necessary.

(d) The briefing should include details of the communications plan.

1. It is the responsibility of the operations director to ensure that Communications Center is notified of the time and location of the operation, and to provide a copy of the operation plan prior to officers arriving at the location.

2. If the radio channel needs to be monitored by Communications Center, the dispatcher assigned to monitor the operation should attend the briefing, if practicable, but at a minimum should receive a copy of the operation plan.

3. The briefing should include a communications check to ensure that all participants are able to communicate with the available equipment on the designated radio channel.

615.8 CNT PARTICIPATION

If the operations director determines that CNT participation is appropriate, the director and the CNT supervisor shall work together to develop a plan. The Swat Commander, or designee, shall assume operational control until all persons at the scene are appropriately detained and it is safe to begin a search. When this occurs, theSWAT Commander, or designee, shall transfer control of the scene to the handling supervisor. This transfer should be communicated to the officers present.

615.9 MEDIA ACCESS

No advance information regarding planned operations shall be released without the approval of the Chief of Police. Any media inquiries or press release after the fact shall be handled in accordance with the Media Relations Policy.

615.10 OPERATIONS DEBRIEFING

CNTHigh-risk operations should be debriefed as soon as reasonably practicable. The debriefing should include as many participants as possible. This debrief may be separate from any CNT debriefing.

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615.11 TRAINING

The Professional Standards Sergeant should ensure officers and CNT team members who participate in operations subject to this policy should receive periodic training including, but not limited to, topics such as legal issues, deconfliction practices, operations planning concepts and reporting requirements.

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Chapter 7 - Equipment

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Department Owned and Personal Property

700.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Department employees are expected to properly care for department property assigned or entrusted to them. Employees may also suffer occasional loss or damage to personal or department property while performing their assigned duty. Certain procedures are required depending on the loss and ownership of the item.

700.2 CARE OF DEPARTMENTAL PROPERTY

Employees shall be responsible for the safekeeping, serviceable condition, proper care, use and replacement of department property assigned or entrusted to them. An employee's intentional or negligent abuse or misuse of department property may lead to discipline including, but not limited to the cost of repair or replacement.

(a) Employees shall promptly report through their chain of command, any loss, damage to, or unserviceable condition of any department issued property or equipment assigned for their use.

(b) The use of damaged or unserviceable department property should be discontinued as soon as practical and replaced with comparable Department property as soon as available and following notice to a supervisor.

(c) Except when otherwise directed by competent authority or required by exigent circumstances, department property shall only be used by those to whom it was assigned. Use should be limited to official purposes and in the capacity for which it was designed.

(d) Department property shall not be thrown away, sold, traded, donated, destroyed, or otherwise disposed of without proper authority.

(e) In the event that any Department property becomes damaged or unserviceable, no employee shall attempt to repair the property without prior approval of a supervisor.

700.3 FILING CLAIMS FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY

Claims for reimbursement for damage or loss of personal property must be made on the proper form. This form is submitted to the employee's immediate supervisor. The supervisor may require a separate written report of the loss or damage.

The supervisor shall direct a memo to the appropriate Division Commander, which shall include the results of his/her investigation and whether the employee followed proper procedures. The supervisor's report shall address whether reasonable care was taken to prevent the loss or damage.

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Upon review by staff and a finding that no misconduct or negligence was involved, repair or replacement may be recommended by the Chief of Police who will then forward the claim to the Finance Department.

The Department will not replace or repair luxurious or overly expensive items (jewelry, exotic equipment, etc.) that are not reasonably required as a part of work.

700.3.1 REPORTING REQUIREMENT

A verbal report shall be made to the employee's immediate supervisor as soon as circumstances permit.

A written report shall be submitted before the employee goes off duty or within the time frame directed by the supervisor to whom the verbal report is made.

700.4 LOSS OR DAMAGE OF PROPERTY OF ANOTHER

Officers and other employees intentionally or unintentionally may cause damage to the real or personal property of another while performing their duties. Any employee who damages or causes to be damaged any real or personal property of another while performing any law enforcement functions, regardless of jurisdiction, shall report it as provided below.

(a) A verbal report shall be made to the employee's immediate supervisor as soon as circumstances permit.

(b) A written report shall be submitted before the employee goes off duty or within the time frame directed by the supervisor to whom the verbal report is made.

700.4.1 DAMAGE BY PERSON OF ANOTHER AGENCY

If employees of another jurisdiction cause damage to real or personal property belonging to the City, it shall be the responsibility of the employee present or the employee responsible for the property to make a verbal report to his/her immediate supervisor as soon as circumstances permit. The employee shall submit a written report before going off duty or as otherwise directed by the supervisor.

These written reports, accompanied by the supervisor's written report, shall promptly be forwarded to the appropriate Division Commander.

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Personal Communication Devices

701.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of mobile telephones and communication devices, whether issued or funded by the Department or personally owned, while on-duty or when used for authorized work-related purposes.

This policy generically refers to all such devices as Personal Communication Devices (PCDs) but is intended to include all mobile telephones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), wireless capable tablets and similar wireless two-way communications and/or portable Internet access devices. PCD use includes, but is not limited to, placing and receiving calls, text messaging, blogging and microblogging, emailing, using video or camera features, playing games and accessing sites or services on the Internet.

701.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department allows members to utilize department-issued or funded PCDs and to possess personally owned PCDs in the workplace, subject to certain limitations. Any PCD used while on-duty, or used off-duty in any manner reasonably related to the business of the Department, will be subject to monitoring and inspection consistent with the standards set forth in this policy.

The inappropriate use of a PCD while on-duty may impair officer safety. Additionally, members are advised and cautioned that the use of a personally owned PCD either on-duty or after duty hours for business-related purposes may subject the member and the member's PCD records to civil or criminal discovery or disclosure under applicable public records laws.

Members who have questions regarding the application of this policy or the guidelines contained herein are encouraged to seek clarification from supervisory personnel.

701.3 PRIVACY POLICY

Employees shall have no expectation of privacy with regard to any communication made with or stored in or through PCDs issued by the Department and shall have no expectation of privacy in their location should the device be equipped with location detection capabilities. The use of any department-provided or -funded PCD, computer, Internet service, telephone service or other wireless service while on-duty is without any expectation of privacy that the employee might otherwise have in any communication, including the content of any such communication. Communications or data reception on personal, password-protected, web-based e-mail accounts and any other services are subject to monitoring if department equipment is used.

In accordance with this policy, supervisors are authorized to conduct a limited administrative search of electronic files without prior notice, consent or a search warrant, on department-issued or personally owned PCDs that have been used to conduct department-related business. Administrative searches can take place for work-related purposes that may be unrelated to

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investigations of employee misconduct and, as practicable, will be done in the presence of the affected employee. Prior to conducting any search of personally owned devices, supervisors shall consult with the Chief of Police. All such searches shall be fully documented in a written report.

701.4 DEPARTMENT-ISSUED PCD

Depending on an employee's assignment and the needs of the position, the Department may, at its discretion, issue or fund a PCD. Department-issued or funded PCDs are provided as a convenience to facilitate on-duty performance only. Such devices and the associated telephone number shall remain the sole property of the Department and shall be subject to inspection or monitoring (including all related records and content) at any time without notice and without cause.

Employees are authorized to use their PCDs during off-duty hours for the purpose of complying with duty related on-call requirements for court, patrol deployment, specialty assignments, while Totally Temporarily Disabled (TTD), or on administrative leave.

701.5 PERSONALLY OWNED PCD

Employees may carry a personally owned PCD while on-duty, subject to the following conditions and limitations:

(a) Carrying a personally owned PCD is a privilege, not a right.

(b) The Department accepts no responsibility for loss of or damage to a personally owned PCD.

(c) Employees shall promptly notify the Department in the event the PCD is lost or stolen.

(d) The PCD and any associated services shall be purchased, used and maintained solely at the employee's expense.

(e) The device should not be used for work-related purposes except in exigent circumstances (e.g., unavailability of radio communications). Employees will have a reduced expectation of privacy when using a personally owned PCD in the workplace and have no expectation of privacy with regard to any department business-related communication.

(f) The device shall not be utilized to record or disclose any business-related information, including photographs, video or the recording or transmittal of any information or material obtained or made accessible as a result of employment with the Department, without the express authorization of the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

(g) Use of a personally owned PCD constitutes consent for the Department to access the PCD to inspect and copy data to meet the needs of the Department, which may include litigation, public records retention and release obligations and internal investigations. If the PCD is carried on-duty, employees will provide the Department with all telephone access numbers for the device.

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Except with prior express authorization from their supervisor, employees are not obligated or required to carry, access, monitor or respond to electronic communications using a personally owned PCD while off-duty. If an employee is in an authorized status that allows for appropriate compensation consistent with policy or existing collective bargaining agreements, or if the employee has prior express authorization from his/her supervisor, the employee may engage in business-related communications. Should employees engage in such approved off-duty communications or work, employees entitled to compensation shall promptly document the time worked and communicate the information to their supervisor to ensure appropriate compensation. Employees who independently document off-duty department-related business activities in any manner shall promptly provide the Department with a copy of such records to ensure accurate record keeping.

701.6 USE OF PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES

The following protocols shall apply to all PCDs that are carried while on-duty or used to conduct department business:

(a) A PCD shall not be carried in a manner that allows it to be visible while in uniform, unless it is in an approved carrier.

(b) All PCDs in the workplace shall be set to silent or vibrate mode.

(c) A PCD may not be used to conduct personal business while on-duty, except for brief personal communications (e.g., informing family of extended hours). Employees shall endeavor to limit their use of PCDs to authorized break times, unless an emergency exists.

(d) Employees may use a PCD to communicate with other personnel in situations where the use of the radio is either impracticable or not feasible. PCDs should not be used as a substitute for, as a way to avoid or in lieu of regular radio communications.

(e) Officers are prohibited from taking pictures, video or making audio recordings or making copies of any such picture or recording media unless it is directly related to official department business. Disclosure of any such information to any third party through any means, without the express authorization of the Chief of Police or the authorized designee, may result in discipline.

(f) Employees will not access social networking sites for any purpose that is not official department business.

(g) Using PCDs to harass, threaten, coerce or otherwise engage in inappropriate conduct with any third party is prohibited. Any employee having knowledge of such conduct shall promptly notify a supervisor.

701.7 SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors should ensure that members under their command are provided appropriate training on the use of PCDs consistent with this policy. Supervisors should monitor, to the extent

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practicable, PCD use in the workplace and take prompt corrective action if an employee is observed or reported to be improperly using a PCD. An investigation into improper conduct should be promptly initiated when circumstances warrant.

If, when carrying out any provision of this policy, the need to contact an employee who is off-duty arises, supervisors should consider delaying the contact, if practicable, until the employee is on-duty, as such contact may be compensable.

701.8 USE WHILE DRIVING

The use of a PCD while driving can adversely affect safety, cause unnecessary distractions and present a negative image to the public. Officers operating emergency vehicles should restrict the use of these devices to matters of an urgent nature and should, where practicable, stop the vehicle at an appropriate location to use the PCD.

Members who are operating department vehicles that are not authorized emergency vehicles shall not use a PCD while driving unless the device is specifically designed and configured to allow hands-free use. In an emergency, a wireless phone may be used to place an emergency call to the Department or other emergency services agency (Vehicle Code § 23123; Vehicle Code § 23123.5). Hands-free use should be restricted to business-related calls or calls of an urgent nature.

701.9 OFFICIAL USE

Employees are reminded that PCDs are not secure devices and conversations may be intercepted or overheard. Caution should be exercised while utilizing PCDs to ensure that sensitive information is not inadvertently transmitted. As soon as reasonably possible, employees shall conduct sensitive or private communications on a land-based or other department communications network.

The following situations are examples of when the use of a PCD may be appropriate:

(a) Barricaded suspects

(b) Hostage situations

(c) Mobile Command Post

(d) Catastrophic disasters, such as plane crashes, earthquakes, floods, etc.

(e) Major political or community events

(f) Investigative stakeouts

(g) Emergency contact with an allied agency or allied agency field unit

(h) When immediate communication is needed and the use of the radio is not available or appropriate and other means are not readily available

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Vehicle Maintenance

703.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Employees are responsible for assisting in maintaining Department vehicles so that they are properly equipped, properly maintained, properly refueled and present a clean appearance.

703.2 DEFECTIVE VEHICLES

When a department vehicle becomes inoperative or in need of repair that affects the safety of the vehicle, that vehicle shall be removed from service for repair. Proper documentation shall be promptly completed by the employee who first becomes aware of the defective condition, describing the correction needed. The paperwork shall be promptly forwarded to vehicle maintenance for repair.

703.2.1 SEVERE USE

Vehicles operated under severe-use conditions, which include operations for which the vehicle is not designed or that exceed the manufacturer's parameters, should be removed from service and subjected to a safety inspection as soon as practicable. Such conditions may include rough roadway or off-road driving, hard or extended braking, pursuits or prolonged high-speed operation.

703.2.2 REMOVAL OF WEAPONS

All firearms, weapons and control devices shall be removed from a vehicle and properly secured in the department armory prior to the vehicle being released for maintenance, service or repair.

703.3 VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

Certain items shall be maintained in all department vehicles for emergency purposes and to perform routine duties.

703.3.1 PATROL VEHICLES

Officers shall inspect the patrol vehicle at the beginning of the shift and ensure that the following equipment, at a minimum, is present in the vehicle:

- 20 Emergency road flares
- 2 Sticks yellow crayon or chalk
- 1 Roll Crime Scene Barricade Tape
- 1 First aid kit
- CPR rescue mask
- 1 Fire extinguisher
- Latex gloves
- Protective equipment per § 1016 and § 1024

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703.3.2 UNMARKED VEHICLES

An employee driving unmarked department vehicles shall ensure that the minimum following equipment is present in the vehicle:

- 20 Emergency road flares
- 2 Sticks yellow crayon or chalk
- 1 Roll Crime Scene Barricade Tape
- 1 First aid kit
- CPR rescue mask
- 1 Fire extinguisher
- Latex gloves
- Protective equipment per § 1016 and § 1024

703.4 VEHICLE REFUELING

Absent emergency conditions or supervisor approval, officers driving patrol vehicles shall not place a vehicle in service that has less than one-quarter tank of fuel. Vehicles shall only be refueled at the authorized location.

703.5 WASHING OF VEHICLES

All units shall be kept clean at all times and weather conditions permitting, shall be washed as necessary to enhance their appearance.

Officers in patrol shall obtain clearance from the dispatcher before responding to the car wash. Only one marked unit should be at the car wash at the same time unless otherwise approved by a supervisor.

Employees using a vehicle shall remove any trash or debris at the end of their shift. Confidential material should be placed in a designated receptacle provided for the shredding of this matter.

703.6 PROFESSIONAL STAFF EMPLOYEE USE

Professional Staff employees using marked vehicles shall ensure all weapons are removed from vehicles before going into service. Professional Staff employees shall also prominently display the “out of service” placards or lightbar covers at all times. Professional Staff employees shall not operate the emergency lights or siren of any vehicle unless expressly authorized by a supervisor.

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Vehicle Use

705.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes a system of accountability to ensure City-owned vehicles are used appropriately. For the purposes of this policy, “City-owned” includes any vehicle owned, leased or rented by the City.

705.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department provides vehicles for department-related business and may assign patrol and unmarked vehicles based on a determination of operational efficiency, economic impact to the Department, requirements for tactical deployments and other considerations.

705.3 USE OF VEHICLES

City-owned vehicles shall only be used for official business and, when approved, for commuting to allow members to respond to department-related business outside their regular work hours.

Members shall not operate a City-owned vehicle at any time when impaired by drugs and/or alcohol.

Any member operating a vehicle equipped with a two-way communications radio, MDC and/or a GPS device shall ensure the devices are on and set to an audible volume whenever the vehicle is in operation.

705.3.1 SHIFT ASSIGNED VEHICLES

Members who use a fleet vehicle as part of their work assignment shall ensure that the vehicle is properly checked out and logged on the daily shift roster, according to current procedures, prior to taking it into service. If for any reason during the shift the vehicle is exchanged, the member shall ensure that the exchanged vehicle is likewise properly noted on the daily shift roster.

Members shall be responsible for inspecting the interior and exterior of any assigned vehicle before taking the vehicle into service and at the conclusion of the shift. Any previously unreported damage, mechanical problems, unauthorized contents or other problems with the vehicle shall be promptly reported to a supervisor and documented as appropriate.

705.3.2 UNSCHEDULED USE OF VEHICLES

Members utilizing a City-owned vehicle for any purpose other than their regularly assigned duties shall first notify the Watch Commander of the reason for use and a notation will be made on the shift roster indicating the operator’s name and vehicle number. This section does not apply to members permanently assigned an individual vehicle (e.g., command staff, detectives), who regularly use the vehicle on an unscheduled basis as part of their normal assignment.

705.3.3 UNMARKED VEHICLES

Except for use by the assigned member, unmarked units shall not be used without first obtaining approval from the supervisor of the unit to which the vehicle is assigned.

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705.3.4 INVESTIGATION DIVISION VEHICLES
Investigation Division vehicle use is restricted to investigative personnel during their assigned work hours unless approved by an Investigation Division supervisor. Investigation Division members shall record vehicle usage via the sign-out log maintained in the Division. After-hours use of Investigation Division vehicles by members not assigned to the Investigation Division shall be recorded with the Watch Commander on the shift roster.

705.3.5 AUTHORIZED PASSENGERS
Members operating City-owned vehicles shall not permit persons other than City members or persons required to be conveyed in the performance of duty, or as otherwise authorized, to ride as a passenger in their vehicle.

705.3.6 PARKING
Except when responding to an emergency or other urgent official business requires otherwise, members driving City-owned vehicles should obey all parking regulations at all times.

City-owned vehicles should be parked in their assigned stalls. Members shall not park privately owned vehicles in any stall assigned to a City-owned vehicle or in any other areas of the parking lot that are not designated as a parking space unless authorized by a supervisor. Privately owned motorcycles shall be parked in designated areas.

705.3.7 INSPECTIONS
The interior of any vehicle that has been used to transport any person other than a member should be inspected prior to placing another person in the vehicle and again after the person is removed. This is to ensure that unauthorized or personal items have not been left in the vehicle.

When transporting any suspect, prisoner or arrestee, the transporting officer shall search all areas of the vehicle that are accessible by the person before and after the person is transported.

705.3.8 PRIVACY
All City-owned vehicles are subject to inspection and/or search at any time by a supervisor without notice and without cause. No member assigned to or operating such vehicle shall be entitled to any expectation of privacy with respect to the vehicle or its contents.

705.4 ASSIGNED VEHICLE AGREEMENT
Members who have been assigned a take-home vehicle may use the vehicle to commute to the workplace and for department-related business. The member must be approved for an assigned vehicle by his/her Assistant Chief and shall sign an agreement that includes the following criteria:

(a) The member must live within a 30-minute commute of his/her regularly assigned work location (based on average traffic flow). A longer response time may be permitted subject to Assistant Chief approval. Members who reside outside the permissible response time may be required to secure or garage the vehicle at a designated location or the central office at the discretion of the Assistant Chief.

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(b) Except as may be provided by a memorandum of understanding time spent during normal commuting is not compensable.

(c) City-owned vehicles shall not be used for personal errands or other personal business unless approved by a supervisor for exceptional circumstances. The member may be required to maintain insurance covering any commuting or personal use.

(d) The member may be responsible for the care and maintenance of the vehicle. The Department should provide necessary care and maintenance supplies.

(e) The vehicle shall be parked in secure off-street parking when parked at the member's residence.

(f) Vehicles shall be locked when not attended.

(g) If the vehicle is not secured inside a locked garage, all firearms and kinetic impact weapons shall be removed from the interior of the vehicle and properly secured in the residence (see the Firearms Policy regarding safe storage of firearms at home).

(h) When the member will be away (e.g., on vacation) for periods exceeding one week the vehicle shall be stored in a secure garage at the member's residence or at the appropriate department facility.

(i) All department identification, portable radios and equipment should be secured.

Members are cautioned that under federal and local tax rules, personal use of a City-owned vehicle may create an income tax liability to the member. Members should address questions regarding tax consequences to their tax adviser.

The assignment of vehicles is at the discretion of the Chief of Police. Assigned vehicles may be changed at any time and/or permission to take home a vehicle may be withdrawn at any time.

705.5 KEYS AND SECURITY

All uniformed field members approved to operate marked patrol vehicles should be issued a copy of the unit key as part of their initial equipment distribution upon hiring. Officers shall not duplicate keys.

Members assigned a permanent vehicle should be issued keys for their assigned vehicle.

The loss of any key shall be promptly reported in writing through the member's chain of command.

705.6 ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

When driving an assigned vehicle to and from work outside of the jurisdiction of the Ventura Police Department, an officer should avoid becoming directly involved in enforcement actions except in those circumstances where a potential threat to life or serious property damage exists (see the Off-Duty Law Enforcement Actions Policy and the Law Enforcement Authority Policy).

Officers may render public assistance (e.g., to a stranded motorist) when deemed prudent.

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Officers shall, at all times while driving a marked City-owned vehicle, be armed, appropriately attired and carry their department-issued identification. Officers should also ensure that department radio communication capabilities are maintained to the extent feasible.

705.7 MAINTENANCE

Members are responsible for the cleanliness (exterior and interior) and overall maintenance of their assigned vehicles.

Members shall make daily inspections of their assigned vehicles for service/maintenance requirements and damage. It is the assigned member's responsibility to ensure that his/her assigned vehicle is maintained according to the established service and maintenance schedule.

Supervisors shall make, at a minimum, monthly inspections of vehicles assigned to members under their command to ensure the vehicles are being maintained in accordance with policy.

705.7.1 ACCESSORIES AND/OR MODIFICATIONS

No modifications, additions or removal of any equipment or accessories shall be made to the vehicle without written permission from the Assistant Chief.

705.8 VEHICLE DAMAGE, ABUSE AND MISUSE

When a City-owned vehicle is involved in a traffic collision or otherwise incurs damage, the involved member shall promptly notify a supervisor. Any traffic collision report shall be filed with the agency having jurisdiction (see also Traffic Collision Reporting Policy).

When a collision involves a City vehicle or when a member of this department is an involved driver in a collision that occurs in this jurisdiction, and the collision results in serious injury or death , the supervisor should request that an outside law enforcement agency be summoned to investigate the collision.

The member involved in the collision shall complete the City's vehicle collision form. If the member is unable to complete the form, the supervisor shall complete the form.

Any damage to a vehicle that was not caused by a traffic collision shall be immediately reported during the shift in which the damage was discovered, documented in memorandum format and forwarded to the Watch Commander. An administrative investigation should be initiated to determine if there is any vehicle abuse or misuse.

705.9 TOLL ROAD USAGE

Law enforcement vehicles are not routinely exempted from incurring toll road charges.

To avoid unnecessary toll road charges, all members operating department vehicles on a toll road shall adhere to the following:

(a) Members operating department vehicles for any reason other than in response to an emergency shall pay the appropriate toll charge or utilize the appropriate toll way

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transponder. Members may submit a request for reimbursement from the City for any toll fees incurred in the course of official business.

(b) Members passing through a toll plaza or booth during a response to an emergency shall notify, in writing, the appropriate Assistant Chief within five working days explaining the circumstances.

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Military Equipment (as defined by AB 481)

706.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the approval, acquisition, and reporting requirements of military equipment (Government Code § 7070; Government Code § 7071; Government Code § 7072).

706.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include (Government Code § 7070):

Governing body – The elected or appointed body that oversees the Department.

Military equipment – Includes:

- Unmanned, remotely piloted, powered aerial or ground vehicles.
- Mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles or armored personnel carriers.
- High mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWV), two-and-one-half-ton trucks, five-ton trucks, or wheeled vehicles that have a breaching or entry apparatus attached.
- Tracked armored vehicles that provide ballistic protection to their occupants.
- Command and control vehicles that are either built or modified to facilitate the operational control and direction of public safety units.
- Weaponized aircraft, vessels, or vehicles of any kind.
- Battering rams, slugs, and breaching apparatuses that are explosive in nature. This does not include a handheld, one-person ram.
- Firearms and ammunition of .50 caliber or greater, excluding standard-issue shotguns and standard-issue shotgun ammunition.
- Specialized firearms and ammunition of less than .50 caliber, including firearms and accessories identified as assault weapons in Penal Code § 30510 and Penal Code § 30515, with the exception of standard-issue firearms.
- Any firearm or firearm accessory that is designed to launch explosive projectiles.
- Noise-flash diversionary devices and explosive breaching tools.
- Munitions containing tear gas or OC, excluding standard, service-issued handheld pepper spray.
- TASER® Shockwave, microwave weapons, water cannons, and long-range acoustic devices (LRADs).
- Kinetic energy weapons and munitions.
- Any other equipment as determined by a governing body or a state agency to require additional oversight.

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706.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department that members of this department comply with the provisions of Government Code § 7071 with respect to military equipment.

706.3 MILITARY EQUIPMENT COORDINATOR

The Professional Standards Commander is designated as the military equipment coordinator. The responsibilities of the military equipment coordinator include but are not limited to:

(a) Acting as liaison to the governing body for matters related to the requirements of this policy.

(b) Identifying department equipment that qualifies as military equipment in the current possession of the Department, or the equipment the Department intends to acquire that requires approval by the governing body.

(c) Conducting an inventory of all military equipment at least annually.

(d) Collaborating with any allied agency that may use military equipment within the jurisdiction of Ventura Police Department (Government Code § 7071).

(e) Preparing for, scheduling, and coordinating the annual community engagement meeting to include:

1. Publicizing the details of the meeting.
2. Preparing for public questions regarding the department's funding, acquisition, and use of equipment.

(f) Preparing the annual military equipment report for submission to the Chief of Police and ensuring that the report is made available on the department website (Government Code § 7072).

(g) Establishing the procedure for a person to register a complaint or concern, or how that person may submit a question about the use of a type of military equipment, and how the Department will respond in a timely manner.

706.4 MILITARY EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

See attachment: Military Equipment Inventory for details.

706.5 APPROVAL

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall obtain approval from the governing body by way of an ordinance adopting the military equipment policy. As part of the approval process, the Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall ensure the proposed military equipment policy is submitted to the governing body and is available on the department website at least 30 days prior to any public hearing concerning the military equipment at issue (Government Code § 7071). The military equipment policy must be approved by the governing body prior to engaging in any of the following (Government Code § 7071):

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(a) Requesting military equipment made available pursuant to 10 USC § 2576a.

(b) Seeking funds for military equipment, including but not limited to applying for a grant, soliciting or accepting private, local, state, or federal funds, in-kind donations, or other donations or transfers.

(c) Acquiring military equipment either permanently or temporarily, including by borrowing or leasing.

(d) Collaborating with another law enforcement agency in the deployment or other use of military equipment within the jurisdiction of this department.

(e) Using any new or existing military equipment for a purpose, in a manner, or by a person not previously approved by the governing body.

(f) Soliciting or responding to a proposal for, or entering into an agreement with, any other person or entity to seek funds for, apply to receive, acquire, use, or collaborate in the use of military equipment.

(g) Acquiring military equipment through any means not provided above.

706.6 COORDINATION WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS

This policy recognizes the need for agencies to provide assistance to each other, whether in ongoing combined or regional operations, occasional planned operations, or in exigent circumstances. Where applicable to the provisions of Government Code § 7070 through § 7075, such assisting agencies should comply with their respective military equipment use policies when rendering assistance.

706.7 EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

This policy also recognizes that there may be very limited or extreme instances where incidents of extraordinary nature could demand the need for incident commanders to authorize Department personnel to use equipment not specified in this policy. This decision must be influenced by the totality of the circumstances, including the due regard for the public's safety, officer safety, respecting civil rights, seriousness of the situation, and other information available at that time. Should such extreme instances occur that call for members of this Department to use equipment not specified in this policy, the incident commander shall, if practical, notify the Chief of Police via the chain of command prior to deploying such equipment. Should such circumstances occur, the Chief of Police or his/her designee, shall notify the City Council as soon as practical, and indicate any such uses in the required annual report.

706.8 ANNUAL REPORT

Upon approval of a military equipment policy, the Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall submit a military equipment report to the governing body for each type of military equipment approved within one year of approval, and annually thereafter for as long as the military equipment is available for use (Government Code § 7072).

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The Chief of Police or the authorized designee should also make each annual military equipment report publicly available on the department website for as long as the military equipment is available for use. The report shall include all information required by Government Code § 7072 for the preceding calendar year for each type of military equipment in department inventory.

706.9 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Within 30 days of submitting and publicly releasing the annual report, the Department shall hold at least one well-publicized and conveniently located community engagement meeting, at which the Department should discuss the report and respond to public questions regarding the funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment.

706.10 APPENDIX

See attachment: Ventura PD Military Equipment List 2022-update 05052022.pdf

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Chapter 8 - Support Services

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Crime Analysis

800.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Crime analysis should provide currently useful information to aid operational personnel in meeting their tactical crime control and prevention objectives by identifying and analyzing methods of operation of individual criminals, providing crime pattern recognition, and providing analysis of data from field interrogations and arrests. Crime analysis can be useful to the Department's long range planning efforts by providing estimates of future crime trends and assisting in the identification of enforcement priorities.

800.2 DATA SOURCES

Crime analysis data is extracted from many sources including, but not limited to:

- Crime reports
- Field Interview cards
- Parole and Probation records
- Computer Aided Dispatch data
- Statewide Integrated Traffic Reporting System (SWITRS)

800.3 CRIME ANALYSIS FACTORS

The following minimum criteria should be used in collecting data for Crime Analysis:

- Frequency by type of crime
- Geographic factors
- Temporal factors
- Victim and target descriptors
- Suspect descriptors
- Suspect vehicle descriptors
- Modus operandi factors
- Physical evidence information

800.4 CRIME ANALYSIS DISSEMINATION

For a crime analysis system to function effectively, information should be disseminated to the appropriate units or persons on a timely basis. Information that is relevant to the operational and tactical plans of specific line units should be sent directly to them. Information relevant to the development of the Department's strategic plans should be provided to the appropriate staff units. When information pertains to tactical and strategic plans, it should be provided to all affected units.

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Communications Center

802.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines for the basic functions of Communications Center. It addresses the immediate information needs of the Department in the course of its normal daily activities and during emergencies.

802.1.1 FCC COMPLIANCE

Ventura Police Department radio operations shall be conducted in accordance with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) procedures and guidelines.

802.2 COMMUNICATION OPERATIONS

This department provides 24-hour telephone service to the public for information or assistance that may be needed in emergencies. The ability of citizens to telephone quickly and easily for emergency service is critical. This department provides access to the 911 system for a single emergency telephone number. This department has two-way radio capability providing continuous communication between Communications Center and officers.

802.2.1 COMMUNICATIONS LOG

It shall be the responsibility of the Communications Center to record all relevant information on calls for criminal and non-criminal service or self-initiated activity. Employees shall attempt to elicit as much information as possible to enhance the safety of the officer and assist in anticipating conditions to be encountered at the scene. Desirable information would include, at a minimum, the following:

- Incident number
- Date and time of request
- Name and address of complainant, if possible
- Type of incident reported
- Location of incident reported
- Identification of officer(s) assigned as primary and backup
- Time of dispatch
- Time of the officer's arrival
- Time of officer's return to service
- Disposition or status of reported incident

802.3 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Operations are more efficient and officer safety is enhanced when dispatchers, supervisors, and fellow officers know the status of officers, their locations and the nature of cases.

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802.3.1 OFFICER IDENTIFICATION

Identification systems are based on factors such as beat assignment and officer identification numbers. Employees should use the entire call sign when initiating communication with the dispatcher. The use of the call sign allows for a brief pause so that the dispatcher can acknowledge the appropriate unit. Employees initiating communication with other agencies shall use their entire call sign. This requirement does not apply to continuing conversation between the mobile unit and dispatcher once the mobile unit has been properly identified.

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Property and Evidence

804.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides for the proper collection, storage, and security of evidence and other property. Additionally, this policy provides for the protection of the chain of evidence and those persons authorized to remove and/or destroy property.

804.2 DEFINITIONS

Property - Includes all items of evidence, items taken for safekeeping and found property.

Evidence - Includes items taken or recovered in the course of an investigation that may be used in the prosecution of a case. This includes photographs and latent fingerprints.

Safekeeping - Includes the following types of property:

- Property obtained by the Department for safekeeping such as a firearm
- Personal property of an arrestee not taken as evidence
- Property taken for safekeeping under authority of a law (e.g., Welfare and Institutions Code § 5150 (mentally ill persons))

Found property - Includes property found by an employee or citizen that has no apparent evidentiary value and where the owner cannot be readily identified or contacted.

804.3 PROPERTY HANDLING

Any employee who first comes into possession of any property shall retain such property in his/her possession until it is properly tagged and placed in the designated property locker or storage room along with the property form. Care shall be taken to maintain the chain of custody for all evidence.

Where ownership can be established as to found property with no apparent evidentiary value, such property may be released to the owner without the need for booking. The property form must be completed to document the release of property not booked and the owner shall sign the form acknowledging receipt of the items.

804.3.1 PROPERTY BOOKING PROCEDURE

All property must be booked prior to the employee going off-duty unless otherwise approved by a supervisor. Employees booking property shall observe the following guidelines:

(a) Complete the property form describing each item of property separately, listing all serial numbers, owner’s name, finder's name, and other identifying information or markings.

(b) Mark each item of evidence with the booking employee’s initials and the date booked using the appropriate method so as not to deface or damage the value of the property.

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(c) Complete an evidence/property tag and attach it to each package or envelope in which the property is stored.

(d) Place the case number in the upper right hand corner of the bag.

(e) The original property form shall be submitted with the case report. A copy shall be placed with the property in the temporary property locker or with the property if property is stored somewhere other than a property locker.

(f) When the property is too large to be placed in a locker, the item may be retained in the supply room. Submit the completed property record into a numbered locker indicating the location of the property.

804.3.2 NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

All narcotics and dangerous drugs shall be booked separately using a separate property record. Paraphernalia as defined by Health and Safety Code § 11364 shall also be booked separately.

The officer seizing the narcotics and dangerous drugs shall place them in the designated locker accompanied by two copies of the form for the Records Unit and detectives. The remaining copy will be detached and submitted with the case report.

804.3.3 EXPLOSIVES

Officers who encounter a suspected explosive device shall promptly notify their immediate supervisor or the Watch Commander. The bomb squad will be called to handle explosive-related incidents and will be responsible for the handling, storage, sampling and disposal of all suspected explosives.

Explosives will not be retained in the police facility. Only fireworks that are considered stable and safe and road flares or similar signaling devices may be booked into property. All such items shall be stored in proper containers and in an area designated for the storage of flammable materials. The Property Officer is responsible for transporting to the Fire Department, on a regular basis, any fireworks or signaling devices that are not retained as evidence.

804.3.4 EXCEPTIONAL HANDLING

Certain property items require a separate process. The following items shall be processed in the described manner:

(a) Bodily fluids such as blood or semen stains shall be air dried prior to booking.

(b) License plates found not to be stolen or connected with a known crime, should be released directly to the Property Officer, or placed in the designated container for return to the Department of Motor Vehicles. No formal property booking process is required.

(c) All bicycles and bicycle frames require a property record. Property tags will be securely attached to each bicycle or bicycle frame. The property may be released directly to the Property Officer, or placed in the bicycle storage area until a Property Officer can log the property.

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(d) All cash shall be counted in the presence of another officer and the envelope initialed by the booking officer and the additional officer.A supervisor shall be contacted for cash in excess of $1,000 for special handling procedures.

City property, unless connected to a known criminal case, should be released directly to the appropriate City department. No formal booking is required. In cases where no responsible person can be located, the property should be booked for safekeeping in the normal manner.

804.3.5 RELINQUISHED FIREARMS

Individuals who relinquish firearms pursuant to the provisions of Penal Code § 29850 shall be issued a receipt that describes the firearm, the serial number or other identification of the firearm at the time of relinquishment (Penal Code § 29810).

Relinquished firearms shall be retained for 30 days, after which time they may be destroyed, retained, sold or otherwise transferred, unless (Penal Code § 29810):

(a) A certificate is issued by a judge of a court of record or the District Attorney stating the firearms shall be retained; or

(b) The convicted person provides written notice of an intent to appeal the conviction that necessitated the relinquishment; or

(c) The Automated Firearms System indicates that the firearm was reported lost or stolen.

1. In such event, the firearm shall be restored to the lawful owner as soon as it is no longer needed as evidence, the lawful owner has identified the weapon and provided proof of ownership, and the Department has complied with the requirements of Penal Code § 33850 et seq.

The Property Officer shall ensure the Records Supervisor is notified of the relinquished firearm for purposes of updating the Automated Firearms System and the disposition of the firearm for purposes of notifying the California Department of Justice (DOJ) (See the Records Unit Policy).

804.4 PACKAGING OF PROPERTY

Certain items require special consideration and shall be booked separately as follows:

(a) Narcotics and dangerous drugs

(b) Firearms (ensure they are unloaded and booked separately from ammunition)

(c) Property with more than one known owner

(d) Paraphernalia as described in Health and Safety Code § 11364

(e) Fireworks

(f) Contraband

804.4.1 PACKAGING CONTAINER

Employees shall package all property, except narcotics and dangerous drugs in a suitable container available for its size. Knife boxes should be used to package knives, and syringe tubes should be used to package syringes and needles.

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A property tag shall be securely attached to the outside of all items or group of items packaged together.

804.4.2 PACKAGING NARCOTICS

The officer seizing narcotics and dangerous drugs shall retain such property in his/her possession until it is properly weighed, packaged, tagged, and placed in the designated narcotics locker, accompanied by two copies of the property record. Prior to packaging and if the quantity allows, a presumptive test should be made on all suspected narcotics. If conducted, the results of this test shall be included in the officer's report.

Narcotics and dangerous drugs shall be packaged in an envelope of appropriate size available in the report room. The booking officer shall initial the sealed envelope and the initials covered with cellophane tape. Narcotics and dangerous drugs shall not be packaged with other property.

A completed property tag shall be attached to the outside of the container.

804.5 RECORDING OF PROPERTY

The Property Officer receiving custody of evidence or property shall record his/her signature, the date and time the property was received and where the property will be stored on the property control card.

A property number shall be obtained for each item or group of items. This number shall be recorded on the property tag and the property control card.

Any changes in the location of property held by the Ventura Police Department shall be noted in the property logbook.

804.6 PROPERTY CONTROL

Each time the Property Officer receives property or releases property to another person, he/she shall enter this information on the property control card. Officers desiring property for court shall contact the Property Officer at least one day prior to the court day.

804.6.1 RESPONSIBILITY OF OTHER PERSONNEL

Every time property is released or received, an appropriate entry on the evidence package shall be completed to maintain the chain of evidence. No property or evidence is to be released without first receiving written authorization from a supervisor or detective.

Request for analysis for items other than narcotics or drugs shall be completed on the appropriate forms and submitted to the Property Officer. This request may be filled out any time after booking of the property or evidence.

804.6.2 TRANSFER OF EVIDENCE TO CRIME LABORATORY

The transporting employee will check the evidence out of property, indicating the date and time on the property control card and the request for laboratory analysis.

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The Property Officer releasing the evidence must complete the required information on the property control card and the evidence. The lab forms will be transported with the property to the examining laboratory. Upon delivering the item involved, the officer will record the delivery time on both copies, and indicate the locker in which the item was placed or the employee to whom it was delivered. The original copy of the lab form will remain with the evidence and the copy will be returned to the Records Unit for filing with the case.

804.6.3 STATUS OF PROPERTY

Each person receiving property will make the appropriate entry to document the chain of evidence. Temporary release of property to officers for investigative purposes, or for court, shall be noted on the property control card, stating the date, time and to whom released.

The Property Officer shall obtain the signature of the person to whom property is released, and the reason for release. Any employee receiving property shall be responsible for such property until it is properly returned to property or properly released to another authorized person or entity.

The return of the property should be recorded on the property control card, indicating date, time, and the person who returned the property.

804.6.4 AUTHORITY TO RELEASE PROPERTY

The Detective Bureau shall authorize the disposition or release of all evidence and property coming into the care and custody of the Department.

804.6.5 RELEASE OF PROPERTY

All reasonable attempts shall be made to identify the rightful owner of found property or evidence not needed for an investigation.

Release of property shall be made upon receipt of an authorized release form, listing the name and address of the person to whom the property is to be released. The release authorization shall be signed by the authorizing supervisor, detective, or investigating officer and must conform to the items listed on the property form or must specify the specific item(s) to be released. Release of all property shall be documented on the property form.

With the exception of firearms and other property specifically regulated by statute, found property and property held for safekeeping shall be held for a minimum of 90 days. During such period, property personnel shall attempt to contact the rightful owner by telephone and/or mail when sufficient identifying information is available. Property not held for any other purpose and not claimed within 90 days after notification (or receipt, if notification is not feasible) may be auctioned to the highest bidder at a properly published public auction. If such property is not sold at auction or otherwise lawfully claimed, it may thereafter be destroyed (Civil Code § 2080.6). The final disposition of all such property shall be fully documented in related reports.

A [property_officer] shall release the property upon proper identification being presented by the owner for which an authorized release has been received. A signature of the person receiving the property shall be recorded on the original property form. After the release of all property entered

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on the property control card, the card shall be forwarded to the [recordsBureau] for filing with the case. If some items of property have not been released the property card will remain with the [PropertyBureau]. Upon release, the proper entry shall be documented in the Property Log.

Under no circumstances shall any firearm be returned to any individual unless and until such person presents valid identification and written notification from the California Department of Justice that conforms to the provisions of Penal Code § 33865.

Reasonable efforts should be made to determine whether the person is the subject of any court order preventing the person from possessing a firearm and if so, the firearm should not be released to the person while the order is in effect.

The property officer will initiate the release of a firearm by sending the owner a Law Enforcement Gun Release (LEGR) request, Firearm Ownership record, and information on how a one-time transfer can be completed. Upon receiving a letter of authorization form from DOJ, the owner will then be required to set up an appointment with the property officer and shall allow a two week lead time that is within the 30-day expiration of the LEGR. Within the two week period, the property officer and detective will complete research on the owner as outlined on the Firearm Release Authorization Form to ensure that there are no prohibitions in place preventing the release of the firearm to the owner. The authorization form requires that the following systems be checked, VCIJIS, CARPOS (California Restraining and Protective Order System), Mental Health Prohibited System, Criminal History (RAP). Also, the Ventura County District Attorney's office shall be contacted to inquire if there are any local court orders in place prohibiting the firearm owner from possessing a firearm. The assigned detective shall also physically inspect the firearm to ensure the firearm complies with state law and is not modified unlawfully.

Once the authorization form is completed, it shall be submitted to a Commander with supporting documentation for final approval of the release of the firearm.

The Department is not required to retain any firearm or other deadly weapon longer than 180 days after notice has been provided to the owner that such firearm or other deadly weapon is available for return. At the expiration of such period, the firearm or other deadly weapon may be processed for disposal in accordance with applicable law (Penal Code § 33875).

804.6.6 DISPUTED CLAIMS TO PROPERTY

Occasionally more than one party may claim an interest in property being held by the Department, and the legal rights of the parties cannot be clearly established. Such property shall not be released until one party has obtained a valid court order or other undisputed right to the involved property.

All parties should be advised that their claims are civil and in extreme situations, legal counsel for the Department may wish to file an interpleader to resolve the disputed claim (Code of Civil Procedure § 386(b)).

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804.6.7 CONTROL OF NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

The Detective Bureau will be responsible for the storage, control and destruction of all narcotics and dangerous drugs coming into the custody of this department, including paraphernalia as described in Health and Safety Code § 11364.

804.6.8 RELEASE OF FIREARM IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MATTERS

Within five days of the expiration of a restraining order issued in a domestic violence matter that required the relinquishment of a firearm or ammunition, the Property Officer shall return the weapon or ammunition to the owner if the requirements of Penal Code § 33850 and Penal Code § 33855 are met, unless the firearm or ammunition is determined to be stolen, evidence in a criminal investigation, or the individual is otherwise prohibited from possessing a firearm (Family Code § 6389(g); Penal Code § 33855).

804.6.9 RELEASE OF FIREARMS AND WEAPONS IN MENTAL ILLNESS MATTERS

Firearms and other deadly weapons confiscated from an individual detained for an evaluation by a mental health professional or subject to the provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code § 8100 or Welfare and Institutions Code § 8103 shall be released or disposed of as follows:

(a) If a petition for a hearing regarding the return of a firearm or a weapon has been initiated pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code § 8102(c), the firearm or weapon shall be released or disposed of as provided by an order of the court. If the court orders a firearm returned, the firearm shall not be returned unless and until the person presents valid identification and written notification from the California Department of Justice (DOJ) that conforms to the provisions of Penal Code § 33865.

(b) If no petition has been initiated pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code § 8102(c) and the firearm or weapon is not retained as evidence, the Department shall make the firearm or weapon available for return. No firearm will be returned unless and until the person presents valid identification and written notification from the California DOJ that conforms to the provisions of Penal Code § 33865.

(c) Unless the person contacts the Department to facilitate the sale or transfer of the firearm to a licensed dealer pursuant to Penal Code § 33870, firearms not returned should be sold, transferred, destroyed, or retained as provided in Welfare and Institutions Code § 8102.

804.6.10 RELEASE OF FIREARMS IN GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDER MATTERS

Firearms and ammunition that were taken into temporary custody or surrendered pursuant to a gun violence restraining order shall be returned to the restrained person upon the expiration of the order and in accordance with the requirements of Penal Code § 33850 et seq. (Penal Code § 18120).

If the restrained person who owns the firearms or ammunition does not wish to have the firearm or ammunition returned, he/she is entitled to sell or transfer title to a licensed dealer, provided that the firearms or ammunition are legal to own or possess and the restrained person has right to title of the firearms or ammunition (Penal Code § 18120).

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If a person other than the restrained person claims title to the firearms or ammunition surrendered pursuant to Penal Code § 18120 and the Ventura Police Department determines him/her to be the lawful owner, the firearms or ammunition shall be returned in accordance with the requirements of Penal Code § 33850 et seq. (Penal Code § 18120).

Firearms and ammunition that are not claimed are subject to the requirements of Penal Code § 34000.

804.6.11 RELEASE OF FIREARMS, MAGAZINES, AND AMMUNITION
The Department shall not return any firearm, magazine, or ammunition taken into custody to any individual unless all requirements of Penal Code § 33855 are met.

804.7 DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY
All property not held for evidence in a pending criminal investigation or proceeding, and held for six months or longer where the owner has not been located or fails to claim the property, may be disposed of in compliance with existing laws upon receipt of proper authorization for disposal. The Property Officer shall request a disposition or status on all property which has been held in excess of 120 days, and for which no disposition has been received from a supervisor or detective.

804.7.1 EXCEPTIONAL DISPOSITIONS
The following types of property shall be destroyed or disposed of in the manner, and at the time prescribed by law, unless a different disposition is ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction:

- Weapons declared by law to be nuisances (Penal Code § 29300; Penal Code § 18010; Penal Code § 32750)
- Animals, birds, and related equipment that have been ordered forfeited by the court (Penal Code § 599a)
- Counterfeiting equipment (Penal Code § 480)
- Gaming devices (Penal Code § 335a)
- Obscene matter ordered to be destroyed by the court (Penal Code § 312)
- Altered vehicles or component parts (Vehicle Code § 10751)
- Narcotics (Health and Safety Code § 11474 et seq.)
- Unclaimed, stolen, or embezzled property (Penal Code § 1411)
- Destructive devices (Penal Code § 19000)
- Sexual assault evidence (Penal Code § 680)

804.7.2 UNCLAIMED MONEY
If found or seized money is no longer required as evidence and remains unclaimed after three years, the Department shall cause a notice to be published each week for a period of two consecutive weeks in a local newspaper of general circulation (Government Code § 50050). Such notice shall state the amount of money, the fund in which it is held and that the money will become

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the property of the agency on a designated date not less than 45 days and not more than 60 days after the first publication (Government Code § 50051).

Any individual item with a value of less than $15.00, or any amount if the depositor/owner's name is unknown, which remains unclaimed for a year or by order of the court, may be transferred to the general fund without the necessity of public notice (Government Code § 50055).

If the money remains unclaimed as of the date designated in the published notice, the money will become the property of this department to fund official law enforcement operations. Money representing restitution collected on behalf of victims shall either be deposited into the Restitution Fund or used for purposes of victim services.

804.7.3 RETENTION OF BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

The Property Room Supervisor shall ensure that no biological evidence held by the Department is destroyed without adequate notification to the following persons, when applicable:

(a) The defendant

(b) The defendant’s attorney

(c) The appropriate prosecutor and Attorney General

(d) Any sexual assault victim

(e) The Investigation Division supervisor

Biological evidence shall be retained for either a minimum period that has been established by law (Penal Code § 1417.9) or that has been established by the Property Room Supervisor, or until the expiration of any imposed sentence that is related to the evidence, whichever time period is greater. Following the retention period, notifications should be made by certified mail and should inform the recipient that the evidence will be destroyed after a date specified in the notice unless a motion seeking an order to retain the sample is filed and served on the Department within 180 days of the date of the notification. A record of all certified mail receipts shall be retained in the appropriate file. Any objection to, or motion regarding, the destruction of the biological evidence should be retained in the appropriate file and a copy forwarded to the Investigation Division supervisor.

Biological evidence related to a homicide shall be retained indefinitely and may only be destroyed with the written approval of the Chief of Police and the head of the applicable prosecutor’s office.

Biological evidence or other crime scene evidence from an unsolved sexual assault should not be disposed of prior to expiration of the statute of limitations and shall be retained as required in Penal Code § 680. Even after expiration of an applicable statute of limitations, the Investigation Division supervisor should be consulted and the sexual assault victim shall be notified at least 60 days prior to the disposal (Penal Code § 680). Reasons for not analyzing biological evidence shall be documented in writing (Penal Code § 680.3).

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804.7.4 HANDLING MONEY RECEIVED IN PROPERTY

This procedure is to ensure that all money received into Property is deposited in a proper facility for safe-keeping pending disposition. All monies received into the Ventura Police Department Property Room shall be packaged in accordance with the guidelines as posted outside the Property Room service window.

Ventura Police Department officers who place or cause to be placed a sum of money in excess of $100 into the Ventura Police Department Property Room shall complete the Ventura Police Department currency receipt form. The amount of money will be verified and another member of the Ventura Police Department will sign the form. The original form will be placed in Records with the report. The duplicate form will be placed in the evidence bag with the currency. This form may be used with an amount of money less than $100 at the officer's discretion or at the request of a supervisor.

Exception: When a very large sum of money is obtained and it is not otherwise practical to count that money at that time, it may be placed in the Ventura Police Department Property Room if it meets the following criteria:

(a) It has the approval of the on-duty Watch Commander or Assistant Chief;

(b) The money is sealed in an appropriate container, and

(c) The container is initialed by two officers.

Every effort will then be made to have the money counted as soon as practical.

804.7.5 FOUND MONEY

All the money received as found property shall be deposited in the Confiscated Money Account (CMA) on a weekly basis.

804.7.6 EVIDENCE

When money is received as evidence, it shall be held in the Property safe. At this time, a notice is to be generated to the Detective Sergeant requesting a determination as to the need for the money in question as best evidence. If the money is not needed, the money shall be deposited in the CMA and held there until such time as the money can be returned to the rightful owner or disposed of in a manner prescribed by law. This shall be done on a weekly basis.

804.7.7 ASSET-SEIZED MONEY

When money is received as asset-seized money, it is held in the Property safe. After approximately one week, the money will be counted and deposited in the Asset Seizure Trust Account after checking with a Detective Unit supervisor to be certain that the currency need not be retained for the best evidence rule. The Property Officer will differentiate asset-seized money from other money.

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804.7.8 DISCREPANCY

If at any time during this process it is determined that the amount of money that is reported on the evidence tag or original report is incorrect, the appropriate supervisor will be notified so the discrepancy can be justified and corrected.

804.7.9 SCALES PROGRAM

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department to actively participate in the Schools and Community Acceptance of Law Enforcement Seizures Program (SCALES). The Schools Supervisor will administer this. The Schools Supervisor may give scales and equipment that become the property of the Ventura Police Department to the local schools. The Property Officer shall maintain a log of these donations and the Schools Supervisor shall sign the log verifying each donation and the school receiving the equipment.

804.8 INSPECTIONS OF THE EVIDENCE ROOM

(a) On a monthly basis, the supervisor of the evidence custodian shall make an inspection of the evidence storage facilities and practices to ensure adherence to appropriate policies and procedures.

(b) Unannounced inspections of evidence storage areas shall be conducted annually as directed by the Chief of Police.

(c) A monthly audit shall be conducted by the investigations commander, or his/her designee. The completed audit form shall be sent to professional standards and stored on the professional standards drive.

(d) Whenever a change is made in personnel who have access to the evidence room, an inventory of all evidence/property shall be made by an individual not associated to the property room or function to ensure that records are correct and all evidence property is accounted for.

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Records Unit

806.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes the guidelines for the operational functions of the Ventura Police Department Records Unit. The policy addresses department file access and internal requests for case reports.

806.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department to maintain department records securely, professionally, and efficiently.

806.3 DETERMINATION OF FACTUAL INNOCENCE

In any case where a person has been arrested by officers of the Ventura Police Department and no accusatory pleading has been filed, the person arrested may petition the Department to destroy the related arrest records. Petitions should be forwarded to the Commander of the Investigations Unit who shall decide whether a finding of factual innocence is appropriate. (Penal Code § 851.8). Factual innocence means the accused person did not commit the crime.

Upon affirming factual innocence, the Commander of the Investigations Unit shall contact the prosecuting attorney and request a review of the petition. Upon concurrence from the prosecuting attorney that the petitioner is factually innocent, the approved petition shall be forwarded to the Records Unit Supervisor. The Records Supervisor shall ensure that the arrest record and petition are sealed for later destruction and the required notifications are made to the California DOJ and other law enforcement agencies (Penal Code § 851.8).

The Records Supervisor should respond to a petition with the Department's decision within 45 days of receipt. Responses should include only the decision of the Department, not an explanation of the analysis leading to the decision.

806.4 ARREST WITHOUT FILING OF ACCUSATORY PLEADING

The Patrol Assistant Chief should ensure a process is in place for when an individual is arrested and released and no accusatory pleading is filed so that the following occurs (Penal Code § 849.5; Penal Code § 851.6):

(a) The individual is issued a certificate describing the action as a detention.

(b) All references to an arrest are deleted from the arrest records of the Department and the record reflects only a detention.

(c) The California DOJ is notified.

806.5 FILE ACCESS AND SECURITY

The security of files in the Records Unit must be a high priority and shall be maintained as mandated by state or federal law. All case reports including but not limited to initial, supplemental,

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follow-up, evidence, and any other reports related to a police department case, including field interview (FI) cards, criminal history records, and publicly accessible logs, shall be maintained in a secure area within the Records Unit, accessible only by authorized members of the Records Unit. Access to case reports or files when Records Unit staff is not available may be obtained through the Watch Commander.

The Records Unit will also maintain a secure file for case reports deemed by the Chief of Police as sensitive or otherwise requiring extraordinary access restrictions.

806.6 ORIGINAL CASE REPORTS

Generally, original case reports shall not be removed from the Records Unit. Should an original case report be needed for any reason, the requesting department member shall first obtain authorization from the Records Supervisor. All original case reports removed from the Records Unit shall be recorded on a designated report check-out log, which shall be the only authorized manner by which an original case report may be removed from the Records Unit.

All original case reports to be removed from the Records Unit shall be photocopied and the photocopy retained in the file location of the original case report until the original is returned to the Records Unit. The photocopied report shall be shredded upon return of the original report to the file.

806.7 CONFIDENTIALITY

Records Unit staff has access to information that may be confidential or sensitive in nature. Records Unit staff shall not access, view, or distribute, or allow anyone else to access, view, or distribute any record, file, or report, whether in hard copy or electronic file format, or any other confidential, protected, or sensitive information except in accordance with the Records Maintenance and Release and Protected Information policies and the Records Unit procedure manual.

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Restoration of Firearm Serial Numbers

808.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The primary purpose for restoring firearm serial numbers is to determine the prior owners or origin of the item from which the number has been recovered. Thus, property can be returned to rightful owners or investigations can be initiated to curb illegal trade of contraband firearms. The purpose of this plan is to develop standards, methodologies, and safety protocols for the recovery of obliterated serial numbers from firearms and other objects using procedures that are accepted as industry standards in the forensic community. All personnel who are involved in the restoration of serial numbers will observe the following guidelines. This policy complies with Penal Code § 11108.9.

808.2 PROCEDURE

Any firearm coming into the possession of the Ventura Police Department as evidence, found property, etc., where the serial numbers have been removed or obliterated will be processed in the following manner:

808.2.1 PRELIMINARY FIREARM EXAMINATION

(a) Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Be sure the firearm is in an unloaded condition. This includes removal of the ammunition source (e.g., the detachable magazine, contents of the tubular magazine) as well as the chamber contents.

(b) If the firearm is corroded shut or in a condition that would preclude inspection of the chamber contents, treat the firearm as if it is loaded. Make immediate arrangements for a firearms examiner or other qualified examiner to render the firearm safe.

(c) Accurately record/document the condition of the gun when received. Note the positions of the various components such as the safeties, cylinder, magazine, slide, hammer, etc. Accurately record/document cylinder chamber and magazine contents. Package the ammunition separately.

(d) If the firearm is to be processed for fingerprints or trace evidence, process before the serial number restoration is attempted. First record/document important aspects such as halos on the revolver cylinder face or other relevant evidence that might be obscured by the fingerprinting chemicals.

808.2.2 PROPERTY BOOKING PROCEDURE

Any employee taking possession of a firearm with removed/obliterated serial numbers shall book the firearm into property following standard procedures. The employee booking the firearm shall indicate on the property form that serial numbers have been removed or obliterated.

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808.2.3 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY
The Property Officer receiving a firearm when the serial numbers have been removed or obliterated shall arrange for the firearm to be transported to the crime lab for restoration and maintain the chain of evidence.

808.2.4 DOCUMENTATION
Case reports are prepared in order to document the chain of custody and the initial examination and handling of evidence from the time it is received/collected until it is released.

This report must include a record of the manner in which and/or from whom the firearm was received. This may appear on the request form or property form depending on the type of evidence.

808.2.5 FIREARM TRACE
After the serial number has been restored (or partially restored) by the criminalistics laboratory, the Property Officer will complete a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) National Tracing Center (NTC) Obliterated Serial Number Trace Request Form (ATF 3312.1-OBL) and forward the form to the NTC in Falling Waters, West Virginia or enter the data into the ATF eTrace system.

808.3 BULLET AND CASING IDENTIFICATION
Exemplar bullets and cartridge cases from the firearm, depending upon acceptance criteria and protocol, may be submitted to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) which uses the Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) technology to search the national database and compare with ballistic evidence recovered from other crime scenes.

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Records Maintenance and Release

810.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance on the maintenance and release of department records. Protected information is separately covered in the Protected Information Policy.

810.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department is committed to providing public access to records in a manner that is consistent with the California Public Records Act (Government Code § 6250 et seq.).

810.2.1 PROCESSING OF REQUESTS

Any department member who receives a request for records shall route the request to the Custodian of Records or the authorized designee. Any member of the public, including the media and elected officials, may access unrestricted records of this department by submitting a written and signed request for each record sought and paying any associated fees (Government Code § 6253).

The processing of requests is subject to the following limitations:

(a) The Custodian of Records shall determine if the requested record is available and, if so, whether the record is exempt from disclosure. Either the requested record or the reason for non-disclosure will be provided promptly, but no later than 10 days from the date of request, unless unusual circumstances preclude doing so. If more time is needed, an extension of up to 14 additional days may be authorized by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee. If an extension is authorized, the Department shall provide written notice of the extension to the requesting party (Government Code § 6253(c)).

(b) In accordance with the Public Records Act, the Department is not required to create records that do not otherwise exist in order to accommodate a request under the Act.

Requests by elected officials for records that are not open to public inspection should be referred to the Administrative Operations Assistant Chief for a determination as to whether the records will be released.

810.3 CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chief of Police shall designate a Custodian of Records. The responsibilities of the Custodian of Records include but are not limited to:

(a) Managing the records management system for the Department, including the retention, archiving, release, and destruction of department public records.

(b) Maintaining and updating the department records retention schedule including:

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1. Identifying the minimum length of time the Department must keep records.
2. Identifying the department division responsible for the original record.

(c) Establishing rules regarding the inspection and copying of department public records as reasonably necessary for the protection of such records.

(d) Identifying records or portions of records that are confidential under state or federal law and not open for inspection or copying.

(e) Establishing rules regarding the processing of subpoenas for the production of records.

(f) Ensuring a current schedule of fees for public records as allowed by law is available (Government Code § 6253).

(g) Determining how the department's website may be used to post public records in accordance with Government Code § 6253.

(h) Ensuring that public records posted on the Department website meet the requirements of Government Code § 6253.10 including but not limited to posting in an open format where a record may be retrieved, downloaded, indexed, and searched by a commonly used internet search application.

(i) Ensuring that a list and description, when applicable, of enterprise systems (as defined by Government Code § 6270.5) is publicly available upon request and posted in a prominent location on the Department’s website.

810.3.1 GENERAL CASE AND CRIME REPORTS

Reports containing any of the items listed below will not be released:

(a) **Victim information** - Victims of crimes who have requested that their identifying information be kept confidential, victims who are minors and victims of certain offenses (e.g., sex crimes, Penal Code § 293) shall not be made public. No employee shall disclose to any arrested person or to any person who may be a defendant in a criminal action the address or telephone number of any person who is a victim or witness in the alleged offense, unless it is required by law (Penal Code § 841.5).

(b) **Confidential information** - Information involving confidential informants, intelligence information, information that would endanger the safety of any person involved or information that would endanger the successful completion of the investigation or a related investigation shall not be made public.

1. Analysis and conclusions of investigating officers may also be exempt from disclosure.
2. If it has been noted in any report that any individual wishes to protect his/her right to privacy under the California Constitution, such information may not be subject to public disclosure.

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(c) **Specific crimes** - Certain types of reports involving, but not limited to, **child abuse/ molestation** (Penal Code § 11167.5), **elder abuse** (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15633) and **juveniles** (Welfare and Institutions Code § 827) shall not be made public.

(d) **General information** - Absent statutory exemption to the contrary or other lawful reason to deem information from reports confidential, information from unrestricted agency reports shall be made public as outlined in Government Code § 6254(f).

(e) **Deceased juvenile crime victims** - The Code of Civil Procedure § 130 limits the dissemination of autopsy and private medical information concerning a murdered child by allowing families to request that the autopsy report of the victim be sealed from public inspection. Such requests shall be honored, with the exceptions that allow dissemination of those reports to law enforcement agents, prosecutors, defendants or civil litigants under state and federal discovery laws (Code of Civil Procedure §130).

810.3.2 ARREST REPORTS

Arrestee information shall be subject to release in the same manner as information contained in other reports as set forth above.

In addition to the restrictions stated above, all requests from criminal defendants and their authorized representatives (including attorneys) shall be referred to the District Attorney, City Attorney or the courts pursuant to Penal Code § 1054.5.

Local criminal history information including, but not limited to, arrest history and disposition, and fingerprints shall only be subject to release to those agencies and individuals set forth in Penal Code § 13300.

810.3.3 TRAFFIC COLLISION REPORTS

Traffic collision reports (and related supplemental reports) shall be considered confidential and subject to release only to the California Highway Patrol, Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), other law enforcement agencies and those individuals and their authorized representatives set forth in Vehicle Code § 20012.

810.3.4 PERSONNEL RECORDS

Personnel records, medical records and similar records which would involve personal privacy shall not be made public (Government Code § 6254((c); Penal Code § 832.7; Penal Code § 832.8).

Peace officer personnel records are deemed confidential (Penal Code § 832.7, et seq.) and shall not be made public or otherwise released to unauthorized individuals or entities absent a valid court order (Evidence Code § 1043, et seq.).

The identity of any officer subject to any criminal or administrative investigation shall not be released without the consent of the involved officer, prior approval of the Chief of Police or as required by law.

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810.3.5 CONCEALED WEAPONS PERMITS
Information contained in CCW permit applications or other files which would tend to reveal where the applicant is vulnerable or which contains medical or psychological information shall not be made public (Government Code § 6254(u)).

810.3.6 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTS
Victims of domestic violence or their representative shall be provided, without charge, one copy of all domestic violence incident report face sheets, one copy of all domestic violence incident reports, or both, pursuant to the requirements and time frames of Family Code § 6228.

810.4 PROCESSING REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC RECORDS

Any department member who receives a request for any record shall route the request to the Custodian of Records or the authorized designee.

810.4.1 REQUESTS FOR RECORDS
Any member of the public, including the media and elected officials, may access unrestricted records of this department, during regular business hours by submitting a written and signed request that reasonably describes each record sought and paying any associated fees (Government Code § 6253).

The processing of requests for any record is subject to the following (Government Code § 6253):

(a) The Department is not required to create records that do not exist.

(b) Victims of an incident or their authorized representative shall not be required to show proof of legal presence in the United States to obtain department records or information. If identification is required, a current driver's license or identification card issued by any state in the United States, a current passport issued by the United States or a foreign government with which the United States has a diplomatic relationship or current Matricula Consular card is acceptable (Government Code § 6254.30).

(c) Either the requested record or the reason for non-disclosure will be provided promptly, but no later than 10 days from the date of request, unless unusual circumstances preclude doing so. If more time is needed, an extension of up to 14 additional days may be authorized by the Custodian of Records or the authorized designee. If an extension is authorized, the Department shall provide the requester written notice that includes the reason for the extension and the anticipated date of the response.

    1. When the request does not reasonably describe the records sought, the Custodian of Records shall assist the requester in making the request focused and effective in a way to identify the records or information that would be responsive to the request including providing assistance for overcoming any practical basis for denying access to the records or information. The Custodian of Records shall also assist in describing the information technology and physical location in which the record exists (Government Code § 6253.1).

    2. If the record requested is available on the department website, the requester may be directed to the location on the website where the record is posted. If the

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requester is unable to access or reproduce the record, a copy of the record shall be promptly provided.

(d) Upon request, a record shall be provided in an electronic format utilized by the Department. Records shall not be provided only in electronic format unless specifically requested (Government Code § 6253.9).

(e) When a record contains material with release restrictions and material that is not subject to release restrictions, the restricted material shall be redacted and the unrestricted material released.

1. A copy of the redacted release should be maintained in the case file for proof of what was actually released and as a place to document the reasons for the redactions. If the record is audio or video, a copy of the redacted audio/video release should be maintained in the department-approved media storage system and a notation should be made in the case file to document the release and the reasons for the redacted portions.

(f) If a record request is denied in whole or part, the requester shall be provided a written response that includes the statutory exemption for withholding the record or facts that the public interest served by nondisclosure outweighs the interest served by disclosure (Government Code § 6255). The written response shall also include the names, titles or positions of each person responsible for the denial.

810.5 RELEASE RESTRICTIONS

Examples of release restrictions include:

(a) Personal identifying information, including an individual's photograph; Social Security and driver identification numbers; name, address, and telephone number; and medical or disability information that is contained in any driver license record, motor vehicle record, or any department record, including traffic collision reports, are restricted except as authorized by the Department, and only when such use or disclosure is permitted or required by law to carry out a legitimate law enforcement purpose (18 USC § 2721; 18 USC § 2722).

(b) Social Security numbers (Government Code § 6254.29).

(c) Personnel records, medical records, and similar records that would involve an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy except as allowed by law (Government Code § 6254; Penal Code § 832.7; Penal Code § 832.8; Evidence Code § 1043 et seq.).

1. Peace officer personnel records that are deemed confidential shall not be made public or otherwise released to unauthorized individuals or entities absent a valid court order.

2. The identity of any officer subject to any criminal or administrative investigation shall not be released without the consent of the involved officer, prior approval of the Chief of Police, or as required by law.

(d) Victim information that may be protected by statutes, including victims of certain crimes who have requested that their identifying information be kept confidential, victims who are minors, and victims of certain offenses (e.g., sex crimes or human trafficking (Penal Code § 293)). Addresses and telephone numbers of a victim or a witness to any

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arrested person or to any person who may be a defendant in a criminal action shall not be disclosed, unless it is required by law (Government Code § 6254; Penal Code § 841.5).

1. Victims of certain offenses (e.g., domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, elder and dependent adult abuse) or their representatives shall be provided, upon request and without charge, one copy of all incident report face sheets, one copy of all incident reports, or both, pursuant to the requirements and time frames of Family Code § 6228.
2. Victims of sexual assault, upon written request, shall be provided a free copy of the initial crime report regardless of whether the report has been closed. Personal identifying information may be redacted (Penal Code § 680.2(b)).

(e) Video or audio recordings created during the commission or investigation of the crime of rape, incest, sexual assault, domestic violence, or child abuse that depicts the face, intimate body part, or voice of a victim of the incident except as provided by Government Code § 6254.4.5.

(f) Information involving confidential informants, intelligence information, information that would endanger the safety of any person involved, or information that would endanger the successful completion of the investigation or a related investigation. This includes analysis and conclusions of investigating officers (Evidence Code § 1041; Government Code § 6254).

1. Absent a statutory exemption to the contrary or other lawful reason to deem information from reports confidential, information from unrestricted agency reports shall be made public as outlined in Government Code § 6254(f).

(g) Local criminal history information including but not limited to arrest history and disposition, and fingerprints shall only be subject to release to those agencies and individuals set forth in Penal Code § 13300.

1. All requests from criminal defendants and their authorized representatives (including attorneys) shall be referred to the District Attorney, City Attorney, or the courts pursuant to Penal Code § 1054.5.

(h) Certain types of reports involving but not limited to child abuse and molestation (Penal Code § 11167.5), elder and dependent abuse (Welfare and Institutions Code § 15633), and juveniles (Welfare and Institutions Code § 827).

(i) Sealed autopsy and private medical information concerning a murdered child with the exceptions that allow dissemination of those reports to law enforcement agents, prosecutors, defendants, or civil litigants under state and federal discovery laws (Code of Civil Procedure §130).

(j) Information contained in applications for licenses to carry firearms or other files that indicates when or where the applicant is vulnerable or which contains medical or psychological information (Government Code § 6254).

(k) Traffic collision reports (and related supplemental reports) shall be considered confidential and subject to release only to the California Highway Patrol, Department

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of Motor Vehicles (DMV), other law enforcement agencies, and those individuals and their authorized representatives set forth in Vehicle Code § 20012.

(l) Any record created exclusively in anticipation of potential litigation involving this department (Government Code § 6254).

(m) Any memorandum from legal counsel until the pending litigation has been adjudicated or otherwise settled (Government Code § 6254.25).

(n) Records relating to the security of the department's electronic technology systems (Government Code § 6254.19).

(o) A record of a complaint, or the investigations, findings, or dispositions of that complaint if the complaint is frivolous, as defined by Code of Civil Procedure § 128.5, or if the complaint is unfounded (Penal Code § 832.7 (b)(9)).

(p) Any other record not addressed in this policy shall not be subject to release where such record is exempt or prohibited from disclosure pursuant to state or federal law, including but not limited to provisions of the Evidence Code relating to privilege (Government Code § 6254).

(q) Information connected with juvenile court proceedings or the detention or custody of a juvenile. Federal officials may be required to obtain a court order to obtain certain juvenile information (Welfare and Institutions Code § 827.9; Welfare and Institutions Code § 827.95; Welfare and Institutions Code § 831).

810.6 SUBPOENAS AND DISCOVERY REQUESTS

Any member who receives a subpoena duces tecum or discovery request for records should promptly contact a supervisor and the Custodian of Records for review and processing. While a subpoena duces tecum may ultimately be subject to compliance, it is not an order from the court that will automatically require the release of the requested information.

Generally, discovery requests and subpoenas from criminal defendants and their authorized representatives (including attorneys) should be referred to the District Attorney, City Attorney or the courts.

All questions regarding compliance with any subpoena duces tecum or discovery request should be promptly referred to legal counsel for the Department so that a timely response can be prepared.

810.7 RELEASED RECORDS TO BE MARKED

Each page of any written record released pursuant to this policy should be stamped in a colored ink or otherwise marked to indicate the department name and to whom the record was released.

Each audio/video recording released should include the department name and to whom the record was released.

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810.7.1 FORM OF NOTICE

(a) The notice shall be written in plain language and include, to the extent possible, the following:

1. The date of the notice.
2. Name and contact information for the Ventura Police Department.
3. A list of the types of personal information that were or are reasonably believed to have been acquired.
4. The estimated date or date range within which the security breach occurred.
5. Whether the notification was delayed as a result of a law enforcement investigation.
6. A general description of the security breach.
7. The toll-free telephone numbers and addresses of the major credit reporting agencies, if the breach exposed a social security number or a driver's license or California identification card number.

(b) The notice may also include information about what the Ventura Police Department has done to protect individuals whose information has been breached and may include information on steps that the person whose information has been breached may take to protect him/herself.

(c) When a breach involves an online account, and only a user name or email address in combination with either a password or security question and answer that would permit access to an online account, and no other personal information has been breached:

1. Notification may be provided electronically or in another form directing the person to promptly change either his/her password or security question and answer, as applicable, or to take other appropriate steps to protect the online account with the Department in addition to any other online accounts for which the person uses the same user name or email address and password or security question and answer.

810.7.2 MANNER OF NOTICE

(a) Notice may be provided by one of the following methods:

1. Written notice.
2. Electronic notice if the notice provided is consistent with the provisions regarding electronic records and signatures set forth in 15 USC § 7001.
3. Substitute notice if the cost of providing notice would exceed $250,000, the number of individuals exceeds 500,000 or the Department does not have

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sufficient contact information. Substitute notice shall consist of all of the following:

(a) Email notice, when the Department has an email address for the subject person.

(b) Conspicuous posting of the notice on the Department's webpage.

4. Notification to major statewide media and the California Information Security Office within the California Department of Technology.

(b) If a single breach requires the Department to notify more than 500 California residents, the Department shall electronically submit a sample copy of the notification, excluding any personally identifiable information, to the Attorney General.

810.8 SEALED RECORD ORDERS

Sealed record orders received by the Department shall be reviewed for appropriate action by the Custodian of Records. The Custodian of Records shall seal such records as ordered by the court. Records may include but are not limited to a record of arrest, investigation, detention, or conviction. Once the record is sealed, members shall respond to any inquiry as though the record did not exist (Penal Code § 851.8; Welfare and Institutions Code § 781).

When an arrest record is sealed pursuant to Penal Code § 851.87, Penal Code § 851.90, Penal Code § 851.91, Penal Code § 1000.4, or Penal Code § 1001.9, the Records Supervisor shall ensure that the required notations on local summary criminal history information and police investigative reports are made. Sealed records may be disclosed or used as authorized by Penal Code § 851.92.

810.8.1 SEALED JUVENILE ARREST RECORDS

Upon receiving notice from a probation department to seal juvenile arrest records pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code § 786.5, the Records Supervisor should ensure that the records are sealed within 60 days of that notice and that the probation department is notified once the records have been sealed (Welfare and Institutions Code § 786.5).

810.9 SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM

Any Subpoena Duces Tecum (SDT) should be promptly provided to a supervisor for review and processing. While a Subpoena Duces Tecum may ultimately be subject to compliance, it is not an order from the Court that will automatically require the release of the requested information.

All questions regarding compliance with any Subpoena Duces Tecum should be promptly referred to legal counsel for the Department so that a timely response can be prepared.

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810.10 RELEASE OF AUDIO OR VIDEO RECORDINGS RELATED TO CRITICAL INCIDENTS

Video and audio recordings related to critical incidents shall be released upon a proper public record request and subject to delayed release, redaction, and other release restrictions as provided by law (Government Code § 6254(f)(4)).

For purposes of this section, a video or audio recording relates to a critical incident if it depicts an incident involving the discharge of a firearm at a person by an officer, or depicts an incident in which the use of force by an officer against a person resulted in death or in great bodily injury (as defined by Penal Code § 243(f)(4)) (Government Code § 6254(f)(4)).

The Custodian of Records should work as appropriate with the Chief of Police or the Professional Standards Unit supervisor in determining what recordings may qualify for disclosure when a request for a recording is received and if the requested recording is subject to delay from disclosure, redaction, or other release restrictions.

810.10.1 DELAY OF RELEASE

Disclosure of critical incident recordings during active criminal or administrative investigations may be delayed as follows if disclosure would substantially interfere with the investigation, such as by endangering the safety of a witness or a confidential source:

(a) Disclosure may be delayed up to 45 days from the date the Department knew or reasonably should have known about the incident.

(b) Delay of disclosure may continue after the initial 45 days and up to one year if the Department demonstrates that disclosure would substantially interfere with the investigation.

(c) Any delay of disclosure longer than one year must be supported by clear and convincing evidence that disclosure would substantially interfere with the investigation (Government Code § 6254(f)(4)).

810.10.2 NOTICE OF DELAY OF RELEASE

When there is justification to delay disclosure of a recording, the Custodian of Records shall provide written notice to the requester as follows (Government Code § 6254(f)(4)):

(a) During the initial 45 days, the Custodian of Records shall provide the requester with written notice of the specific basis for the determination that disclosure would substantially interfere with the investigation. The notice shall also include the estimated date for the disclosure.

(b) When delay is continued after the initial 45 days, the Custodian of Records shall promptly provide the requester with written notice of the specific basis for the determination that the interest in preventing interference with an active investigation outweighs the public interest in the disclosure, and the estimated date for the disclosure. The Custodian of Records should work with the Chief of Police in reassessing the decision to continue withholding a recording and notify the requester every 30 days.

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Recordings withheld shall be disclosed promptly when the specific basis for withholding the recording is resolved.

810.10.3 REDACTION

If the Custodian of Records, in consultation with the Chief of Police or authorized designee, determines that specific portions of the recording may violate the reasonable expectation of privacy of a person depicted in the recording, the Department should use redaction technology to redact portions of recordings made available for release. The redaction should not interfere with the viewer's ability to fully, completely, and accurately comprehend the events captured in the recording, and the recording should not otherwise be edited or altered (Government Code § 6254(f)(4)).

If any portions of a recording are withheld to protect the reasonable expectation of privacy of a person depicted in the recording, the Custodian of Records shall provide in writing to the requester the specific basis for the expectation of privacy and the public interest served (Government Code § 6254(f)(4)).

810.10.4 RECORDINGS WITHHELD FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

If the reasonable expectation of privacy of a person depicted in the recording cannot adequately be protected through redaction, and that interest outweighs the public interest in disclosure, the Department may withhold the recording from the public, except that the recording, either redacted or unredacted, shall be disclosed promptly, upon request, to any of the following (Government Code § 6254(f)(4)):

(a) The person in the recording whose privacy is to be protected, or his/her authorized representative.

(b) If the person is a minor, the parent or legal guardian of the person whose privacy is to be protected.

(c) If the person whose privacy is to be protected is deceased, an heir, beneficiary, designated immediate family member, or authorized legal representative of the deceased person whose privacy is to be protected.

If the Department determines that this disclosure would substantially interfere with an active criminal or administrative investigation, the Custodian of Records shall provide the requester with written notice of the specific basis for the determination and the estimated date of disclosure (Government Code § 6254(f)(4)).

The Department may continue to delay release of the recording from the public for 45 days with extensions as provided in this policy (Government Code § 6254(f)(4)(A)).

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Media Protection

811.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this section is to ensure the protection of the Criminal Justice Information (CJI) until such time as the information is either released to the public via authorized dissemination or is purged or destroyed in accordance with applicable record retention rules. This policy applies to any electronic or physical media containing FBI Criminal Justice Information (CJI) while being stored, accessed or physically moved from a secure location from the Ventura Police Department.

811.2 MEDIA STORAGE AND ACCESS

Controls shall be in place to protect electronic and physical media containing CJI while at rest, stored, or actively being accessed. "Electronic media" includes memory devices in laptops and computers (hard drives) and any removable, transportable digital memory media, such as magnetic tape or disk, backup medium, optical disk, flash drives, external hard drives, or digital memory card. "Physical media" includes printed documents and imagery that contain CJI.

To protect CJI, the Ventura Police Department personnel shall:

(a) Securely store electronic and physical media within a physically secure or controlled area. A secured area includes a locked drawer, cabinet, or room.

(b) Restrict access to electronic and physical media to authorized individuals.

(c) Ensure that only authorized users remove printed form or digital media from the CJI.

(d) Physically protect CJI until media end of life. End of life CJI is destroyed or sanitized using approved equipment, techniques and procedures.

(e) Not use personally owned information system to access, process, store, or transmit CJI unless the Ventura Police Department has established and documented the specific terms and conditions for personally owned information system usage.

(f) Not utilize publicly accessible computers to access, process, store, or transmit CJI. Publicly accessible computers include but are not limited to: hotel business center computers, convention center computers, public library computers, public kiosk computers, etc.

(g) Store all hardcopy CJI printouts maintained by the Ventura Police Department in a secure area accessible to only those employees whose job function require them to handle such documents.

(h) Safeguard all CJI by the Ventura Police Department against possible misuse by complying with the Physical Protection Policy, Personally Owned Device Policy, and Disciplinary Policy.

(i) Take appropriate action when in possession of CJI while not in a secure area:

1. (a) CJI must not leave the employee's immediate control. CJI printouts cannot be left unsupervised while physical controls are not in place.

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(b) Precautions must be taken to obscure CJI from public view, such as by means of an opaque file folder or envelope for hard copy printouts. For electronic devices like laptops, use session lock use and /or privacy screens. CJI shall not be left in plain public view. When CJI is electronically transmitted outside the boundary of the physically secure location, the data shall be immediately protected using encryption.

i. When CJI is at rest (i.e. stored electronically) outside the boundary of the physically secure location, the data shall be protected using encryption. Storage devices include external hard drives from computers, printers and copiers used with CJI. In addition, storage devices include thumb drives, flash drives, back-up tapes, mobile devices, laptops, etc.

ii. When encryption is employed, the cryptographic module used shall be certified to meet FIPS 140-2 standards.

(j) Lock or log off computer when not in immediate vicinity of work area to protect CJI. Not all personnel have same CJI access permissions and need to keep CJI protected on a need-to-know basis.

(k) Establish appropriate administrative, technical and physical safeguards to ensure the security and confidentiality of CJI.(see Physical Protection Policy)

811.3 MEDIA TRANSPORT

Controls shall be in place to protect electronic and physical media containing CJI while in transport (physically moved from one location to another) to prevent inadvertent or inappropriate disclosure and use. “Electronic media” means electronic storage media including memory devices in laptops and computers (hard drives) and any removable, transportable digital memory media, such as magnetic tape or disk, backup medium, optical disk, flash drives, external hard drives, or digital memory card.

Dissemination to another agency is authorized if:

- The other agency is an Authorized Recipient of such information and is being serviced by the accessing agency.
- The other agency is performing personnel and appointment functions for criminal justice employment applicants.

The Ventura Police Department personnel shall:

- Protect and control electronic and physical media during transport outside of controlled areas.
- Restrict the pickup, receipt, transfer and delivery of such media to authorized personnel.

The Ventura Police Department personnel will control, protect, and secure electronic and physical media during transport from public disclosure by:

- Use of privacy statements in electronic and paper documents.

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- Limiting the collection, disclosure, sharing and use of CJI.
- Following the least privilege and role based rules for allowing access. Limit access to CJI to only those people or roles that require access.
- Securing hand carried confidential electronic and paper documents by:
  - (a) Storing CJI in a locked briefcase or lockbox.
  - (b) Only viewing or accessing the CJI electronically or document printouts in a physically secure location by authorized personnel.
  - (c) For hard copy printouts or CJI documents:
    - i. Package hard copy printouts in such a way as to not have any CJI information viewable.
    - ii. That are mailed or shipped, agency must document procedures and only release to authorized individuals. DO NOT MARK THE PACKAGE TO BE MAILED CONFIDENTIAL. Packages containing CJI material are to be sent by method(s) that provide for complete shipment tracking and history, and signature confirmation of delivery.
- Not taking CJI home or when traveling unless authorized by Ventura Police Department. When disposing confidential documents, use a shredder.

811.4 ELECTRONIC MEDIA SANITATION AND DISPOSAL

The agency shall sanitize, that is, overwrite at least three times or degauss electronic media prior to disposal or release for reuse by unauthorized individuals. Inoperable electronic media shall be destroyed (cut up, shredded, etc.). The agency shall maintain written documentation of the steps taken to sanitize or destroy electronic media. Agencies shall ensure the sanitization or destruction is witnessed or carried out by authorized personnel. Physical media shall be securely disposed of when no longer required, using formal procedures.

811.5 BREACH NOTIFICATION AND INCIDENT REPORTING

Ventura Police shall promptly report incident information to appropriate authorities. Information security events and weaknesses associated with information systems shall be communicated in a manner allowing timely corrective action to be taken. Incident-related information can be obtained from a variety of sources including, but not limited to, audit monitoring, network monitoring, physical access monitoring, and user/administrator reports.

811.6 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

If CJI is improperly disclosed, lost, or reported as not received, the following procedures must be immediately followed:

(a) Ventura Police Department personnel shall notify his/her supervisor or Security Point of Contact (SPOC- Assistant Chief), and an incident-report form must be completed and submitted within 24 hours of discovery of the incident. The submitted report is to

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contain a detailed account of the incident, events leading to the incident, and steps taken/to be taken in response to the incident.

(b) The supervisor will communicate the situation to the Police Department SPOC to notify of the loss or disclosure of CJI records.

(c) The SPOC will ensure the Network and Systems Administrator is promptly informed of security incidents.

(d) The Network and Systems Administrator will:

- Establish a security incident response and reporting procedure to discover, investigate, document, report to the affected criminal justice agency, and the FBI CJIS Division Information Security Officer (ISO) major incidents that significantly endanger the security or integrity of CJI.
- Collect and disseminate all incident-related information received from the Department of Justice (DOJ), FBI CJIS Division, and other entities to the appropriate local law enforcement SPOCs within their area.
- Act as a single point of contact for their jurisdictional area for requesting incident response assistance.

811.7 PENALTIES

Violation of any of the requirements in this policy by any authorized personnel will result in suitable disciplinary action, up to and including loss of access privileges, civil and criminal prosecution and / or termination.

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Protected Information

812.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the access, transmission, release and security of protected information by members of the Ventura Police Department. This policy addresses the protected information that is used in the day-to-day operation of the Department and not the public records information covered in the Records Maintenance and Release Policy.

812.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Protected information - Any information or data that is collected, stored or accessed by members of the Ventura Police Department and is subject to any access or release restrictions imposed by law, regulation, order or use agreement. This includes all information contained in federal, state or local law enforcement databases that is not accessible to the public.

812.2 POLICY

Members of the Ventura Police Department will adhere to all applicable laws, orders, regulations, use agreements and training related to the access, use, dissemination and release of protected information.

812.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chief of Police shall select a member of the Department to coordinate the use of protected information.

The responsibilities of this position include, but are not limited to:

(a) Ensuring member compliance with this policy and with requirements applicable to protected information, including requirements for the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system, National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS),Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) records and California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS).

(b) Developing, disseminating and maintaining procedures that adopt or comply with the U.S. Department of Justice's current Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Security Policy.

(c) Developing, disseminating and maintaining any other procedures necessary to comply with any other requirements for the access, use, dissemination, release and security of protected information.

(d) Developing procedures to ensure training and certification requirements are met.

(e) Resolving specific questions that arise regarding authorized recipients of protected information.

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(f) Ensuring security practices and procedures are in place to comply with requirements applicable to protected information.

812.4 ACCESS TO PROTECTED INFORMATION

Protected information shall not be accessed in violation of any law, order, regulation, user agreement, Ventura Police Department policy or training. Only those members who have completed applicable training and met any applicable requirements, such as a background check, may access protected information, and only when the member has a legitimate work-related reason for such access.

Unauthorized access, including access for other than a legitimate work-related purpose, is prohibited and may subject a member to administrative action pursuant to the Personnel Complaints Policy and/or criminal prosecution.

812.4.1 PENALTIES FOR MISUSE OF RECORDS

It is a misdemeanor to furnish, buy, receive or possess Department of Justice criminal history information without authorization by law (Penal Code § 11143).

Authorized persons or agencies violating state regulations regarding the security of Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) maintained by the California Department of Justice may lose direct access to CORI (11 CCR 702).

812.5 RELEASE OR DISSEMINATION OF PROTECTED INFORMATION

Protected information may be released only to authorized recipients who have both a right to know and a need to know.

A member who is asked to release protected information that should not be released should refer the requesting person to a supervisor or to the Records Supervisor for information regarding a formal request.

Unless otherwise ordered or when an investigation would be jeopardized, protected information maintained by the Department may generally be shared with authorized persons from other law enforcement agencies who are assisting in the investigation or conducting a related investigation. Any such information should be released through the Records Unit to ensure proper documentation of the release (see the Records Maintenance and Release Policy).

812.5.1 REVIEW OF CRIMINAL OFFENDER RECORD

Individuals requesting to review their own California criminal history information shall be referred to the Department of Justice (Penal Code § 11121).

Individuals shall be allowed to review their arrest or conviction record on file with the Department after complying with all legal requirements regarding authority and procedures in Penal Code § 11120 through Penal Code § 11127 (Penal Code § 13321).

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812.5.2 TRANSMISSION GUIDELINES

Protected information, such as restricted Criminal Justice Information (CJI), which includes Criminal History Record Information (CHRI), should not be transmitted via unencrypted radio. When circumstances reasonably indicate that the immediate safety of officers, other department members, or the public is at risk, only summary information may be transmitted.

In cases where the transmission of protected information, such as Personally Identifiable Information, is necessary to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose, and utilization of an encrypted radio channel is infeasible, a MDC or department-issued cellular telephone should be utilized when practicable. If neither are available, unencrypted radio transmissions shall be subject to the following:

- Elements of protected information should be broken up into multiple transmissions, to minimally separate an individual's combined last name and any identifying number associated with the individual, from either first name or first initial.
- Additional information regarding the individual, including date of birth, home address, or physical descriptors, should be relayed in separate transmissions.

Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit broadcasting warrant information.

812.6 SECURITY OF PROTECTED INFORMATION

The Chief of Police will select a member of the Department to oversee the security of protected information.

The responsibilities of this position include, but are not limited to:

(a) Developing and maintaining security practices, procedures and training.

(b) Ensuring federal and state compliance with the CJIS Security Policy and the requirements of any state or local criminal history records systems.

(c) Establishing procedures to provide for the preparation, prevention, detection, analysis and containment of security incidents including computer attacks.

(d) Tracking, documenting and reporting all breach of security incidents to the Chief of Police and appropriate authorities.

812.6.1 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members accessing or receiving protected information shall ensure the information is not accessed or received by persons who are not authorized to access or receive it. This includes leaving protected information, such as documents or computer databases, accessible to others when it is reasonably foreseeable that unauthorized access may occur (e.g., on an unattended table or desk; in or on an unattended vehicle; in an unlocked desk drawer or file cabinet; on an unattended computer terminal).

812.7 TRAINING

All members authorized to access or release protected information shall complete a training program that complies with any protected information system requirements and identifies

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authorized access and use of protected information, as well as its proper handling and dissemination.

812.8 CALIFORNIA RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT

Members shall not release personal information from any agency database for the purpose of investigation or enforcement of any program compiling data on individuals based on religious belief, practice, affiliation, national origin or ethnicity (Government Code § 8310.3).

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Front Desk Revenue Collection

813.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides for the proper handling of revenue collected at the Front Desk for a variety of services. It will outline revenue handling procedures and how revenue is collected and stored.

813.2 CASHIERS

The Senior PSO assigned to traffic will be responsible for the Front Desk register. He/She will be the main cashier. All transactions will go through the Senior PSO with the exception of Records related transactions. The main schedule for that position is Mon-Fri 0800 1700 hrs. The backup cashier will be the PSO assigned to the desk and will only perform this task when the Sr. PSO is unavailable. The records division will assign one or five records clerks per day to ring up requests for copies of reports from the public.

813.3 OPENING PROCEDURES

Each morning, the Payroll Specialist will remove the previous day's money and balance sheet from the safe that is located at the front desk. The Payroll Specialist will leave a $200 cash bank in the safe. The opening cashier will remove the $200 bank from the safe and place it in the register. The safe will then be locked.

813.4 REGISTER OPERATIONS

As customers are requested to pay for services, the employee accepting the payment will ring the appropriate amount into the register. There are specific colored buttons that correspond with different services the department provides. After ringing up the service, the register drawer will open and the money will be placed into the register. The employee will give the customer the register receipt and any change due to them.

The cash register will not be used to make change or opened for any other purpose other than completing an official department transaction. If for any reason the register needs to be opened, a "no sale" slip will be completed, the cashier explaining why the register was opened. The "no sale receipt" will be stapled to the "no sale slip" and placed in the register through the slot on the drawer.

If a transaction needs to be voided, the cashier will complete a void slip explaining the reason for the void. The register receipt will be stapled to the "void slip" and will be placed into the cash register drawer slip. This void will be reconciled at the end of the day.

The cashier may accept cash, checks or credit cards for payment. All payment types except for cash will require a photo ID to process. The cashier must write the Driver's License number on the check and obtain a thumbprint from the person writing the check. Checks will NOT be accepted for vehicle releases.

When processing a payment using a credit card the first receipt that prints is the "merchant copy". The employee will have the cardholder sign this copy, write the cardholder's CDL # along the

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bottom of the form and the service provided along the top. (Fingerprints, Vehicle Release, Parking cite, etc). If there are multiple transactions, each transaction should be noted with the dollar amount for that transaction. The merchant copy will be placed through the cash register drawer slot for end of day reconciliation. The second receipt that will print is the customer copy and should be given to the customer.

813.5 CLOSING PROCEDURES

At the end of the day, the cashier will run a closing tape. All checks, currency and credit card slips will be removed from the register and placed in an envelope. This envelope and the $200 opening fund will be placed in the safe. The key will remain in the register for any after hour transactions from the desk.

The cashier will run a detail report and a settlement report on the credit card machine, printing both. The cashier will be responsible for completing a daily reconciliation of the recorded activities and the receipts for credit card transactions. A Daily Transaction Report will be completed and any discrepancies will be fully documented and brought to the attention of the Information Services Commander. The lead cashier will be responsible for all accounting of paperwork and reporting of sales.

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Computers and Digital Evidence

814.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes procedures for the seizure and storage of computers, personal communications devices (PCDs) digital cameras, digital recorders and other electronic devices that are capable of storing digital information; and for the preservation and storage of digital evidence. All evidence seized and/or processed pursuant to this policy shall be done so in compliance with clearly established Fourth Amendment and search and seizure provisions.

814.2 SEIZING COMPUTERS AND RELATED EVIDENCE

Computer equipment requires specialized training and handling to preserve its value as evidence. Officers should be aware of the potential to destroy information through careless or improper handling, and utilize the most knowledgeable available resources. When seizing a computer and accessories the following steps should be taken:

(a) Photograph each item, front and back, specifically including cable connections to other items. Look for a phone line or cable to a modem for Internet access.

(b) Do not overlook the possibility of the presence of physical evidence on and around the hardware relevant to the particular investigation such as fingerprints, biological or trace evidence, and/or documents.

(c) If the computer is off, do not turn it on.

(d) If the computer is on, do not shut it down normally and do not click on anything or examine any files.

1. Photograph the screen, if possible, and note any programs or windows that appear to be open and running.
2. Disconnect the power cable from the back of the computer box or if a portable notebook style, disconnect any power cable from the case and remove the battery).

(e) Label each item with case number, evidence sheet number, and item number.

(f) Handle and transport the computer and storage media (e.g., tape, discs, memory cards, flash memory, external drives) with care so that potential evidence is not lost.

(g) Lodge all computer items in the Property Room. Do not store computers where normal room temperature and humidity is not maintained.

(h) At minimum, officers should document the following in related reports:

1. Where the computer was located and whether or not it was in operation.
2. Who was using it at the time.
3. Who claimed ownership.

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4. If it can be determined, how it was being used.

(i) In most cases when a computer is involved in criminal acts and is in the possession of the suspect, the computer itself and all storage devices (hard drives, tape drives, and disk drives) should be seized along with all media. Accessories (printers, monitors, mouse, scanner, keyboard, cables, software and manuals) should not be seized unless as a precursor to forfeiture.

814.2.1 BUSINESS OR NETWORKED COMPUTERS

If the computer belongs to a business or is part of a network, it may not be feasible to seize the entire computer. Cases involving networks require specialized handling. Officers should contact a certified forensic computer examiner for instructions or a response to the scene. It may be possible to perform an on-site inspection, or to image the hard drive only of the involved computer. This should only be done by someone specifically trained in processing computers for evidence.

814.2.2 FORENSIC EXAMINATION OF COMPUTERS

If an examination of the contents of the computer's hard drive, or floppy disks, compact discs, or any other storage media is required, forward the following items to a computer forensic examiner:

(a) Copy of report(s) involving the computer, including the Evidence/Property sheet.

(b) Copy of a consent to search form signed by the computer owner or the person in possession of the computer, or a copy of a search warrant authorizing the search of the computer hard drive for evidence relating to investigation.

(c) A listing of the items to search for (e.g., photographs, financial records, e-mail, documents).

(d) An exact duplicate of the hard drive or disk will be made using a forensic computer and a forensic software program by someone trained in the examination of computer storage devices for evidence.

814.3 SEIZING DIGITAL STORAGE MEDIA

Digital storage media including hard drives, floppy discs, CD's, DVD's, tapes, memory cards, or flash memory devices should be seized and stored in a manner that will protect them from damage.

(a) If the media has a write-protection tab or switch, it should be activated.

(b) Do not review, access or open digital files prior to submission. If the information is needed for immediate investigation request the Property and Evidence Room to copy the contents to an appropriate form of storage media.

(c) Many kinds of storage media can be erased or damaged by magnetic fields. Keep all media away from magnetic devices, electric motors, radio transmitters or other sources of magnetic fields.

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(d) Do not leave storage media where they would be subject to excessive heat such as in a parked vehicle on a hot day.

(e) Use plastic cases designed to protect the media, or other protective packaging, to prevent damage.

814.4 SEIZING PCDS

Personal communication devices such as cell phones, PDAs or other hand-held devices connected to any communication network must be handled with care to preserve evidence that may be on the device including messages, stored data and/or images.

(a) Officers should not attempt to access, review or search the contents of such devices prior to examination by a forensic expert. Unsent messages can be lost, data can be inadvertently deleted and incoming messages can override stored messages.

(b) Do not turn the device on or off. The device should be placed in a solid metal container such as a paint can or in a faraday bag, to prevent the device from sending or receiving information from its host network.

(c) When seizing the devices, also seize the charging units and keep them plugged in to the chargers until they can be examined. If the batteries go dead all the data may be lost.

814.5 DIGITAL EVIDENCE RECORDED BY OFFICERS

Officers handling and submitting recorded and digitally stored evidence from digital cameras and audio or video recorders will comply with these procedures to ensure the integrity and admissibility of such evidence.

814.5.1 COLLECTION OF DIGITAL EVIDENCE

Once evidence is recorded it shall not be erased, deleted or altered in any way prior to submission. All photographs taken will be preserved regardless of quality, composition or relevance. Video and audio files will not be altered in any way.

814.5.2 SUBMISSION OF DIGITAL MEDIA

The following are required procedures for the submission of digital media used by cameras or other recorders:

(a) The recording media (smart card, compact flash card or any other media) shall be submitted as soon as possible into evidence into either the department CSI office or the department property/evidence room, whichever is most appropriate for the given media.

(b) Unless otherwise advised, Officers are not authorized to copy memory cards issued by the department for the purpose of evidence collection. The evidence technicians are the only employees authorized to copy and/or distribute digital media made from these memory cards.

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(c) As soon as possible following the collection of photographic evidence, the camera operator is to remove the memory card from their digital camera and place the card into the media card download envelope provided by the department. The camera operator shall write their name, ID# and the related case number on the outside of the envelope before placing it in the media card drop slot in the CSI office.

(d) Evidence technicians will make a copy of the memory card using appropriate storage media. Once they have verified that the images properly transferred to the storage media, the technicians will erase the memory card for re-use. The storage media will be marked as the original.

(e) Officers requiring a copy of the digital files must request a copy on the evidence form when submitted to evidence.

814.5.3 DOWNLOADING OF DIGITAL FILES

Digital information such as video or audio files recorded on devices using internal memory must be downloaded to storage media. The following procedures are to be followed:

(a) Files should not be opened or reviewed prior to downloading and storage.

(b) Where possible, the device should be connected to a computer and the files accessed directly from the computer directory or downloaded to a folder on the host computer for copying to the storage media.

814.5.4 PRESERVATION OF DIGITAL EVIDENCE

(a) Only evidence technicians are authorized to copy original digital media that is held as evidence. This includes photographs that are taken in the field as evidence. The original digital media shall remain in evidence and shall remain unaltered.

(b) Digital images that are enhanced to provide a better quality photograph for identification and investigative purposes must only be made from a copy of the original media.

(c) If any enhancement is done to the copy of the original, it shall be noted in the corresponding incident report.

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Jeanne Clery Campus Security Act

822.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines to ensure this department fulfills its obligation in complying with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act) as well as applicable California Education Code requirements.

822.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department encourages accurate and prompt reporting of all crimes and takes all such reports seriously (20 USC § 1092(f)(1)(C)(iii)). Reports will be accepted in any manner, including in person or in writing, at any Ventura Police Department facility. Reports will be accepted anonymously, by phone or via email or on the institution's website.

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department to comply with the Clery Act. Compliance with the Clery Act requires a joint effort between the Ventura Police Department and the administration of the institution.

Supervisors assigned areas of responsibility in the following policy sections are expected to be familiar with the subsections of 20 USC § 1092(f) and 34 CFR 668.46 that are relevant to their responsibilities.

822.3 POLICY, PROCEDURE AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The Chief of Police will:

(a) Ensure that the Ventura Police Department establishes procedures for immediate emergency response and evacuation, including the use of electronic and cellular communication and testing of these procedures (20 USC § 1092(f)(1)(J)(i); 20 USC § 1092(f)(1)(J)(iii)).

(b) Enter into written agreements as appropriate with local law enforcement agencies to (Education Code § 67381.1):

1. Identify roles in the investigation of alleged criminal offenses on campus (20 USC § 1092(f)(1)(C)(ii)).

    (a) This includes identification of the responsibilities for sexual assault, hate crimes and Part 1 violent crime investigations (e.g., willful homicide, forcible rape, robbery or aggravated assault as defined in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Handbook), and establishing the specific geographical boundaries of each agency's responsibility, including maps as necessary (Education Code § 67381).

2. Assist in the monitoring and reporting of criminal activity at off-campus student organizations that are recognized by the institution and engaged in by students attending the institution, including student organizations with off-campus housing facilities (20 USC § 1092(f)(1)(G)).

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3. Ensure coordination of emergency response and evacuation procedures, including procedures to immediately notify the campus community upon the confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation (20 USC § 1092(f)(1)(J)).

4. Notify the Ventura Police Department of criminal offenses reported to local law enforcement agencies to assist the institution in meeting its reporting requirements under the Clery Act (20 USC § 1092(f)(1)(F)).

5. Notify the Ventura Police Department of criminal offenses reported to local law enforcement agencies to assist in making information available to the campus community in a timely manner and to aid in the prevention of similar crimes. Such disseminated information shall withhold the names of victims as confidential (20 USC § 1092(f)(3)).

(c) Appoint a designee to develop programs that are designed to inform students and employees about campus security procedures and practices, and to encourage students and employees to be responsible for their own security and the security of others (20 USC § 1092(f)(1)(D)).

(d) Appoint a designee to develop programs to inform students and employees about the prevention of crime (20 USC § 1092(f)(1)(E)).

(e) Appoint a designee to develop educational programs to promote the awareness of rape, acquaintance rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, and what to do if an offense occurs, including but not limited to, who should be contacted, the importance of preserving evidence and to whom the alleged offense should be reported (20 USC § 1092(f)(8)(B)). The designee shall also develop written materials to be distributed to reporting persons that explains the rights and options provided for under 20 USC § 1092 (20 USC § 1092(f)(8)(C)).

(f) Appoint a designee to make the appropriate notifications to institution staff regarding missing person investigations in order to ensure that the institution complies with the requirements of 34 CFR 668.46(h).

822.3.1 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee will also (Education Code § 67386):

(a) Assist the institution with the development of policies and procedures relating to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking involving a student whether it occurred on- or off-campus including:

1. The differences between standards of proof and defenses in criminal investigations and administrative or disciplinary matters.

2. Victim-centered protocols including privacy protection, responses to reports, interviews, investigations, required notifications and participation by victim advocates and other supporting individuals.

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(b) Assist, as appropriate, with trauma-informed training for campus personnel involved in investigating and adjudicating sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking cases.

(c) Assist, as appropriate, in the development of the institution's comprehensive prevention and outreach programs addressing sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

(d) Ensure that any reported Part 1 violent crime, sexual assault or hate crime described in Penal Code § 422.55 (whether it occurred on- or off-campus), is reported as soon as practicable to any local law enforcement agency with investigation responsibilities pursuant to a written agreement with the Ventura Police Department or the institution (Education Code § 67380).

1. The identification of the victim shall be withheld, unless the victim consents to being identified after being informed of the right to have his/her personally identifying information withheld. If the victim does not consent to being identified, then the alleged assailant shall not be identified unless the institution determines that the alleged assailant represents a serious or ongoing threat to the safety of the students, employees or the institution, and the immediate assistance of the Ventura Police Department is necessary to contact or detain the assailant (Education Code § 67380).

2. If the institution discloses the identity of the alleged assailant to the Ventura Police Department, the institution must immediately inform the victim of that disclosure (Education Code § 67380).

822.4 RECORDS COLLECTION AND RETENTION

The Records Supervisor is responsible for maintaining Ventura Police Department statistics and making reasonable good-faith efforts to obtain statistics from other law enforcement agencies as necessary to allow the institution to comply with its reporting requirements under the Clery Act (20 USC § 1092(f)(1)(F)). The statistics shall be compiled as follows:

(a) Statistics concerning the occurrence of the following criminal offenses reported to this department or to local police agencies that occurred on campus, in or on non-campus buildings or property, and on public property including streets, sidewalks and parking facilities within the campus or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus (20 USC § 1092(f)(1)(F)(i); 34 CFR 668.46(c)):

1. Murder
2. Sex offenses, forcible or non-forcible
3. Robbery
4. Aggravated assault
5. Burglary
6. Motor vehicle theft
7. Manslaughter
8. Arson

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9. Arrests or persons referred for campus disciplinary action for liquor law violations, drug-related violations and weapons possession
10. Dating violence, domestic violence and stalking

(b) Statistics concerning the crimes described in the section above, theft, simple assault, intimidation, destruction, damage or vandalism of property, and other crimes involving bodily injury to any person where the victim was intentionally selected because of his/her actual or perceived race, sex, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity or disability. These statistics should be collected and reported according to the category of prejudice (20 USC § 1092(f)(1)(F)(ii); 34 CFR 668.46(c)).

1. The statistics shall be compiled using the definitions in the FBI's UCR system and modifications made pursuant to the Hate Crime Statistics Act (20 USC § 1092(f)(7); 34 CFR 668.46(c)(9)). For the offenses of domestic violence, dating violence and stalking, such statistics shall be compiled in accordance with the definitions used in the Violence Against Women Act (20 USC § 1092(f)(7); 34 USC § 12291; 34 CFR 668.46(a)). The statistics will be categorized separately as offenses that occur in the following places (20 USC § 1092(f)(12); 34 CFR 668.46(c)(5)):
   (a) On campus.
   (b) In or on a non-campus building or property.
   (c) On public property.
   (d) In dormitories or other on-campus, residential or student facilities.

(c) Statistics will be included by the calendar year in which the crime was reported to the Ventura Police Department (34 CFR 668.46(c)(3)).

(d) Stalking offenses will include a statistic for each year in which the stalking conduct is reported and will be recorded as occurring either at the first location where the stalking occurred or the location where the victim became aware of the conduct (34 CFR 668.46(c)(6)).

(e) Statistics will include the three most recent calendar years (20 USC § 1092(f)(1)(F); 34 CFR 668.46(c)).

(f) The statistics shall not identify victims of crimes or persons accused of crimes (20 USC § 1092(f)(7)).

822.4.1 CRIME LOG

The Records Supervisor is responsible for ensuring a daily crime log is created and maintained as follows (20 USC § 1092(f)(4); 34 CFR 668.46(f)):

(a) The daily crime log will record all crimes reported to the Ventura Police Department, including the nature, date, time and general location of each crime, and the disposition, if known.

(b) All log entries shall be made within two business days of the initial report being made to the Department.

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(c) If new information about an entry becomes available, then the new information shall be recorded in the log not later than two business days after the information becomes available to the police department or security department.

(d) The daily crime log for the most recent 60-day period shall be open to the public for inspection at all times during normal business hours. Any portion of the log that is older than 60 days must be made available within two business days of a request for public inspection. Information in the log is not required to be disclosed when:

1. Disclosure of the information is prohibited by law.
2. Disclosure would jeopardize the confidentiality of the victim.
3. There is clear and convincing evidence that the release of such information would jeopardize an ongoing criminal investigation or the safety of an individual, may cause a suspect to flee or evade detection, or could result in the destruction of evidence. In any of these cases, the information may be withheld until that damage is no longer likely to occur from the release of such information.

822.4.2 COMPILING RECORDS FOR DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

The Records Supervisor is also responsible for compiling the following to allow the institution to comply with its disclosure requirements under Education Code § 67380:

(a) All occurrences reported to the Ventura Police Department and all arrests for crimes that are committed on campus that involve violence, hate violence, theft, destruction of property, illegal drugs, or alcohol intoxication.

(b) All occurrences of noncriminal acts of hate violence reported to the Ventura Police Department for which a written report is prepared.

822.5 INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

It is the responsibility of the Administrative Operations Assistant Chief to ensure that the required Clery Act disclosures are properly forwarded to campus administration and community members in accordance with institution procedures. This includes:

(a) Procedures for providing emergency notification of crimes or other incidents and evacuations that might represent an imminent threat to the safety of students or employees (20 USC § 1092(f)(3); 34 CFR 668.46(e); 34 CFR 668.46 (g)).

(b) Procedures for notifying the campus community about crimes considered to be a threat to other students and employees in order to aid in the prevention of similar crimes. Such disseminated information shall withhold the names of victims as confidential (20 USC § 1092(f)(3)).

(c) Information necessary for the institution to prepare its annual security report (20 USC § 1092(f)(1); 34 CFR 668.46(b)). This report will include, but is not limited to:

1. Crime statistics and the policies for preparing the crime statistics.

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2. Crime and emergency reporting procedures, including the responses to such reports.
3. Policies concerning security of and access to campus facilities.
4. Crime, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking awareness and prevention programs, including
   (a) Procedures victims should follow.
   (b) Procedures for protecting the confidentiality of victims and other necessary parties.
5. Enforcement policies related to alcohol and illegal drugs.
6. Locations where the campus community can obtain information about registered sex offenders.
7. Emergency response and evacuation procedures.
8. Missing student notification procedures.
9. Information addressing the jurisdiction and authority of campus security including any working relationships and agreements between campus security personnel and both state and local law enforcement agencies.

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Chapter 9 - Custody

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Temporary Custody of Adults

900.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines to address the health and safety of adults taken into temporary custody by members of the Ventura Police Department for processing prior to being released or transferred to a housing or other type of facility.

Temporary custody of juveniles is addressed in the Temporary Custody of Juveniles Policy. Juveniles will not be permitted where adults in custody are being held.

Custodial searches are addressed in the Custodial Searches Policy.

900.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Holding cell - Any locked enclosure for the custody of an adult or any other enclosure that prevents the occupants from being directly visually monitored at all times by a member of the Department.

Safety checks - Direct, visual observation by a member of this department performed at random intervals, within time frames prescribed in this policy, to provide for the health and welfare of adults in temporary custody.

Temporary custody - The time period an adult is in custody at the Ventura Police Department prior to being released or transported to a housing or other type of facility.

900.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department is committed to releasing adults from temporary custody as soon as reasonably practicable, and to keeping adults safe while in temporary custody at the Department. Adults should be in temporary custody only for as long as reasonably necessary for investigation, processing, transfer or release.

900.3 GENERAL CRITERIA AND SUPERVISION

No adult should be in temporary custody for longer than six hours.

900.3.1 INDIVIDUALS WHO SHOULD NOT BE IN TEMPORARY CUSTODY

Individuals who exhibit certain behaviors or conditions should not be in temporary custody at the Ventura Police Department, but should be transported to a jail facility, a medical facility, or another type of facility as appropriate. These include:

(a) Any individual who is unconscious or has been unconscious while being taken into custody or while being transported.

(b) Any individual who has a medical condition, including pregnancy, that may require medical attention, supervision, or medication while he/she is in temporary custody.

(c) Any individual who is seriously injured.

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(d) Individuals who are a suspected suicide risk (see the Mental Illness Commitments Policy).

1. If the officer taking custody of an individual believes that he/she may be a suicide risk, the officer shall ensure continuous direct supervision until evaluation, release, or a transfer to an appropriate facility is completed (15 CCR 1030).

(e) Individuals who are obviously in crisis, as defined in the Crisis Intervention Incidents Policy.

(f) Individuals who are under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or any substance to the degree that may require medical attention, or who have ingested any substance that poses a significant risk to their health, whether or not they appear intoxicated.

(g) Any individual who has exhibited extremely violent or continuously violent behavior including behavior that results in the destruction of property or demonstrates an intent to cause physical harm to him/herself or others (15 CCR 1053; 15 CCR 1055).

(h) Any individual who claims to have, is known to be afflicted with, or displays symptoms of any communicable disease that poses an unreasonable exposure risk (15 CCR 1051).

(i) Any individual with a prosthetic or orthopedic device where removal of the device would be injurious to his/her health or safety.

(j) Any individual who is obviously developmentally disabled (15 CCR 1057).

(k) Any individual who appears to be a danger to him/herself or others due to a mental disorder, or who appears gravely disabled (15 CCR 1052).

(l) Any individual who needs restraint beyond the use of handcuffs or shackles for security reasons (15 CCR 1058).

(m) Any individual obviously suffering from drug or alcohol withdrawal (15 CCR 1213).

Officers taking custody of a person who exhibits any of the above conditions should notify a supervisor of the situation. These individuals should not be in temporary custody at the Department unless they have been evaluated by a qualified medical or mental health professional, as appropriate for the circumstances.

900.3.2 SUPERVISION IN TEMPORARY CUSTODY

An authorized department member capable of supervising shall be present at all times when an individual is held in temporary custody. The member responsible for supervising should not have other duties that could unreasonably conflict with his/her supervision. Any individual in custody must be able to summon the supervising member if needed. If the person in custody is deaf or hard of hearing or cannot speak, accommodations shall be made to provide this ability (15 CCR 1027).

At least one female department member should be present when a female adult is in temporary custody. In the event that none is readily available, the female in custody should be transported to another facility or released pursuant to another lawful process (15 CCR 1027).

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Absent exigent circumstances, such as a medical emergency or a violent subject, members should not enter the cell of a person of the opposite sex unless a member of the same sex as the person in custody is present (Penal Code § 4021).

No individual in custody shall be permitted to supervise, control or exert any authority over other individuals in custody.

900.3.3 STAFFING PLAN

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall ensure a staffing plan is prepared and maintained, indicating assigned personnel and their duties. The plan should ensure that at least one member who meets the training standards established by the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) for general fire- and life-safety and is trained in fire- and life-safety procedures relating specifically to the facility is on-duty at all times (15 CCR 1028).

The staffing plan shall be available for biennial review by CSA staff. The review and recommendations of the CSA biennial review shall be forwarded to the City, as required by 15 CCR 1027.

900.3.4 ENTRY RESTRICTIONS

Entry into any location where a person is held in custody should be restricted to:

(a) Authorized members entering for official business purposes.

(b) Emergency medical personnel when necessary.

(c) Any other person authorized by the Watch Commander.

When practicable, more than one authorized member should be present for entry into a location where a person is held in custody for security purposes and to witness interactions.

900.4 INITIATING TEMPORARY CUSTODY

The officer responsible for an individual in temporary custody should evaluate the person for any apparent chronic illness, disability, vermin infestation, possible communicable disease or any other potential risk to the health or safety of the individual or others. The officer should specifically ask if the individual is contemplating suicide and evaluate him/her for obvious signs or indications of suicidal intent.

The receiving officer should ask the arresting officer if there is any statement, indication or evidence surrounding the individual's arrest and transportation that would reasonably indicate the individual is at risk for suicide or critical medical care. If there is any suspicion that the individual may be suicidal, he/she shall be transported to the County jail or the appropriate mental health facility.

The officer should promptly notify the Watch Commander of any conditions that may warrant immediate medical attention or other appropriate action. The Watch Commander shall determine whether the individual will be placed in a cell, immediately released or transported to jail or other facility.

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900.4.1 SCREENING AND PLACEMENT

The officer responsible for an individual in custody shall (15 CCR 1050):

(a) Advise the Watch Commander of any significant risks presented by the individual (e.g., suicide risk, health risk, violence).

(b) Evaluate the following issues against the stated risks in (a) to determine the need for placing the individual in a single cell:

1. Consider whether the individual may be at a high risk of being sexually abused based on all available known information (28 CFR 115.141), or whether the person is facing any other identified risk.

2. Provide any individual identified as being at a high risk for sexual or other victimization with heightened protection. This may include (28 CFR 115.113; 28 CFR 115.141):

(a) Continuous, direct sight and sound supervision.

(b) Single-cell placement in a cell that is actively monitored on video by a member who is available to immediately intervene.

3. Ensure individuals are separated according to severity of the crime (e.g., felony or misdemeanor).

4. Ensure males and females are separated by sight and sound when in cells.

5. Ensure restrained individuals are not placed in cells with unrestrained individuals.

(c) Ensure that those confined under civil process or for civil causes are kept separate from those who are in temporary custody pending criminal charges.

(d) Ensure separation, as appropriate, based on other factors, such as age, criminal sophistication, assaultive/non-assaultive behavior, mental state, disabilities and sexual orientation.

900.4.2 CONSULAR NOTIFICATION

Consular notification may be mandatory when certain foreign nationals are arrested. The Patrol Assistant Chief will ensure that the U.S. Department of State's list of countries and jurisdictions that require mandatory notification is readily available to department members. There should also be a published list of foreign embassy and consulate telephone and fax numbers, as well as standardized notification forms that can be transmitted and then retained for documentation. Prominently displayed signs informing foreign nationals of their rights related to consular notification should also be posted in areas used for the temporary custody of adults.

Department members assigned to process a foreign national shall:

(a) Inform the individual, without delay, that he/she may have his/her consular officers notified of the arrest or detention and may communicate with them.

1. This notification should be documented.

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(b) Determine whether the foreign national's country is on the U.S. Department of State's mandatory notification list.

1. If the country is on the mandatory notification list, then:

    (a) Notify the country's nearest embassy or consulate of the arrest or detention by fax or telephone.

    (b) Tell the individual that this notification has been made and inform him/her without delay that he/she may communicate with consular officers.

    (c) Forward any communication from the individual to his/her consular officers without delay.

    (d) Document all notifications to the embassy or consulate and retain the faxed notification and any fax confirmation for the individual's file.

2. If the country is not on the mandatory notification list and the individual requests that his/her consular officers be notified, then:

    (a) Notify the country's nearest embassy or consulate of the arrest or detention by fax or telephone.

    (b) Forward any communication from the individual to his/her consular officers without delay.

900.5 SAFETY, HEALTH AND OTHER PROVISIONS

900.5.1 TEMPORARY CUSTODY LOGS

Any time an individual is in temporary custody at the Ventura Police Department, the custody shall be promptly and properly documented in a custody log, including:

(a) Identifying information about the individual, including his/her name.

(b) Date and time of arrival at the Department.

(c) Any charges for which the individual is in temporary custody and any case number.

(d) Time of all safety checks (15 CCR 1027; 15 CCR 1027.5).

(e) Any medical and other screening requested are completed.

(f) Any emergency situations or unusual incidents.

(g) Any other information that may be required by other authorities, such as compliance inspectors.

(h) Date and time of release from the Ventura Police Department.

900.5.2 TEMPORARY CUSTODY REQUIREMENTS

Members monitoring or processing anyone in temporary custody shall ensure:

(a) Safety checks

(b) Individuals in custody are informed that they will be monitored at all times, except when using the toilet.

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1. There shall be no viewing devices, such as peep holes or mirrors, of which the individual is not aware.
2. This does not apply to surreptitious and legally obtained recorded interrogations.

(c) There is reasonable access to toilets and wash basins.

(d) There is reasonable access to a drinking fountain or water.

(e) There are reasonable opportunities to stand and stretch, particularly if handcuffed or otherwise restrained.

(f) There is privacy during attorney visits.

(g) Those in temporary custody are generally permitted to remain in their personal clothing unless it is taken as evidence or is otherwise unsuitable or inadequate for continued wear while in custody.

(h) Clean blankets are provided as reasonably necessary to ensure the comfort of an individual.

1. The supervisor should ensure that there is an adequate supply of clean blankets.

(i) Adequate shelter, heat, light and ventilation are provided without compromising security or enabling escape.

(j) Adequate furnishings are available, including suitable chairs or benches.

900.5.3 MEDICAL CARE

First-aid equipment and basic medical supplies should be available to department members (15 CCR 1220). At least one member who has current certification in basic first aid and CPR should be on-duty at all times.

Should a person in custody be injured or become ill, appropriate medical assistance should be sought. A supervisor should meet with those providing medical aid at the facility to allow access to the person. Members shall comply with the opinion of medical personnel as to whether an individual in temporary custody should be transported to the hospital. If the person is transported while still in custody, he/she will be accompanied by an officer.

Those who require medication while in temporary custody should not be at the Ventura Police Department. They should be released or transferred to another facility as appropriate.

900.5.4 ORTHOPEDIC OR PROSTHETIC APPLIANCE

Subject to safety and security concerns, individuals shall be permitted to retain an orthopedic or prosthetic appliance. However, if the member supervising the individual has probable cause to believe the possession of the appliance presents a risk of bodily harm to any person or is a risk to the security of the facility, the appliance may be removed from the individual unless its removal would be injurious to his/her health or safety.

Whenever a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance is removed, the Watch Commander shall be promptly apprised of the reason. It shall be promptly returned when it reasonably appears that any risk no longer exists (Penal Code § 2656; 15 CCR 1207).

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900.5.5 TELEPHONE CALLS

Immediately upon being booked and, except where physically impossible, no later than three hours after arrest, an individual in custody has the right to make at least three completed calls to an attorney, bail bondsman, and a relative or other person (Penal Code § 851.5). Additional calls may be made as reasonable and necessary (15 CCR 1067). In providing further access to a telephone beyond that required by Penal Code § 851.5, legitimate law enforcement interests such as officer safety, effect on ongoing criminal investigations and logistics should be balanced against the individual's desire for further telephone access.

(a) Telephone calls may be limited to local calls, except that long-distance calls may be made by the individual at his/her own expense.

  1. The Department should pay the cost of any long-distance calls related to arranging for the care of a child or dependent adult (see the Child and Dependent Adult Safety Policy).

  2. The provisions of Penal Code § 851.5 concerning this issue shall be posted in bold, block type in a conspicuous place within the facility.

(b) The individual should be given sufficient time to contact whomever he/she desires and to make any necessary arrangements, including child or dependent adult care, or transportation upon release.

  1. Telephone calls are not intended to be lengthy conversations. The member assigned to monitor or process the individual may use his/her judgment in determining the duration of the calls.

  2. Within three hours of the arrest, the member supervising the individual should inquire whether the individual is a custodial parent with responsibility for a minor child, and notify the individual that he/she may make two additional telephone calls to a relative or other person for the purpose of arranging for the care of minor children (Penal Code § 851.5).

(c) Calls between an individual in temporary custody and his/her attorney shall be deemed confidential and shall not be monitored, eavesdropped upon or recorded (Penal Code § 851.5(b)(1); 15 CCR 1068).

900.5.6 RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION

Subject to available resources, safety and security, the religious beliefs and needs of all individuals in custody should be reasonably accommodated (15 CCR 1072). Requests for religious accommodation should generally be granted unless there is a compelling security or safety reason and denying the request is the least restrictive means available to ensure security or safety. The responsible supervisor should be advised any time a request for religious accommodation is denied.

Those who request to wear headscarves or simple head coverings for religious reasons should generally be accommodated absent unusual circumstances. Head coverings shall be searched before being worn.

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Individuals wearing headscarves or other approved coverings shall not be required to remove them while in the presence of or while visible to the opposite sex if they so desire. Religious garments that substantially cover the individual's head and face may be temporarily removed during the taking of any photographs.

900.5.7 FIREARMS AND OTHER SECURITY MEASURES

Firearms and other weapons and control devices shall not be permitted in secure areas where individuals are in custody or are processed. They should be properly secured outside of the secure area. An exception may occur only during emergencies, upon approval of a supervisor.

All perimeter doors to secure areas shall be kept locked at all times, except during routine cleaning, when no individuals in custody are present or in the event of an emergency, such as an evacuation.

900.5.8 REPORTING PHYSICAL HARM OR SERIOUS THREAT OF PHYSICAL HARM

In addition to a custody log entry, any incident that results in physical harm or serious threat of physical harm to a member, person in custody or any other person shall be documented as stated in the Use of Force or On-Duty Injuries policies, or other applicable reporting process. A copy of all reports generated regarding the above circumstances shall be submitted as soon as reasonably practicable. The Watch Commander will retain a record of these reports for inspection purposes (15 CCR 1044).

900.5.9 ATTORNEYS AND BAIL BONDSMEN

(a) An attorney may visit at the request of the individual in custody or a relative (Penal Code § 825).

(b) Attorneys and bail bondsmen who need to interview an individual in custody should do so inside a secure interview room.

(c) The individual in custody as well as the attorney or bail bondsman should be searched for weapons prior to being admitted to the interview room and at the conclusion of the interview.

(d) Attorneys must produce a current California Bar card as well as other matching appropriate identification.

(e) Interviews between attorneys and their clients shall not be monitored or recorded (15 CCR 1068).

900.5.10 DISCIPLINE

Discipline will not be administered to any individual in custody at this facility. Any individual in custody who repeatedly fails to follow directions or facility rules should be transported to the appropriate jail, mental health facility or hospital as soon as practicable. Such conduct should be documented and reported to the receiving facility (15 CCR 1081).

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900.6 USE OF RESTRAINT DEVICES

Individuals in custody may be handcuffed in accordance with the Handcuffing and Restraints Policy. Unless an individual presents a heightened risk, handcuffs should generally be removed when the person is in a cell.

The use of restraints, other than handcuffs or leg irons, generally should not be used for individuals in temporary custody at the Ventura Police Department unless the person presents a heightened risk, and only in compliance with the Handcuffing and Restraints Policy.

Individuals in restraints shall be kept away from other unrestrained individuals in custody and monitored to protect them from abuse.

900.6.1 PREGNANT ADULTS

Women who are known to be pregnant should be restrained in accordance with the Handcuffing and Restraints Policy.

900.7 PERSONAL PROPERTY

The personal property of an individual in temporary custody should be removed, inventoried and processed as provided in the Custodial Searches Policy, unless the individual requests a different disposition. For example, an individual may request property (i.e., cash, car or house keys, medications) be released to another person. A request for the release of property to another person must be made in writing. Release of the property requires the recipient’s signature on the appropriate form.

Upon release of an individual from temporary custody, his/her items of personal property shall be compared with the inventory, and he/she shall sign a receipt for the property's return. If the individual is transferred to another facility or court, the member transporting the individual is required to obtain the receiving person’s signature as notice of receipt. The Department shall maintain a copy of the property receipt.

The Watch Commander shall be notified whenever an individual alleges that there is a shortage or discrepancy regarding his/her property. The Watch Commander shall attempt to prove or disprove the claim.

900.8 HOLDING CELLS

A thorough inspection of a cell shall be conducted before placing an individual into the cell to ensure there are no weapons or contraband and that the cell is clean and sanitary. An inspection also should be conducted when he/she is released. Any damage noted to the cell should be photographed and documented.

The following requirements shall apply:

(a) The individual shall be searched (see the Custodial Searches Policy), and anything that could create a security or suicide risk, such as contraband, hazardous items, belts, shoes or shoelaces and jackets, shall be removed.

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(b) The individual shall constantly be monitored by an audio/video system during the entire custody.

(c) The individual shall have constant auditory access to department members.

(d) The individual's initial placement into and removal from a locked enclosure shall be logged.

(e) Safety checks by department members shall occur no less than every 15 minutes (15 CCR 1027.5).

1. Safety checks should be at varying times.
2. All safety checks shall be logged.
3. The safety check should involve questioning the individual as to his/her well-being.
4. Individuals who are sleeping or apparently sleeping should be awakened.
5. Requests or concerns of the individual should be logged.

900.8.1 USE OF SOBERING CELL

Inmates who are to be held in the Temporary Holding Facility and who present a threat to their own safety or the safety of others due to their state of intoxication should be placed in a sobering cell until their condition allows for continued processing.

The following guidelines apply when placing any inmate in a sobering cell (15 CCR 1056):

(a) Placement of an inmate into the cell requires approval of the Watch Commander.

(b) A cell log shall be initiated every time an inmate is placed in the cell. The log shall be maintained for the entire time the inmate is housed in the cell.

(c) A safety check consisting of direct visual observation sufficient to assess the inmate's well-being and behavior shall occur at least once every 15 minutes. Each safety check shall be documented in the cell log. Supervisors shall check the logs for completeness every two hours and document this action on the cell log.

(d) Under no circumstances shall an inmate be held in a sobering cell for more than six hours without being evaluated by qualified medical personnel to ensure that the inmate does not have an urgent medical issue.

(e) Inmates will be removed from the cell when they no longer pose a threat to their own safety and the safety of others, and are able to continue processing.

900.9 SUICIDE ATTEMPT, DEATH, OR SERIOUS INJURY

The Patrol Assistant Chief will ensure procedures are in place to address any suicide attempt, death or serious injury of any individual in temporary custody at the Ventura Police Department. The procedures should include the following:

(a) Immediate request for emergency medical assistance if appropriate

(b) Immediate notification of the Watch Commander, Chief of Police and Investigation Assistant Chief

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(c) Notification of the spouse, next of kin or other appropriate person

(d) Notification of the appropriate prosecutor

(e) Notification of the City Attorney

(f) Notification of the Coroner

(g) Evidence preservation

(h) In-custody death reviews (15 CCR 1046)

(i) Notification to the Attorney General within 10 days of any death in custody including any reasonably known facts concerning the death (Government Code § 12525)

900.10 RELEASE AND/OR TRANSFER

When an individual is released or transferred from custody, the member releasing the individual should ensure the following:

(a) All proper reports, forms and logs have been completed prior to release.

(b) A check has been made to ensure that the individual is not reported as missing and does not have outstanding warrants.

(c) It has been confirmed that the correct individual is being released or transported.

(d) All property, except evidence, contraband or dangerous weapons, has been returned to, or sent with, the individual.

(e) All pertinent documentation accompanies the individual being transported to another facility (e.g., copies of booking forms, medical records, an itemized list of his/her property, warrant copies).

(f) The individual is not permitted in any nonpublic areas of the Ventura Police Department unless escorted by a member of the Department.

(g) Any known threat or danger the individual may pose (e.g., escape risk, suicide potential, medical condition) is documented, and the documentation transported with the individual if he/she is being sent to another facility.

    1. The department member transporting the individual shall ensure such risks are communicated to intake personnel at the other facility.

(h) Generally, persons of the opposite sex, or adults and juveniles, should not be transported in the same vehicle unless they are physically separated by a solid barrier. If segregating individuals is not practicable, officers should be alert to inappropriate physical or verbal contact and take appropriate action as necessary.

(i) Transfers between facilities or other entities, such as a hospital, should be accomplished with a custodial escort of the same sex as the person being transferred to assist with his/her personal needs as reasonable.

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900.10.1 FORM REQUEST FOR PETITION TO SEAL RECORDS

Upon request, a detained arrestee released from custody shall be provided with the appropriate Judicial Council forms to petition the court to have the arrest and related records sealed (Penal Code § 851.91).

The Department shall display the required signage that complies with Penal Code § 851.91 advising an arrestee of the right to obtain the Judicial Council forms.

900.11 ASSIGNED ADMINISTRATOR

The Patrol Assistant Chief will ensure any reasonably necessary supplemental procedures are in place to address the following issues (15 CCR 1029):

(a) General security

(b) Key control

(c) Sanitation and maintenance

(d) Emergency medical treatment (15 CCR 1200)

(e) Escapes

(f) Evacuation plans

(g) Fire- and life-safety, including a fire suppression pre-plan as required by 15 CCR 1032

(h) Disaster plans

(i) Building and safety code compliance

(j) Civil and other disturbances including hostage situations

(k) Periodic testing of emergency equipment

(l) Emergency suspension of Title 15 regulations and notice to the Board of State and Community Corrections as required in 15 CCR 1012

(m) Inspections and operations reviews

(n) Any other applicable requirements under 15 CCR 1029

Annual review and evaluation of security measures including internal and external security measures, sanitation, safety and maintenance (15 CCR 1280).

These supplemental procedures shall be reviewed and updated no less than every two years and shall be available to all members (15 CCR 1029).

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Custodial Searches

902.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance regarding searches of individuals in custody. Such searches are necessary to eliminate the introduction of contraband, intoxicants or weapons into the Ventura Police Department facility. Such items can pose a serious risk to the safety and security of department members, individuals in custody, contractors and the public.

Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit the otherwise lawful collection of evidence from an individual in custody.

902.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Custody search - An in-custody search of an individual and of his/her property, shoes and clothing, including pockets, cuffs and folds on the clothing, to remove all weapons, dangerous items and contraband.

Physical body cavity search - A search that includes a visual inspection and may include a physical intrusion into a body cavity. Body cavity means the stomach or rectal cavity of an individual, and the vagina of a female person.

Strip search - A search that requires an individual to remove or rearrange some or all of his/her clothing to permit a visual inspection of the underclothing, breasts, buttocks, anus or outer genitalia. This includes monitoring an individual who is changing clothes, where his/her underclothing, buttocks, genitalia or female breasts are visible.

902.2 POLICY

All searches shall be conducted with concern for safety, dignity, courtesy, respect for privacy and hygiene, and in compliance with policy and law to protect the rights of those who are subject to any search.

Searches shall not be used for intimidation, harassment, punishment or retaliation.

902.3 FIELD AND TRANSPORTATION SEARCHES

An officer should conduct a custody search of an individual immediately after his/her arrest, when receiving an individual from the custody of another, and before transporting a person who is in custody in any department vehicle.

Whenever practicable, a custody search should be conducted by an officer of the same sex as the person being searched. If an officer of the same sex is not reasonably available, a witnessing officer should be present during the search.

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902.4 SEARCHES AT POLICE FACILITIES

Custody searches shall be conducted on all individuals in custody, upon entry to the Ventura Police Department facilities. Except in exigent circumstances, the search should be conducted by a member of the same sex as the individual being searched. If a member of the same sex is not available, a witnessing member must be present during the search.

Custody searches should also be conducted any time an individual in custody enters or re-enters a secure area, or any time it is reasonably believed that a search is necessary to maintain the safety and security of the facility.

902.4.1 PROPERTY

Members shall take reasonable care in handling the property of an individual in custody to avoid discrepancies or losses. Property retained for safekeeping shall be kept in a secure location until the individual is released or transferred.

Some property may not be accepted by a facility or agency that is taking custody of an individual from this department, such as weapons or large items. These items should be retained for safekeeping in accordance with the Property and Evidence Policy.

All property shall be inventoried by objective description (this does not include an estimated value). The individual from whom it was taken shall be required to sign the completed inventory. If the individual's signature cannot be obtained, the inventory shall be witnessed by another department member. The inventory should include the case number, date, time, member's Ventura Police Department identification number and information regarding how and when the property may be released.

902.4.2 VERIFICATION OF MONEY

All money shall be counted in front of the individual from whom it was received. When possible, the individual shall initial the dollar amount on the inventory. Additionally, all money should be placed in a separate envelope and sealed. Negotiable checks or other instruments and foreign currency should also be sealed in an envelope with the amount indicated but not added to the cash total. All envelopes should clearly indicate the contents on the front. The department member sealing it should place his/her initials across the sealed flap. Should any money be withdrawn or added, the member making such change shall enter the amount below the original entry and initial it. The amount of money in the envelope should always be totaled and written on the outside of the envelope.

902.5 STRIP SEARCHES

No individual in temporary custody at any Ventura Police Department facility shall be subjected to a strip search unless there is reasonable suspicion based upon specific and articulable facts to believe the individual has a health condition requiring immediate medical attention or is concealing a weapon or contraband. Factors to be considered in determining reasonable suspicion include, but are not limited to:

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(a) The detection of an object during a custody search that may be a weapon or contraband and cannot be safely retrieved without a strip search.

(b) Circumstances of a current arrest that specifically indicate the individual may be concealing a weapon or contraband.

1. A felony arrest charge or being under the influence of a controlled substance should not suffice as reasonable suspicion absent other facts.

(c) Custody history (e.g., past possession of contraband while in custody, assaults on department members, escape attempts).

(d) The individual's actions or demeanor.

(e) Criminal history (i.e., level of experience in a custody setting).

No transgender or intersex individual shall be searched or examined for the sole purpose of determining the individual's genital status. If the individual's genital status is unknown, it may be determined during conversations with the person, by reviewing medical records, or as a result of a broader medical examination conducted in private by a medical practitioner (28 CFR 115.115).

902.5.1 STRIP SEARCH PROCEDURES

Strip searches at Ventura Police Department facilities shall be conducted as follows (28 CFR 115.115; Penal Code § 4030):

(a) Written authorization from the Watch Commander shall be obtained prior to the strip search.

(b) All members involved with the strip search shall be of the same sex as the individual being searched, unless the search is conducted by a medical practitioner.

(c) All strip searches shall be conducted in a professional manner under sanitary conditions and in a secure area of privacy so that it cannot be observed by those not participating in the search. The search shall not be reproduced through a visual or sound recording.

(d) Whenever possible, a second member of the same sex should also be present during the search, for security and as a witness to the finding of evidence.

(e) Members conducting a strip search shall not touch the breasts, buttocks or genitalia of the individual being searched.

(f) The primary member conducting the search shall prepare a written report to include:

1. The facts that led to the decision to perform a strip search.

2. The reasons less intrusive methods of searching were not used or were insufficient.

3. The written authorization for the search, obtained from the Watch Commander.

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4. The name of the individual who was searched.
5. The name and sex of the members who conducted the search.
6. The name, sex and role of any person present during the search.
7. The time and date of the search.
8. The place at which the search was conducted.
9. A list of the items, if any, that were recovered.
10. The facts upon which the member based his/her belief that the individual was concealing a weapon or contraband.

(g) No member should view an individual's private underclothing, buttocks, genitalia or female breasts while that individual is showering, performing bodily functions or changing clothes, unless he/she otherwise qualifies for a strip search. However, if serious hygiene or health issues make it reasonably necessary to assist the individual with a shower or a change of clothes, a supervisor should be contacted to ensure reasonable steps are taken to obtain the individual's consent and/or otherwise protect his/her privacy and dignity.

(h) If the individual has been arrested for a misdemeanor or infraction offense, the written authorization from the Watch Commander shall include specific and articulable facts and circumstances upon which the reasonable suspicion determination for the search was made.

(i) A copy of the written authorization shall be retained and made available upon request to the individual or the individual's authorized representative. A record of the time, date, place of the search, the name and sex of the person conducting the search, and a statement of the results of the search shall also be retained and made available upon request to the individual or the individual’s authorized representative.

902.5.2 SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE FIELD STRIP SEARCHES

A strip search may be conducted in the field only with Watch Commander authorization and only in exceptional circumstances, such as when:

(a) There is probable cause to believe that the individual is concealing a weapon or other dangerous item that cannot be recovered by a more limited search.

(b) There is probable cause to believe that the individual is concealing controlled substances or evidence that cannot be recovered by a more limited search, and there is no reasonable alternative to ensure the individual cannot destroy or ingest the substance during transportation.

These special-circumstance field strip searches shall only be authorized and conducted under the same restrictions as the strip search procedures in this policy, except that the Watch Commander authorization does not need to be in writing.

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902.6 PHYSICAL BODY CAVITY SEARCH

Physical body cavity searches shall be subject to the following (Penal Code § 4030):

(a) No individual shall be subjected to a physical body cavity search without written approval of the Watch Commander and only upon a search warrant. A copy of any search warrant and the results of the physical body cavity search shall be included with the related reports and made available, upon request, to the individual or authorized representative (except for those portions of the warrant ordered sealed by a court).

(b) Only a physician, nurse practitioner, registered nurse, licensed vocational nurse or Emergency Medical Technician Level II licensed to practice in California may conduct a physical body cavity search.

(c) Except for the physician or licensed medical personnel conducting the search, persons present must be of the same sex as the individual being searched. Only the necessary department members needed to maintain the safety and security of the medical personnel shall be present.

(d) Privacy requirements, including restricted touching of body parts and sanitary condition requirements, are the same as required for a strip search.

(e) All such searches shall be documented, including:

1. The facts that led to the decision to perform a physical body cavity search of the individual.
2. The reasons less intrusive methods of searching were not used or were insufficient.
3. The Watch Commander's approval.
4. A copy of the search warrant.
5. The time, date and location of the search.
6. The medical personnel present.
7. The names, sex and roles of any department members present.
8. Any contraband or weapons discovered by the search.

(f) Copies of the written authorization and search warrant shall be retained and shall be provided to the individual who was searched or other authorized representative upon request. A record of the time, date, place of the search, the name and sex of the person conducting the search and a statement of the results of the search shall also be retained and made available upon request to the individual or the individual's authorized representative.

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902.7 TRAINING

The Professional Standards Sergeant shall ensure members have training that includes (28 CFR 115.115):

(a) Conducting searches of cross-gender individuals.

(b) Conducting searches of transgender and intersex individuals.

(c) Conducting searches in a professional and respectful manner, and in the least intrusive manner possible, consistent with security needs.

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Prison Rape Elimination

904.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance for complying with the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) and the implementing regulation that establishes standards (PREA Rule) to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse, harassment, and retaliation against detainees or prisoners in the Ventura Police Department Temporary Holding Facilities (28 CFR 115.111; 15 CCR 1029).

904.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Intersex - A person whose sexual or reproductive anatomy or chromosomal pattern does not seem to fit typical definitions of male or female. Intersex medical conditions are sometimes referred to as disorders of sex development (28 CFR 115.5).

Sexual abuse - Any of the following acts, if the detainee does not consent, is coerced into such act by overt or implied threats of violence or is unable to consent or refuse (28 CFR 115.6; 15 CCR 1006):

- Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight
- Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus
- Penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument
- Any other intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks of another person, excluding contact incidental to a physical altercation

Sexual abuse also includes abuse by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer as follows, with or without consent of the detainee, prisoner, or resident:

- Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight
- Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus
- Contact between the mouth and any body part where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire
- Penetration of the anal or genital opening, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument, that is unrelated to official duties, or where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire
- Any other intentional contact, either directly or through the clothing, of or with the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks, that is unrelated to official duties, or where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire

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- Any attempt, threat, or request by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer to engage in the activities described above
- Any display by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer of his/her uncovered genitalia, buttocks, or breast in the presence of a detainee, prisoner, or resident
- Voyeurism by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer

Sexual harassment - Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one detainee, prisoner, or resident that are directed toward another; repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to a detainee, prisoner, or resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures (28 CFR 115.6; 15 CCR 1006).

Transgender - A person whose gender identity (i.e., internal sense of feeling male or female) is different from the person's assigned sex at birth (28 CFR 115.5).

904.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department has zero tolerance toward all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment (28 CFR 115.111). The Department will not tolerate retaliation against any person who reports sexual abuse or sexual harassment or who cooperates with a sexual abuse or sexual harassment investigation.

The Ventura Police Department will take immediate action to protect detainees and prisoners who are reasonably believed to be subject to a substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse (28 CFR 115.162; 15 CCR 1029).

904.3 PREA COORDINATOR

The Chief of Police shall appoint an upper-level manager with sufficient time and authority to develop, implement, and oversee department efforts to comply with PREA standards in the Ventura Police Department Temporary Holding Facilities (28 CFR 115.111). The PREA Coordinator's responsibilities shall include:

(a) Developing and maintaining procedures to comply with the PREA Rule.

(b) Ensuring that any contract for the confinement of detainees or prisoners includes the requirement to adopt and comply with applicable PREA standards and the PREA Rule, including the obligation to provide incident-based and aggregated data, as required in 28 CFR 115.187 (28 CFR 115.112).

(c) Developing a staffing plan to provide adequate levels of staffing and video monitoring, where applicable, in order to protect detainees and prisoners from sexual abuse (28 CFR 115.113; 15 CCR 1029). This includes documenting deviations and the reasons for deviations from the staffing plan, as well as reviewing the staffing plan a minimum of once per year.

(d) Developing methods for staff to privately report sexual abuse and sexual harassment of detainees and prisoners (28 CFR 115.151).

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(e) Developing a written plan to coordinate response among staff first responders, medical and mental health practitioners, investigators, and department leadership to an incident of sexual abuse (28 CFR 115.165).

(f) Ensuring a protocol is developed for investigating allegations of sexual abuse in the Temporary Holding Facility. The protocol shall include (28 CFR 115.121; 28 CFR 115.122):

1. Evidence collection practices that maximize the potential for obtaining usable physical evidence based on the most recent edition of the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office on Violence Against Women publication, "A National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations, Adults/ Adolescents" or a similarly comprehensive and authoritative protocol.

2. A process to ensure a criminal or administrative investigation is completed on all allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment.

3. A process to document all referrals to other law enforcement agencies.

4. Access to forensic medical examinations, without financial cost, for all victims of sexual abuse where appropriate. Such examinations shall be performed by Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFEs) or Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) where possible. If SAFEs or SANEs cannot be made available, the examination can be performed by other qualified medical practitioners. The efforts to provide SAFEs or SANEs shall be documented.

5. In accordance with security needs, provisions to permit, to the extent available, detainee and prisoner access to victim advocacy services if the detainee or prisoner is transported for a forensic examination to an outside hospital that offers such services.

(g) Ensuring that detainees and prisoners with limited English proficiency and disabilities have an equal opportunity to understand and benefit from efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment. This includes, as appropriate, access to interpreters and written materials in formats or through methods that provide effective communication to those with disabilities (e.g., limited reading skills, intellectual, hearing, or vision disabilities) (28 CFR 115.116).

1. The agency shall not rely on other detainees or prisoners for assistance except in limited circumstances where an extended delay in obtaining an interpreter could compromise the detainee's or prisoner's safety, the performance of first-response duties under this policy, or the investigation of a prisoner's allegations of sexual abuse, harassment, or retaliation.

(h) Publishing on the department's website:

1. Information on how to report sexual abuse and sexual harassment on behalf of a detainee or prisoner (28 CFR 115.154).

2. A protocol describing the responsibilities of the Department and any other investigating agency that will be responsible for conducting sexual abuse or sexual harassment investigations (28 CFR 115.122).

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(i) Establishing a process that includes the use of a standardized form and set of definitions to ensure accurate, uniform data is collected for every allegation of sexual abuse at facilities under this agency's direct control (28 CFR 115.187; 34 USC § 30303; 15 CCR 1041).

1. The data collected shall include, at a minimum, the data necessary to answer all questions from the most recent version of the Survey of Sexual Violence, conducted by DOJ, or any subsequent form developed by DOJ and designated for lockups.

2. The data shall be aggregated at least annually.

(j) Ensuring audits are conducted pursuant to 28 CFR 115.401 through 28 CFR 115.405 for all Temporary Holding Facilities used to house detainees or prisoners overnight (28 CFR 115.193).

(k) Ensuring contractors or others who work in the Temporary Holding Facility are informed of the agency's zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse and sexual harassment (28 CFR 115.132).

(l) Ensuring that information for uninvolved inmates, family, community members, and other interested third parties to report sexual abuse or sexual harassment is publicly posted at the facility (15 CCR 1029).

904.4 REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

Detainees or prisoners may make reports to any staff member verbally, in writing, privately, or anonymously of any of the following (28 CFR 115.151; 15 CCR 1029):

- Sexual abuse
- Sexual harassment
- Retaliation by other detainees or prisoners or staff for reporting sexual abuse or sexual harassment
- Staff neglect or violation of responsibilities that may have contributed to sexual abuse or sexual harassment

During intake the Department shall notify all detainees and prisoners of the zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse and sexual harassment, and of at least one way to report abuse or harassment to a public or private entity that is not part of the Department and that is able to receive and immediately forward detainee or prisoner reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment to agency officials. This allows the detainee or prisoner to remain anonymous (28 CFR 115.132; 28 CFR 115.151).

904.4.1 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Department members shall accept reports from detainees, prisoners and third parties and shall promptly document all reports (28 CFR 115.151; 15 CCR 1029).

All members shall report immediately to the Watch Commander any knowledge, suspicion, or information regarding:

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(a) An incident of sexual abuse or sexual harassment that occurs in the Temporary Holding Facility.

(b) Retaliation against detainees or the member who reports any such incident.

(c) Any neglect or violation of responsibilities on the part of any department member that may have contributed to an incident or retaliation (28 CFR 115.161).

No member shall reveal any information related to a sexual abuse report to anyone other than to the extent necessary to make treatment and investigation decisions.

904.4.2 WATCH COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Watch Commander shall report to the department's designated investigators all allegations of sexual abuse, harassment, retaliation, neglect or violations leading to sexual abuse, harassment or retaliation. This includes third-party and anonymous reports (28 CFR 115.161).

If the alleged victim is under the age of 18 or considered a vulnerable adult, the Watch Commander shall also report the allegation as required under mandatory reporting laws and department policy.

Upon receiving an allegation that a detainee or prisoner was sexually abused while confined at another facility, the Watch Commander shall notify the head of the facility or the appropriate office of the agency where the alleged abuse occurred. The notification shall be made as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours after receiving the allegation. The Watch Commander shall document such notification (28 CFR 115.163).

If an alleged detainee or prisoner victim is transferred from the Temporary Holding Facility to a jail, prison or medical facility, the Department shall, as permitted by law, inform the receiving facility of the incident and the prisoner's potential need for medical or social services, unless the prisoner requests otherwise (28 CFR 115.165).

904.5 INVESTIGATIONS

The Department shall promptly, thoroughly and objectively investigate all allegations, including third-party and anonymous reports, of sexual abuse or sexual harassment. Only investigators who have received department-approved special training shall conduct sexual abuse investigations (28 CFR 115.171).

904.5.1 FIRST RESPONDERS

The first officer to respond to a report of sexual abuse or sexual assault shall (28 CFR 115.164):

(a) Separate the parties.

(b) Establish a crime scene to preserve and protect any evidence. Identify and secure witnesses until steps can be taken to collect any evidence.

(c) If the abuse occurred within a time period that still allows for the collection of physical evidence, request that the alleged victim not take any actions that could destroy physical evidence, including, as appropriate, washing, brushing teeth, changing clothes, urinating, defecating, smoking, drinking or eating.

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(d) If the abuse occurred within a time period that still allows for the collection of physical evidence, ensure that the alleged abuser does not take any actions that could destroy physical evidence, including, as appropriate, washing, brushing teeth, changing clothes, urinating, defecating, smoking, drinking or eating.

If the first responder is not an officer the responder shall request that the alleged victim not take any actions that could destroy physical evidence and should then notify a law enforcement staff member (28 CFR 115.164).

904.5.2 INVESTIGATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Investigators shall (28 CFR 115.171):

(a) Gather and preserve direct and circumstantial evidence, including any available physical and biological evidence and any available electronic monitoring data.

(b) Interview alleged victims, suspects and witnesses.

(c) Review any prior complaints and reports of sexual abuse involving the suspect.

(d) Conduct compelled interviews only after consulting with prosecutors as to whether compelled interviews may be an obstacle for subsequent criminal prosecution.

(e) Assess the credibility of the alleged victim, suspect or witness on an individual basis and not by the person's status as a detainee or a member of the Ventura Police Department.

(f) Document in written reports a description of physical, testimonial, documentary and other evidence, the reasoning behind any credibility assessments, and investigative facts and findings.

(g) Refer allegations of conduct that may be criminal to the District Attorney for possible prosecution, including any time there is probable cause to believe a detainee or prisoner sexually abused another detainee or prisoner in the Temporary Holding Facility (28 CFR 115.178).

(h) Cooperate with outside investigators and remain informed about the progress of any outside investigation.

904.5.3 ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS

Administrative investigations shall include an effort to determine whether staff actions or failures to act contributed to the abuse. The departure of the alleged abuser or victim from the employment or control of this department shall not be used as a basis for terminating an investigation (28 CFR 115.171).

904.5.4 SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL ABUSE VICTIMS

No detainee or prisoner who alleges sexual abuse shall be required to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth-telling device as a condition for proceeding with the investigation of such an allegation (28 CFR 115.171(e)).

Detainee or prisoner victims of sexual abuse shall receive timely, unimpeded access to emergency medical treatment. Treatment services shall be provided to the victim without financial cost and

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regardless of whether the victim names the abuser or cooperates with any investigation arising out of the incident (28 CFR 115.182).

904.5.5 CONCLUSIONS AND FINDINGS

All completed investigations shall be forwarded to the Chief of Police, or if the allegations may reasonably involve the Chief of Police, to the City Manager. The Chief of Police or City Manager shall review the investigation and determine whether any allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment have been substantiated by a preponderance of the evidence (28 CFR 115.172).

All personnel shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions up to and including termination for violating this policy. Termination shall be the presumptive disciplinary sanction for department members who have engaged in sexual abuse. All discipline shall be commensurate with the nature and circumstances of the acts committed, the member's disciplinary history and the sanctions imposed for comparable offenses by other members with similar histories (28 CFR 115.176).

All terminations for violations of this policy, or resignations by members who would have been terminated if not for their resignation, shall be criminally investigated unless the activity was clearly not criminal and reported to any relevant licensing body (28 CFR 115.176).

Any contractor or volunteer who engages in sexual abuse shall be prohibited from contact with detainees or prisoners and reported to any relevant licensing bodies (28 CFR 115.177). The Chief of Police shall take appropriate remedial measures and consider whether to prohibit further contact with detainees or prisoners by a contractor or volunteer.

904.6 RETALIATION PROHIBITED

All detainees, prisoners and members who report sexual abuse or sexual harassment or who cooperate with sexual abuse or sexual harassment investigations shall be protected from retaliation (28 CFR 115.167). If any other individual who cooperates with an investigation expresses a fear of retaliation, appropriate measures shall be taken to protect that individual.

The Watch Commander or the authorized designee shall employ multiple protection measures, such as housing changes or transfers for detainee or prisoner victims or abusers, removal of alleged abusers from contact with victims, and emotional support services for detainees, prisoners or members who fear retaliation for reporting sexual abuse or sexual harassment or for cooperating with investigations.

The Watch Commander or the authorized designee shall identify a staff member to monitor the conduct and treatment of detainees, prisoners or members who have reported sexual abuse and of detainees or prisoners who were reported to have suffered sexual abuse. The staff member shall act promptly to remedy any such retaliation. In the case of detainees or prisoners, such monitoring shall also include periodic status checks.

904.7 REVIEWS AND AUDITS

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904.7.1 INCIDENT REVIEWS

An incident review shall be conducted at the conclusion of every sexual abuse investigation, unless the allegation has been determined to be unfounded. The review should occur within 30 days of the conclusion of the investigation. The review team shall include upper-level management officials and seek input from line supervisors and investigators (28 CFR 115.186).

The review shall (28 CFR 115.186):

(a) Consider whether the allegation or investigation indicates a need to change policy or practice to better prevent, detect or respond to sexual abuse.

(b) Consider whether the incident or allegation was motivated by race; ethnicity; gender identity; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex identification, status or perceived status; gang affiliation; or was motivated or otherwise caused by other group dynamics at the facility.

(c) Examine the area in the facility where the incident allegedly occurred to assess whether physical barriers in the area may enable abuse.

(d) Assess the adequacy of staffing levels in that area during different shifts.

(e) Assess whether monitoring technology should be deployed or augmented to supplement supervision by staff.

The review team shall prepare a report of its findings, including any determinations made pursuant to this section and any recommendations for improvement. The report shall be submitted to the Chief of Police and the PREA Coordinator. The Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall implement the recommendations for improvement or shall document the reasons for not doing so (28 CFR 115.186).

904.7.2 DATA REVIEWS

The facility shall conduct an annual review of collected and aggregated incident-based sexual abuse data. The review should include, as needed, data from incident-based documents, including reports, investigation files and sexual abuse incident reviews (28 CFR 115.187).

The purpose of these reviews is to assess and improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection and response policies, practices and training. An annual report shall be prepared that includes (28 CFR 115.188):

(a) Identification of any potential problem areas.

(b) Identification of any corrective actions taken.

(c) Recommendations for any additional corrective actions.

(d) A comparison of the current year's data and corrective actions with those from prior years.

(e) An assessment of the Department's progress in addressing sexual abuse.

The report shall be approved by the Chief of Police and made readily available to the public through the department website or, if it does not have one, through other means. Material may be

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redacted from the reports when publication would present a clear and specific threat to the safety and security of the Temporary Holding Facility. However, the nature of the redacted material shall be indicated.

All aggregated sexual abuse data from Ventura Police Department facilities and private facilities with which it contracts shall be made readily available to the public at least annually through the department website or, if it does not have one, through other means. Before making aggregated sexual abuse data publicly available, all personal identifiers shall be removed (28 CFR 115.189).

904.8 RECORDS

The Department shall retain all written reports from administrative and criminal investigations pursuant to this policy for as long as the alleged abuser is held or employed by the Department, plus five years (28 CFR 115.171).

All other data collected pursuant to this policy shall be securely retained for at least 10 years after the date of the initial collection unless federal, state or local law requires otherwise (28 CFR 115.189).

904.9 TRAINING

All employees, volunteers and contractors who may have contact with detainees or prisoners shall receive department-approved training on the prevention and detection of sexual abuse and sexual harassment within this facility. The Professional Standards Sergeant shall be responsible for developing and administering this training as appropriate, covering at a minimum (28 CFR 115.131):

- The Department's zero-tolerance policy and the right of detainees and prisoners to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment, and from retaliation for reporting sexual abuse or harassment.
- The dynamics of sexual abuse and harassment in confinement settings, including which detainees and prisoners are most vulnerable.
- The right of detainees, prisoners and staff members to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment, and from retaliation for reporting sexual abuse or harassment.
- Detecting and responding to signs of threatened and actual abuse.
- Communicating effectively and professionally with all detainees and prisoners.
- Compliance with relevant laws related to mandatory reporting of sexual abuse to outside authorities.

Investigators assigned to sexual abuse investigations shall also receive training in conducting such investigations in confinement settings. Training should include (28 CFR 115.134):

- Techniques for interviewing sexual abuse victims.
- Proper use of *Miranda* and *Garrity* warnings.
- Sexual abuse evidence collection in confinement settings.

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- Criteria and evidence required to substantiate a case for administrative action or prosecution referral.

The Professional Standards Sergeant shall maintain documentation that employees, volunteers, contractors and investigators have completed required training and that they understand the training. This understanding shall be documented through individual signature or electronic verification.

All current employees and volunteers who may have contact with detainees or prisoners shall be trained within one year of the effective date of the PREA standards. The agency shall provide annual refresher information to all such employees and volunteers to ensure that they understand the current sexual abuse and sexual harassment policies and procedures.

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Chapter 10 - Personnel

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Recruitment and Selection

1000.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides a framework for employee recruiting efforts and identifying job-related standards for the selection process. This policy supplements the rules that govern employment practices for the Ventura Police Department and that are promulgated and maintained by the Human Resources Department.

1000.2 APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

Candidates for job openings will be selected based on merit, ability, competence and experience.

All peace officer candidates must meet the minimum standards described in California Government Code § 1031 in addition to the employment standards established by this department.

1000.2.1 VETERAN'S PREFERENCE

Qualifying veterans of the United States armed forces shall receive a veteran's preference after receiving a passing score on an entrance exam (Government Code § 18973.1). This provision includes widows and widowers of veterans, and spouses of veterans who are 100 percent disabled.

1000.3 STANDARDS

Employment standards shall be established for each job classification and shall include minimally, the special training, abilities, knowledge and skills required to perform the duties of the job in a satisfactory manner. The Ventura Human Resources Department maintains standards for all positions.

The dilemma facing the Department is one of developing a job-valid and non-discriminatory set of policies which will allow it to lawfully exclude persons who do not meet the Ventura or State of California hiring standards. The California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) developed a Job Dimensions list, which are used as a professional standard in background investigations.

The following standards have been adopted for public safety applicants:

1000.3.1 OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE

(a) The ability to possess a valid California driver's license

(b) The ability to drive safely

(c) The ability to control a motor vehicle at high speeds

(d) The ability to operate a motor vehicle in all types of weather conditions

(e) The following **may** be disqualifying:

1. Receipt of three or more moving violations (or any single violation of a potential life threatening violation, such as reckless driving, speed contest, suspect of a

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pursuit, etc.) within three years prior to application.Moving violations for which there is a factual finding of innocence shall not be included.

2. Involvement as a driver in two or more chargeable (at fault) collisions within three years prior to date of application.

(f) The following **shall** be disqualifying:

1. A conviction for driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs within three years prior to application or any two convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

1000.3.2 INTEGRITY

(a) Refusing to yield to the temptation of bribes, gratuities, payoffs, etc.

(b) Refusing to tolerate unethical or illegal conduct on the part of other law enforcement personnel

(c) Showing strong moral character and integrity in dealing with the public

(d) Being honest in dealing with the public

(e) The following **shall** be disqualifying:

1. Any material misstatement of fact or significant admission during the application or background process shall be disqualifying, including inconsistent statements made during the initial background interview (Personal History Statement or Supplemental Questionnaire) or polygraph examination or discrepancies between this background investigation and other investigations conducted by other law enforcement agencies.

2. Any forgery, alteration, or intentional omission of material facts on an official employment application document or sustained episodes of academic cheating.

1000.3.3 CREDIBILITY AS A WITNESS IN A COURT OF LAW

(a) The ability to give testimony in a court of law without being subject to impeachment due to his/her honesty or veracity (or their opposites) or due to prior felony conviction.

(b) The following **may** be disqualifying:

1. Conviction of any criminal offense classified as a misdemeanor under California law within three years prior to application

2. Conviction of any offense classified as a misdemeanor under California law while employed as a peace officer (including military police officers)

3. Conviction for two or more misdemeanor offenses under California law as an adult

4. Any history of actions resulting in civil lawsuits against the applicant or his/her employer

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(c) The following **shall** be disqualifying:

1. Admission(s) of having committed any act amounting to a felony (including felony-misdemeanor offenses) under California law, as an adult, within five years prior to application or while employed as a peace officer (including military police officers)
2. Admission(s) of administrative conviction of any act while employed as a peace officer (including military police officers) involving lying, falsification of any official report or document, or theft
3. Admission(s) of any act of domestic violence as defined by law, committed as an adult
4. Admission(s) of any criminal act, whether misdemeanor or felony, committed against children including but not limited to: molesting or annoying children, child abduction, child abuse, lewd and lascivious acts with a child, or indecent exposure. Acts of consensual unlawful intercourse accomplished between two minors or a minor and adult shall not be included, unless more than four years difference in age existed at the time of the acts

1000.3.4 DEPENDABILITY

(a) Having a record of submitting reports on time and not malingering on calls, etc.

(b) A record of being motivated to perform well

(c) A record of dependability and follow through on assignments

(d) A history of taking the extra effort required for complete accuracy in all details of work

(e) A willingness to work the hours needed to complete a job

(f) The following **may** be disqualifying:

1. Missing any scheduled appointment during the process without prior permission
2. Having been disciplined by any employer (including military) as an adult for abuse of leave, gross insubordination, dereliction of duty, or persistent failure to follow established policies and regulations
3. Having been involuntarily dismissed (for any reason other than lay-off) from two or more employers as an adult
4. Having held more than seven paid positions with different employers within the past four years, or more than 15 paid positions with different employers in the past ten years (excluding military). Students who attend school away from their permanent legal residence may be excused from this requirement
5. Resigning from any paid position without notice, except where the presence of a hostile work environment is alleged.
6. Having undergone personal bankruptcy more than once, having current financial obligations for which legal judgements have not been satisfied, currently having wages garnished, or any other history of financial instability

(g) The following **shall** be disqualifying:

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1. Having any outstanding warrant of arrest at time of application.

1000.3.5 LEARNING ABILITY

(a) The ability to comprehend and retain information

(b) The ability to recall information pertaining to laws, statutes, codes, etc.

(c) The ability to learn and to apply what is learned

(d) The ability to learn and apply the material, tactics and procedures that are required of a law enforcement officer

(e) The following **shall** be disqualifying:

1. Being under current academic dismissal from any college or university where such dismissal is still in effect and was initiated within the past two years prior to the date of application

2. Having been academically dismissed from any POST certified basic law enforcement academy wherein no demonstrated effort has been made to improve in the deficient areas, except: subsequent successful completion of another POST basic law enforcement academy shall rescind this requirement

1000.3.6 PERSONAL SENSITIVITY

(a) The ability to resolve problems in a way that shows sensitivity for the feelings of others.

(b) Empathy

(c) Discretion, not enforcing the law blindly

(d) Effectiveness in dealing with people without arousing antagonism

(e) The ability to understand the motives of people and how they will react and interact

(f) The following **may** be disqualifying:

1. Having been disciplined by any employer (including the military and/or any law enforcement training facility) for acts constituting racial, ethnic or sexual harassment or discrimination

2. Uttering any epithet derogatory of another person's race, religion, gender, national origin or sexual orientation

3. Having been disciplined by any employer as an adult for fighting in the workplace

1000.3.7 JUDGMENT UNDER PRESSURE

(a) The ability to apply common sense during pressure situations

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(b) The ability to make sound decisions on the spot

(c) The ability to use good judgment in dealing with potentially explosive situations

(d) The ability to make effective, logical decisions under pressure

(e) The following **shall** be disqualifying:

1. Admission(s) of administrative conviction or criminal convictions for any act amounting to assault under color of authority or any other violation of federal or state Civil Rights laws

2. Any admission(s) of administrative conviction or criminal conviction for failure to properly report witnessed criminal conduct committed by another law enforcement officer

1000.3.8 ILLEGAL USE OR POSSESSION OF DRUGS

(a) The following examples of illegal drug use or possession will be considered in relationship to the overall background of that individual and **may** result in disqualification:

1. Any adult use or possession of marijuana within one year prior to application for employment

2. Any other illegal adult use or possession of a drug except marijuana (including cocaine) within three years prior to application for employment

3. Any illegal adult use or possession of a drug while employed in any law enforcement capacity, military police, or as a student enrolled in college-accredited courses related to the criminal justice field

4. Any illegal use or possession of a drug as a juvenile

5. Any illegal adult use or possession of a drug that does not meet the criteria of the potential disqualifiers specified above (e.g., marijuana use longer than one year ago or cocaine use longer than three years ago.)

6. Any illegal or unauthorized use of prescription medications

7. Any adult use or possession of a drug classified as a hallucinogenic within seven years prior to application for employment

(b) The following examples of illegal drug use or possession **shall** be disqualifing:

1. Failure to divulge to the Department any information about personal use or possession of drugs including marijuana

2. Any adult manufacture or cultivation of a drug or illegal substance

3. Any drug test of the applicant, during the course of the hiring process, where drugs are detected, including marijuana

4. Any illegal use or possession of a drug, including marijuana, while employed in a law enforcement capacity

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Background Investigations

1001.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To provide policies and standards for conducting pre-employment background investigations.

1001.2 POLICY

The Professional Standards Unit will review all completed background investigations before an applicant is offered employment, either paid or volunteer, with the Ventura Police Department.

A background investigation will be conducted on applicants for any position with this Department, whether sworn or non-sworn, paid or volunteer, and any persons having access to the Department computer system, Records Management System, or California Law Enforcement Teletype System (CLETS).

Background investigations shall be conducted in accordance with guidelines established by POST, applicable state and federal laws, and City and Department policy.

All information gleaned during the background investigation shall be treated as confidential. All parties interviewed during the course of the background investigation shall be informed that their responses have absolute privilege pursuant to Civil Code Section 47.

Any applicant who is deceptive, deceitful, not truthful, misleading, or uncooperative during any portion of the background investigation shall immediately be disqualified from consideration for employment.

1001.3 RESPONSIBILITY

The primary responsibility for conducting background investigations shall rest with the Professional Standards Commander. Background investigations may be assigned to department members as the needs of the Department dictate.

(a) Background Investigator: The background investigator is a sworn or civilian member of the Department, or a contract vendor, who is assigned to conduct a background investigation. Officers assigned to conduct sworn background investigations must have completed the POST 40 hour FTO course and served as an FTO with the department. Officers assigned to conduct sworn officer backgrounds as their primary assignment shall be considered in active FTO status during the assignment.

(b) Applicant: The applicant shall promptly comply with all requests by the background investigator. The applicant shall answer all questions truthfully when the question is first presented to them. The applicant shall keep all appointments set for testing during the process. It is the applicant's responsibility to secure the documents necessary to complete the background investigation.

1001.4 ORDER OF THE INVESTIGATION

The background investigation shall be conducted in the following sequence.

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(a) The applicant will be given a personal history statement (PHS) for completion. He/she will be given a deadline for returning the completed document, normally 10-14 days.

(b) Applicant Interview: The background investigator will conduct a tape-recorded interview with the applicant, confirming the applicant's response to each question on the PHS. The applicant will note any discrepancies on a copy of the PHS, which he/she will initial and date. The investigator will have the applicant complete the pertinent background waivers and other paperwork, arrange for the applicant's fingerprints to be taken, and take photos of the applicant for identification purposes during the background process.

(c) Polygraph Examination: Applicants for positions with access to confidential records or criminal history information shall be required to take a polygraph examination. A vendor selected by the Department shall conduct the polygraph examination and the polygraph results will be given to the Professional Standards Commander for review. These results may also be shared with the background investigator as needed.

(d) Conduct the Background Investigation: This phase shall include, but not be limited to, preparing and sending out written inquiries to the applicant's relatives, references, acquaintances, employers, coworkers, and supervisors; obtaining credit reports; conducting interviews; and making other routine inquiries to determine the applicant's character and suitability for employment.

(e) Compile Completed Background Packet: An investigative narrative shall be completed on each background investigation, except as otherwise stated in this policy. The completed background investigation will be packaged for review by the Professional Standards Commander and the Chief of Police.

(f) Chief's Review and Interviews: The Chief may conduct an interview with the applicant. The Chief shall make the decision whether to hire the applicant.

(g) Conditional Offer of Employment: The Professional Standards Unit shall prepare a conditional offer of employment for applicants found suitable for employment. The conditional offer shall be in writing and shall specifically state the terms and conditions of employment, should the applicant successfully complete the remainder of the selection process.

(h) Post Offer Interview: The background investigator may conduct a post-conditional offer interview with the applicant. The applicant will complete the post-offer questionnaire(s), as applicable.

(i) Psychological Evaluation: Applicants for designated positions shall be required to participate in a psychological evaluation. A licensed psychologist having at least five years experience shall conduct the psychological evaluation. The results of the psychological interview are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.). Only the Chief of Police, the Professional Standards Commander, and Professional Standards Sergeant shall read the psychological report. The psychologist may, at the direction of the Chief of Police or the Professional Standards Commander, communicate information to the background investigator that is pertinent to the proper

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and thorough post offer follow-up investigation necessary to complete the background investigation.

1. The results of the psychological interview shall not be shared with anyone not specifically authorized by the Chief of Police to receive the information.

(j) Medical Evaluation: Applicants for designated positions shall be required to take a medical examination. A vendor selected by the Human Resources Department will conduct the medical evaluation. The medical evaluation and screening shall include pre-employment drug screening. Human Resources will advise the Professional Standards Commander in writing whether or not the applicant passed the examination.

(k) Review of Post Offer Test Results: The background investigator or Professional Standards Commander will review all test results to insure consistency between the information the applicant furnished during the pre-offer background investigation and the information shared with vendors during the post offer testing.

1. Inconsistencies shall be addressed through a discrepancy interview conducted by the background investigator, Professional Standards Commander, or Professional Standards Sergeant.

(l) Selection or Rejection of Applicant:

1. The Chief shall review the completed background investigation and make the decision to hire or not hire the applicant.

2. Selection for Employment: The Professional Standards Commander will coordinate the proposed hiring date with the Chief of Police. The Professional Standards Commander shall notify the applicant of his/her successful selection and the proposed hiring date.

3. Rejection from Consideration: It shall be the Professional Standards Commander's responsibility to notify the applicant of the decision not to hire him/her.

4. The notification shall, whenever practical, be done in person. A letter confirming the decision not to hire the applicant will be mailed to the applicant. A copy of the letter will be included in the applicant's background investigation.

1001.5 TIMELINESS OF INVESTIGATION

Background investigations should be completed within sixty days of the initiation of the investigation. The goal of completing the background investigation within sixty days is designed to insure the rapid hiring of qualified applicants for vacancies. The completeness of the investigation and the integrity of the investigation will not be compromised, nor will any applicable laws be circumvented, to comply with this time constraint.

1001.6 AREAS OF INQUIRY

The job dimensions defined by POST shall serve as a guide in conducting background investigations on applicants.

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(a) Each of the areas listed on the PHS shall be thoroughly investigated to verify the information contained therein. The background investigator shall have the discretion of contacting former and current employers and coworkers by mail, telephone or in person, in accordance with established Department procedures.

(b) The background investigator shall, where practical, contact relatives, references, and acquaintances listed in the PHS. Investigators are encouraged to locate and interview secondary references to further verify the applicant's qualifications. Inquiries shall be made as they relate to the listed job dimensions concerning the applicant.

(c) Nothing in this policy shall preclude the background investigator from contacting any other person, business, or entity, which may, in the background investigator's judgment, provide relevant information concerning an applicant's suitability for employment with this Department.

(d) The investigation shall not make routine inquiries into an applicant's religious, political, or sexual preferences, as these activities are constitutionally protected.

1001.7 DISCOVERY OF POTENTIALLY DISQUALIFYING INFORMATION

(a) The discovery of potentially disqualifying information shall be documented and brought to the attention of the Professional Standards Commander.

(b) The Professional Standards Commander shall determine if the applicant's background investigation will be continued or suspended. The decision and the responsibility for the decision whether or not to proceed with the applicant shall rest with the Professional Standards Commander.

1001.8 DOCUMENTING BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS

(a) Background Investigation Narrative.

1. The background investigator will complete a narrative summarizing the results of the investigation using the accepted format.

2. The narrative will contain a summary of the results of the investigation. Detailed information concerning interviews will be contained in a separate narrative filed with the results of the interview questionnaires.

3. The interviews and the information developed shall have absolute privilege pursuant to Civil Code Section 47. The narrative portion of the completed investigation will contain a statement to that effect.

(b) Incomplete Background Investigations: Incomplete background investigations require only a narrative outlining the reason the investigation has been suspended.

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(c) Disposition of the Psychological Report: The psychological report shall be returned to the vendor after the hiring decision is made. The Certificate of Psychological Screening shall be marked confidential and placed in the completed background investigation.

(d) Training Records: Upon hire, the training records contained in the applicant's background investigation file will be placed in that member's Department Training file.

1001.9 CONFIDENTIALITY

The information gathered during the background investigation shall be deemed confidential. Dissemination shall be limited to those circumstances covered under this policy.

No other employee or vendor of this department may seek information from a background investigator or investigation except as specifically authorized by this policy.

A completed background investigation shall not be reviewed or read by any employee of this department absent a court order or the specific authorization of the Chief of Police or as allowed by this policy.

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Evaluation of Employees

1002.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Department's employee performance evaluation system is designed to record work performance for both the Department and the employee, providing recognition for good work and developing a guide for improvement.

1002.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department utilizes a performance evaluation report to measure performance and to use as a factor in making personnel decisions that relate to merit increases, promotion, reassignment, discipline, demotion, and termination. The evaluation report is intended to serve as a guide for work planning and review by the supervisor and employee. It gives supervisors a way to create an objective history of work performance based on job standards.

The Department evaluates employees in a non-discriminatory manner based upon job-related factors specific to the employee's position, without regard to actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and any other classification or status protected by law.

1002.3 FULL TIME PROBATIONARY PERSONNEL

Civilian employees represented by a bargaining unit shall have a probationary period of either six months or one year, and at least two written evaluations must be completed during that period.

Sworn personnel are on probation for 18 months if they are entry-level or academy trained or for 1 year if they are lateral officers, before being eligible for certification as permanent employees. Probationary officers are evaluated daily, weekly and monthly during the probationary period.

1002.4 FULL-TIME PERMANENT STATUS PERSONNEL

Permanent employees are subject to three types of performance evaluations:

Regular - An Employee Performance Evaluation shall be completed once each year by the employee's immediate supervisor on the anniversary of the employee's date of hire except for employees who have been promoted in which case an Employee Performance Evaluation shall be completed on the anniversary of the employee's date of last promotion.

Transfer - If an employee is transferred from one assignment to another in the middle of an evaluation period and less than six months have transpired since the transfer, then an evaluation shall be completed by the current supervisor with input from the previous supervisor.

Special - A special evaluation may be completed any time the rater and the rater's supervisor feel one is necessary due to employee performance that is deemed less than standard. Generally, the special evaluation will be the tool used to demonstrate those areas of performance deemed less

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than standard when follow-up action is planned (action plan, remedial training, retraining, etc.). The evaluation form and the attached documentation shall be submitted as one package.

1002.4.1 RATINGS

When completing the Employee Performance Evaluation, the rater will place a check mark in the column that best describes the employee's performance. The definition of each rating category is as follows:

Outstanding - Is actual performance well beyond that required for the position. It is exceptional performance, definitely superior or extraordinary.

Exceeds Standards - Represents performance that is better than expected of a fully competent employee. It is superior to what is expected, but is not of such rare nature to warrant outstanding.

Meets Standards - Is the performance of a fully competent employee. It means satisfactory performance that meets the standards required of the position.

Needs Improvement - Is a level of performance less than that expected of a fully competent employee and less than standards required of the position. A needs improvement rating must be thoroughly discussed with the employee.

Unsatisfactory - Performance is inferior to the standards required of the position. It is very inadequate or undesirable performance that cannot be tolerated.

Space for written comments is provided at the end of the evaluation in the rater comments section. This section allows the rater to document the employee's strengths, weaknesses, and suggestions for improvement. Any rating under any job dimension marked needs improvement, unsatisfactory, or outstanding shall be substantiated in the rater comments section.

1002.5 EVALUATION INTERVIEW

When the supervisor has completed the preliminary evaluation, arrangements shall be made for a private discussion of the evaluation with the employee. The supervisor should discuss the results of the just completed rating period and clarify any questions the employee may have. If the employee has valid and reasonable protests of any of the ratings, the supervisor may make appropriate changes to the evaluation. Areas needing improvement and goals for reaching the expected level of performance should be identified and discussed. The supervisor should also provide relevant counseling regarding advancement, specialty positions and training opportunities. The supervisor and employee will sign and date the evaluation. Permanent employees may also write comments in the Employee Comments section of the performance evaluation report.

1002.5.1 DISCRIMINATORY HARASSMENT FORM

At the time of each employee’s annual evaluation, the reviewing supervisor shall require the employee to read the City and Department harassment and discrimination policies. Following such policy review, the supervisor shall provide the employee a form to be completed and returned by the employee certifying the following:

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(a) That the employee understands the harassment and discrimination policies.

(b) Whether any questions the employee has have been sufficiently addressed.

(c) That the employee knows how and where to report harassment policy violations.

(d) Whether the employee has been the subject of, or witness to, any conduct that violates the discrimination or harassment policy which has not been previously reported.

The completed form should be returned to the supervisor (or other authorized individual if the employee is uncomfortable returning the form to the presenting supervisor) within one week.

The employee's completed answers shall be attached to the evaluation. If the employee has expressed any questions or concerns, the receiving supervisor or other authorized individual shall insure that appropriate follow up action is taken.

1002.6 EVALUATION REVIEW

After the supervisor finishes the discussion with the employee, the signed performance evaluation is forwarded to the rater's supervisor (Division Commander). The Division Commander shall review the evaluation for fairness, impartiality, uniformity, and consistency. The Division Commander shall evaluate the supervisor on the quality of ratings given.

1002.7 EVALUATION DISTRIBUTION

The original performance evaluation shall be maintained in the employee's personnel file in the office of the Chief of Police for the tenure of the employee's employment. A copy will be given to the employee and a copy will be forwarded to City Human Resources Department.

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Promotional and Transfer Policy

1004.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To establish a promotional process for Commander, Sergeant, and Corporal and to establish a set of guidelines and policies for selection to specialty assignments throughout the department.

1004.1.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The following conditions will be used in evaluating employees for promotion and transfer:

(a) Present a professional, neat appearance.

(b) Maintain a physical condition which aids in their performance.

(c) Demonstrate the following traits:

1. Emotional stability and maturity
2. Stress tolerance
3. Sound judgment and decision-making
4. Personal integrity and ethical conduct
5. Leadership
6. Initiative
7. Adaptability and flexibility
8. Ability to conform to organizational goals and objectives in a positive manner.

1004.2 PROMOTIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICERS

1004.2.1 PROMOTIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

The following qualifications are established for promotional positions for officers within the Department. A list of qualified applicants will be maintained for a period of one (1) year and may be extended for a period not to exceed a total of (2) years at the discretion of the Human Resources Director as described in Rule V, Section 4 of the City's Rules and Regulations.

(a) Assistant Police Chief: Seven (7) years of law enforcement experience, including one (1) year of supervisory experience at the rank of Police Commander with the City of Ventura is required. A Bachelor's degree in a Criminal Justice, Business or Public Administration, or a related field is preferred. Applicants must have completed probation at the time of application.

(b) Police Commander: Five (5) years of law enforcement experience, including one (1) year of supervisory experience at the rank of Sergeant with the City of Ventura is required. A Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice or Public Administration, or a related subject, is preferred.

(c) Police Sergeant: Must have completed a satisfactory probationary period as a Police Corporal, and five (5) years of experience as a Police Officer with the Ventura

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Police Department. An Associate's degree in criminal justice, or business or public administration is preferred and a Bachelor's degree is preferred.

(d) Police Corporal: Four (4) years of Law Enforcement experience that includes two (2) years experience as a Police Officer with the Ventura Police Department. College course work in criminal justice, business or public administration or related field is preferred.

1004.3 SPECIALTY ASSIGNMENTS FOR OFFICERS

1004.3.1 DEFINITION

A specialty assignment is a sworn position having specific responsibilities and duties other than a normal and traditional patrol assignment.

Temporary assignments may be made by the Chief of Police based on the needs of the Department or the City. Temporary assignments are those assignments that are not already identified as a Specialty Assignment and are not likely to last more than one year in length.

1004.3.2 SPECIALTY ASSIGNMENT

Officers are eligible to serve in only one specialty assignment at a time. The Department considers the following as specialty assignments:

- Traffic
- K-9
- Street Crimes Detective (SCU)
- Schools
- Alcohol Enforcement Officer
- Patrol Task Force (PTF)
- Detectives
- Professional Standards
- Communications
- Training
- Academy
- Street Enforcement Team (SET)
- Enhanced Patrol

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1004.3.3 SPECIALTY ASSIGNMENT CRITERIA

Specific selection criteria, and any special conditions for each position, have been established and published. Criteria for all assignments will include:

(a) Officer applicants are not on probation. Corporal and Sergeant may be considered if on probation.

(b) Applicants who received a rating of unsatisfactory in any category of his/her most recent performance appraisal are ineligible.

(c) Applicant shall not be on a Performance Improvement Plan.

Prior successful completion of a specialty assignment will serve as neither an advantage nor disadvantage, except if the officer performed unsatisfactorily or failed to complete the minimum time required for the assignment.

Officers who are currently serving in a specialty assignment may apply for a specialty assignment position.

1004.3.4 SPECIALTY ASSIGNMENT SELECTION PROCESS FOR OFFICERS

The Department will notify all Officers and Corporals of specialty assignment openings. Interested, eligible Officers and Corporals shall submit a memorandum of interest through the chain-of-command to the affected Commander or designee. The affected division shall publish the selection criteria in advance, i.e. oral interview, supervisory input, etc. Once the process is completed the Commander shall review the list of applicants and decide on a candidate. The Commander may solicit supervisory and Command Staff input at his/her discretion.

If no eligible officer applies for the position or no applicant is qualified, the Commander may recommend the appointment of any Officer or Corporal (probationary or non-probationary) to the position, including the incumbent. If an incumbent is extended in the position it shall be for a period of one year.

Once the position(s) are filled there will be no eligibility list maintained. A new selection process will occur if a new position becomes available.

Specialty assignments will be for the period as set forth in Section 1004.4.3.

1004.3.5 SPECIALTY ASSIGNMENT SELECTION PROCESS FOR CORPORALS AND SERGEANTS

The process for Sergeant (probationary or non-probationary) will follow the same procedure as section 1004.3.4. However, a Sergeant may be assigned to a specialty assignment based on departmental needs and with approval of the Chief of Police.

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1004.3.6 RETROACTIVITY FOR RECOGNITION
Officers wishing recognition of past specialty assignments may file a memorandum to the Division Commander for assignment verification. The assignment shall conform to this policy. The officer must have served successfully for a minimum of two years in the assignment.

1004.3.7 SWAT
Sworn officers assigned to the SWAT Team serve at the discretion of the SWAT Commander. The SWAT assignment is a collateral assignment and is not a specialty assignment. SWAT staff selects members in accordance with §408.2.2

1004.3.8 COLLATERAL ASSIGNMENTS
The department officers a variety of collateral assignments that personnel, if selected, will perform in addition to their normal duty assignments.

- All collateral assignments will report either directly to a Commander or their designee.
- All collateral assignments will be for an unspecified time period and may change at the direction of the Commander in charge.
- When a collateral assignment becomes available or is created the Commander or his designee shall develop a selection criterion in advance (interview, supervisor review, etc).
- Interested personnel shall submit a memorandum of interest through the chain-of-command to the affected Commander or designee.
- After the selection criterion is followed the Commander shall review the results and select a candidate.
- The Commander or designee shall notify the applicants who applied for the position of who was selected for the assignment.

Once the position(s) are filled there will be no eligibility list maintained. A new selection process will occur if a new position becomes available.

1004.4 ROTATION PERIOD FOR OFFICERS

1004.4.1 POLICY
It is the policy of the Department to rotate most specialty assignments, supervisors, and command staff. Rotation periods will vary from a one-year assignment to unspecified. Unspecified means that absent other factors, the position is not subject to a rotation period.

1004.4.2 MINIMUM LENGTH OF SERVICE
The minimum time that an officer may occupy specialty assignment, without receiving the designation of unsuccessful completion, is two years. Unsuccessful completion (as noted in an evaluation or other document) of a specialty assignment may preclude future specialty assignments for a period of one-year. The sworn member or the department may conclude the specialty assignment after the minimum amount of time is served in that assignment for any reason.

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1004.4.3 ROTATIONAL PERIODS

The following represents the rotational period by rank and assignments:

Sergeants	Detectives - SCU	2-5 years
	Detectives - Major Crimes	
	Traffic	2-5 years
	Patrol Task Force	2-5 years
	Command Center	2-5 years
	Professional Standards/Training	2-5 years
Corporals	Detectives - SCU	2-5 years
	Detectives - Major Crimes	2-5 years
	Traffic	2-5 years
	Patrol Task Force	2-5 years
	Command Center	2-5 years
	Professional Standards/Training	2-5 years
	Academy	TBD- Up to 2 years
Officers	Traffic	2-5 years
	Detectives -SCU	2-5 years
	Detectives - Major Crimes	2-5 years
	K-9	Unspecified (see note)
	School Resource Officer	2-5 years
	Patrol Task Force	2-5 years
	Alcohol Enforcement	2-5 years
	Academy	TBD - Up to 2 years
	Enhanced Patrol	1 year

Note: A handler is expected to serve a minimum of 4 years unless the canine is removed from service. If a handler has served less than 4 years in the program, he/she may be considered for a replacement K-9.

1004.5 PROMOTIONAL PROCESS FOR ASSISTANT CHIEF, COMMANDER, SERGEANT, AND CORPORAL

1004.5.1 ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

(a) Application Screening: All applicants meeting the minimum qualifications will be certified to an eligibility list and forwarded to the Police Chief for consideration.

(b) A timed written project with a presentation in front of up to four panelists of the Police Chief's choosing.

(c) Selection Interview: The Police Chief and up to two other persons or, at his/her discretion the Chief alone, will conduct selection interviews. Each eligible candidate

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will be interviewed. The Police Chief will promote the candidate he/she feels best suits the needs of the organization.

1004.5.2 POLICE COMMANDER SELECTION PROCESS

(a) Application Screening: All applicants meeting the minimum qualifications will be certified to an eligibility list and forwarded to the Police Chief for consideration.

(b) Supervisory Assessment: All department commanders and assistant chiefs will assess each commander candidate using an assessment sheet that will be turned into the Police Chief for review. The Police Chief will take completed assessments into consideration when determining the best candidate for the position.

(c) Selection Interview: The Police Chief and up to two other persons or, at his/her discretion the Chief alone, will conduct selection interviews. Each eligible candidate will be interviewed. The Police Chief will promote the candidate he/she feels best suits the needs of the organization.

1004.5.3 POLICE SERGEANT

Each candidate must successfully complete each of the following exam components to be certified to the eligibility list:

(a) **Written Test**: The test will measure candidates' general knowledge of Ventura Police Department policies, procedures, and relevant law enforcement codes (PC, VC, WIC, and H&S). Human Resources will administer the written test, which will consist of 125 questions for Sergeant applicants. The candidate must receive a score of 70% or higher to pass the written test. This portion of the process will be 10% of their total score.

(b) **Supervisory Assessment:** All department sergeants and commanders will assess each sergeant candidate utilizing a standardized assessment sheet. After completion and review by the respective sergeant or commander, the assessments go to Professional Standards for another layer of review.

1. The criteria to determine if a sergeant or commander must complete an assessment for a candidate comes by answering the two questions on the top of the assessment sheet. If the sergeant or commander responds affirmatively to either of the questions, they must complete an assessment for the candidate.

2. The assessment sheet contains ten evaluation dimensions. Each dimension is rated as either Unacceptable, Improvement Needed, Meets Standards, Exceeds Standards, or Outstanding. A candidate must receive a rating in a minimum of six dimensions to make this document eligible for scoring purposes.

3. After completion of the assessment sheets, they are turned into Professional Standards. Professional Standards will review the assessment sheets and confirm if there are comments for any dimension scores of Unacceptable or Outstanding.

4. Professional Standards will create a spreadsheet that lists the supervisors who rated each candidate. Each candidate will receive an email from Professional Standards showing the names of the supervisors who rated the candidate. The

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candidate will review their list, confirm that those supervisors meet the criteria to assess them, or if a supervisor who is not on their list should have rated them. The candidate will notify Professional Standards if they show that a supervisor's assessment should be added or removed from their list. When all Assessment Sheets are completed and turned in, Professional Standards will forward the sheets to Human Resources. A spreadsheet with all candidates' scores, along with the respective supervisor responsible for the scoring, is created.

5. The Police Chief or a designee will initiate a roundtable meeting with all Sergeants and Commanders. A Human Resources proctor will be in attendance. The meeting's purpose is to allow all raters to verbally share their constructive criticism of the candidates. The proctor will ensure only relevant information is discussed. The scoring spreadsheet will be provided to all in attendance before the roundtable discussion. After the roundtable, the Assessment Sheets will be returned to the Human Resources proctor (the docs do not leave the room). Any score changes made by a supervisor during the roundtable must be validated with a comment for the change.

6. After completion of the promotional process, an email will be sent to each candidate. The email will have a spreadsheet displaying the evaluating supervisors and their respective scores for each of the candidates. The spreadsheet will also include the median score of each sergeant for all the candidates they assessed. The email will contain comments made about the candidate and show which supervisor made the comments.

   - Candidates must receive an average of 70% or more to pass the Supervisory Assessment exam component. This portion of the process will be 30% of their total score.

(c) **Oral Board Interview**: An external panel consisting of a minimum of three raters comprised of two or more outside sworn police managers (ie; Lietenant, Commander, Captain, etc) and one or more civilian managers from the City or community will make up this panel. Human Resources will select the group from a list provided by Professional Standards. The panel will evaluate the candidate's knowledge of the police department and City/organizational issues, supervision, training, problem-solving, decision-making, leadership, interpersonal and communication skills, and department goals.
The candidate must receive a score of 70% or more to pass the Oral Board interview exam portion of the process. This portion of the process will be 30% of their total score. The Assistant Chief or a Commander will proctor the interview.

(d) **Promotability Assessment Interview**: An internal panel of three raters comprised of three Commanders or two commanders and one Sergeant selected by Professional Standards will complete the panel. They will objectively evaluate the candidate's promotability by reviewing their Resume, Personnel Files, Overall Law Enforcement Knowledge and Experience, Leadership Skills and Abilities, and Communication Skills. After the interview, the three panel members' scores must be within ten points of each other. If the scoring difference is greater than ten points, the group must review their ratings and discuss the discrepancies. The group will determine where

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adjustments should be made and change their scores and ensure they are within the ten point range.
The candidate must receive a score of 70% or higher to pass the Promotability Assessment Interview component. This portion of the process will be 30% of their total score.

1004.5.4 POLICE CORPORAL

Each candidate must successfully complete each of the following exam components to be certified to the eligibility list:

(a) **Written Test:** The test will measure candidates' general knowledge of Ventura Police Department policies, procedures, and relevant law enforcement codes (PC, VC, WIC, and H&S). Human Resources will administer the written test, which will consist of 100 questions for Corporal applicants. The questions will be written by sergeants and commanders with the final approval by the Professional Standards Commander. The Police Chief will make the final determination on any test questions that are contested. The candidate must receive a score of 70% or higher to pass the written test. This portion of the process will be 10% of their total score.

(b) **Supervisory Assessment:** All department sergeants and commanders will assess each corporal candidate utilizing a standardized assessment sheet. After completion and review by the respective sergeant or commander, the assessments go to Professional Standards for another layer of review.

1. The criteria to determine if a sergeant or commander must complete an assessment for a candidate comes by answering the two questions on the top of the assessment sheet. If the sergeant or commander responds affirmatively to either of the questions, they must complete an assessment for the candidate.

2. The assessment sheet contains ten evaluation dimensions. Each dimension is rated as either Unacceptable, Improvement Needed, Meets Standards, Exceeds Standards, or Outstanding. A candidate must receive a rating in a minimum of six dimensions to make this document eligible for scoring purposes.

3. After completion of the assessment sheets, they are turned into Professional Standards. Professional Standards will review the assessment sheets and ensure that there are comments for any dimension scores of Unacceptable or Outstanding.

4. Professional Standards will create a spreadsheet that lists the supervisors who rated each candidate. Each candidate will receive an email from Professional Standards showing the names of the supervisors who rated them. The candidate will review their list, confirm that those supervisors meet the criteria to assess them, or if there is a supervisor not on the list who should have rated them. The candidate will notify Professional Standards if they show that a supervisor's assessment should be added or removed from their list. The Professional Standards Commander will make a determination about the assessment. When all Assessment Sheets are completed and turned in, Professional Standards will forward the sheets to Human Resources. A spreadsheet with of all candidates'

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scores, along with the respective supervisor responsible for the scoring, is created.

5. The Police Chief or a designee will initiate a roundtable meeting with all Sergeants and Commanders. A Human Resources proctor will be in attendance. The meeting's purpose is to allow all raters to verbally share their comments about the candidates. The proctor will ensure only relevant information is discussed. The scoring spreadsheet will be provided to all in attendance before the roundtable discussion. After the roundtable, the Assessment Sheets will be returned to the Human Resources proctor (the docs do not leave the room). Any score changes made by a supervisor during the roundtable must be validated with a comment for the change.

6. After completion of the promotional process, an email will be sent to each candidate. The email will have a spreadsheet displaying the evaluating supervisors and their respective scores for each of the candidates. The spreadsheet will also include the median score of each sergeant for all the candidates they assessed. The email will contain comments made about the candidate and show which supervisor made the comments.

   - Candidates must receive an average of 70% or more to pass the Supervisory Assessment exam component. This portion of the process will be 30% of their total score.

(c) **Oral Board Interview**: An external panel consisting of a minimum of three raters comprised of outside Sergeants or higher and one or more civilian managers from the City or community will make up this panel. Human Resources will select the group from a list provided by Professional Standards. The panel will evaluate the candidate's knowledge of the police department and City/organizational issues, supervision, training, problem-solving, decision-making, leadership, interpersonal and communication skills, and department goals.
The candidate must receive a score of 70% or more to pass the Oral Board interview exam portion of the process. This portion of the process will be 30% of their total score. A Commander or Sergeant will proctor the interview.

(d) **Promotability Assessment Interview:** An internal panel of three raters comprised of three Commanders or two Commanders and one Sergeant selected by Professional Standards will complete the panel. They will objectively evaluate the candidate's promotability by reviewing their Resume, Personnel Files, Overall Law Enforcement Knowledge and Experience, Leadership Skills and Abilities, and Communication Skills. After the interview, the three panel members' scores must be within ten points of each other. If the scoring difference is greater than ten points, the group must review their ratings and discuss the discrepancies. The group will determine where adjustments should be made and change their scores and ensure they are within the ten-point range.
The candidate must receive a score of 70% or higher to pass the Promotability Assessment Interview component. This portion of the process will be 30% of their total score.

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1004.5.5 POLICE SERGEANT AND CORPORAL FINAL SELECTION

(a)**Eligibility List Certification**: At the conclusion of the examination process, Human Resources will combine and weigh all scores from each exam component and certify an eligibility list to the Police Chief containing all candidates who successfully passed all exam components with an overall score of 70% or greater. The eligibility list will be sorted alphabetically in Tier order as described below:

Tier I: This tier will consist of the candidate with the highest overall score, and candidates with overall scores falling within 5% of the highest overall score. Example: Highest overall score is 95% (95 x.05 = 4.75 / 95 – 4.75 = 90.25% and above will be in Tier 1).

Tier 2: This tier will consist of the first overall score below Tier 1 and the scores within 5% of that score. Example: Next overall score below Tier I is 90%. (90% x.05 = 4.50 / 90 – 4.5 = 85.5% to 90% will be in Tier 2).

Candidates with overall score below the bottom score identified in Tier 2 will be included in Tier 3.

Tier 2 candidates may not be eligible for selection until and unless there are no Tier 1 candidates remaining on the eligibility list or 1 year has elapsed since the list was established and the Human Resources Director extends the list.

Tier 3 candidates may not be eligible for selection until and unless there are no Tier 2 candidates remaining and 1 year has elapsed since the list was established and the Human Resources Director extends the list.

Each qualified candidate named to the eligibility will receive a letter from Human Resources indicating the tier in which they have been placed.

(b)**Department Selection Interviews**

Upon receiving the eligibility list, the Chief will invite each Tier 1 candidate to a department selection interview consisting of the Chief and Assistant Chiefs. The candidate's qualifications, including but not limited to those below, will be discussed during the final selection.

1. Law Enforcement Experience (Time on, assignments worked, etc.)
2. Professional Development (Education, Military, LE Training)
3. Personal Character
4. Innovation
5. Proven Leadership
6. Community Involvement

Should more positions remain than candidates in the tier, the candidates in the next tier will be invited to interview. At the completion of the department selection interview process, the Chief may select any of the eligible candidates in the tier being interviewed unless there are

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unusual circumstances such as documented disciplinary actions or prior “below standards/ needs improvement” performance evaluations. In instances such as these, the chief, at his/her discretion, will consider the severity of the unusual circumstance and may decide to deviate from tier order.

1004.5.6 ASSESSMENT DEFINITIONS FOR SERGEANT/CORPORAL PROCESS

1. People Skills: Provide equitable treatment to others without consideration of their background or personal history. Be impartial when making decisions, interpreting and applying department policies and providing services in an unbiased and neutral manner; foster quality public contacts by providing prompt, courteous, and efficient levels of service; maintain a supportive approach toward supervisory control and discipline; maintain professional relationships with employees, not allowing conflicts to affect work performance. Avoid behavior that disrupts your work and/or the work of others. Resolve conflicts constructively.
2. Decision Making / Problem Solving: Evaluate situations and take logical courses of action with minimum supervision; demonstrates the courage to make the right decision; make decisions based on known facts rather than emotional responses; perform appropriately in new situations and in emergencies; utilize discretionary powers within department guidelines; remain open-minded and seek innovative solutions to community problems.
3. Leadership: Lead by example; supportive, responsible, and willing to hold peers accountable; demonstrate willingness to accept additional responsibilities; willing and able to make decisions; represents the Department in a positive manner.
4. Work Habits and Safety: Follow accepted field safety practices, incorporating proper Arrest Control Tactics and Self-Defense techniques; adhere to sound tactical procedures; operate department vehicles and equipment in a safe and appropriate manner; conduct pre-shift vehicle and equipment inspections; make an appropriate number of arrests; write an appropriate number of citations (admin/movers/parkers); write an appropriate number of F.I. cards.
5. Commitment to Excellence:Perform while not under direct supervision or specific orders; present a neat and professional appearance; have a working knowledge included but not limited to the Penal Code, Vehicle Code, Health and Safety Code, Welfare and Institution Code, SBCO, and be able to demonstrate this knowledge; demonstrate a working knowledge of Department Manuals; write accurate and concise, legible reports upon first submittal; accurately document all reportable use of force incidents; complete and submit reports by end of watch unless approved by policy or supervisor for holdover; conduct thorough investigations and follow-up on possible leads; conduct interviews using proper and legal techniques to gather statements from suspects, witnesses, and victims of crimes; preserve, collect, and handle evidence in an appropriate manner; understand and apply laws of search and seizure; properly use technology.
6. Teacher / Trainer: Willingly share and impart knowledge and expertise to others; is a positive role model and mentor to others; provides training to others; functions effectively as a F.T.O (if applicable).

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7. Team Player: Willing to compromise when appropriate; willingly assist fellow officers in arrests, investigations, and reports; achieve department goals by working closely with co-workers, both accepting and giving assistance in the spirit of teamwork; contribute constructive information to roll call training or other assignments; utilize teamwork with fellow employees to achieve a feeling of cooperation and fairness.
8. Work Toward Department Goals: Understand and demonstrate responsibility for supporting the department's Goals, Strategic Plan, and Action Plans; understand, support, and achieve team goals while striving to maintain department objectives through cooperation and teamwork; recommend and implement proactive strategies in dealing with beat problems. Demonstrate knowledge of beat problems. Utilize public and private resources to address problems in your beat; participate in community meetings; aggressively initiate activity based on information received from internal and external sources; actively patrol and utilize free time to minimize CFS in problem areas (RDs).
9. Global Viewpoint / Non-Territorial: Supportive of other division responsibilities; participate in committees, special projects, and special assignments.
10. Communication: Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills; has courage to communicate honestly; keep supervisor apprised of noteworthy events; follows chain of command in regards to department related issues.

1004.5.7 EVALUATION RATING SCALE FOR COMMANDER, SERGEANT, AND CORPORAL

1. Outstanding - Work performance consistently above standards in all areas; accomplishes responsibilities on time and to quality standard; work product consistently excellent in all areas; takes initiative and follows through on projects; shows exceptional ability to identify problems and develop innovative solutions; willingly accepts and completes special assignments; consistently works toward accomplishing city and department goals.
2. Exceeds Standards - Work performance usually of high quality; generally exceeds expected work standard; usually takes initiative in work assignment and works independently; no significant supervisory problems; participated in project or program that produced significant benefits to the city or department.
3. Meets Standards - Work performance meets standards; accomplished all operational responsibilities within completion parameters; work product fully acceptable in most areas and reliably completes most work tasks without supervisory assistance; readily seeks assistance with issues beyond abilities or expertise.
4. Improvement Needed - Work performance below standard in one or more areas; failed to accomplish operational responsibility(s) within completion date or quality expectations; fails to fulfill work requirements without supervisory intervention; unresolved supervisory problems.
5. Unacceptable - Work performance is inadequate and definitely below standards; performance must be significantly improved, requires remedial action, and cannot remain at this level.

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Grievance Procedure

1006.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

It is the policy of this department that all grievances be handled quickly and fairly without discrimination against employees who file a grievance whether or not there is a basis for the grievance. Our Department's philosophy is to promote a free verbal communication between employees and supervisors.

1006.1.1 GRIEVANCE DEFINED

A grievance is any difference of opinion concerning terms or conditions of employment or the dispute involving the interpretation or application of any of the following documents by the person(s) affected:

- The employee bargaining agreement (Memorandum of Understanding)
- This Policy Manual
- City rules and regulations covering personnel practices or working conditions

Grievances may be brought by an individual affected employee or by a group representative.

Specifically outside the category of grievance are complaints related to allegations of discrimination or harassment subject to the Discriminatory Harassment Policy. Also outside the category of grievances are personnel complaints regarding any allegation of misconduct or improper job performance against any department employee that, if true, would constitute a violation of department policy, federal, state, or local law as set forth in the Personnel Complaint Policy.

1006.2 PROCEDURE

Except as otherwise required under a collective bargaining agreement, if an employee believes that he or she has a grievance as defined above, then that employee shall observe the following procedure:

(a) Attempt to resolve the issue through informal discussion with immediate supervisor.

(b) If after a reasonable amount of time, generally seven days, the grievance cannot be settled by the immediate supervisor, the employee may request an interview with the Assistant Chief of the affected division or bureau.

(c) If a successful resolution is not found with the Assistant Chief, the employee may request a meeting with the Chief of Police.

(d) If the employee and the Chief of Police are unable to arrive at a mutual solution, then the employee shall proceed as follows:

1. Submit in writing a written statement of the grievance and deliver one copy to the Chief of Police and another copy to the immediate supervisor and include the following information:

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(a) The basis for the grievance (i.e., what are the facts of the case?).

(b) Allegation of the specific wrongful act and the harm done.

(c) The specific policies, rules or regulations that were violated.

(d) What remedy or goal is being sought by this grievance.

(e) The employee shall receive a copy of the acknowledgment signed by the supervisor including the date and time of receipt.

(f) The Chief of Police will receive the grievance in writing. The Chief of Police and the City Manager will review and analyze the facts or allegations and respond to the employee within 14 calendar days. The response will be in writing, and will affirm or deny the allegations. The response shall include any remedies if appropriate. The decision of the City Manager is considered final.

1006.3 EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATION

Employees are entitled to have representation during the grievance process. The representative may be selected by the employee from the appropriate employee bargaining group.

1006.4 GRIEVANCE RECORDS

At the conclusion of the grievance process, all documents pertaining to the process shall be forwarded to Administrative Operations for inclusion into a secure file for all written grievances. A second copy of the written grievance will be maintained by the City Manager's office to monitor the grievance process.

1006.5 GRIEVANCE AUDITS

The Professional Standards Sergeant shall perform an annual audit of all grievances filed the previous calendar year to evaluate whether or not any policy/procedure changes or training may be appropriate to avoid future filings of grievances. The Professional Standards Sergeant shall record these findings in a confidential and generic memorandum to the Chief of Police without including any identifying information from any individual grievance. If the audit identifies any recommended changes or content that may warrant a critical revision to this policy manual, the Professional Standards Sergeant should promptly notify the Chief of Police.

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Anti-Retaliation

1008.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy prohibits retaliation against members who identify workplace issues, such as fraud, waste, abuse of authority, gross mismanagement or any inappropriate conduct or practices, including violations that may pose a threat to the health, safety or well-being of members.

This policy does not prohibit actions taken for nondiscriminatory or non-retaliatory reasons, such as discipline for cause.

These guidelines are intended to supplement and not limit members' access to other applicable remedies. Nothing in this policy shall diminish the rights or remedies of a member pursuant to any applicable federal law, provision of the U.S. Constitution, law, ordinance or memorandum of understanding.

1008.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department has a zero tolerance for retaliation and is committed to taking reasonable steps to protect from retaliation members who, in good faith, engage in permitted behavior or who report or participate in the reporting or investigation of workplace issues. All complaints of retaliation will be taken seriously and will be promptly and appropriately investigated.

1008.3 RETALIATION PROHIBITED

No member may retaliate against any person for engaging in lawful or otherwise permitted behavior; for opposing a practice believed to be unlawful, unethical, discriminatory or retaliatory; for reporting or making a complaint under this policy; or for participating in any investigation related to a complaint under this or any other policy.

Retaliation includes any adverse action or conduct, including but not limited to:

- Refusing to hire or denying a promotion.
- Extending the probationary period.
- Unjustified reassignment of duties or change of work schedule.
- Real or implied threats or other forms of intimidation to dissuade the reporting of wrongdoing or filing of a complaint, or as a consequence of having reported or participated in protected activity.
- Taking unwarranted disciplinary action.
- Spreading rumors about the person filing the complaint or about the alleged wrongdoing.
- Shunning or unreasonably avoiding a person because he/she has engaged in protected activity.

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1008.3.1 RETALIATION PROHIBITED FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS
An officer shall not be retaliated against for reporting a suspected violation of a law or regulation of another officer to a supervisor or other person in the Department who has the authority to investigate the violation (Government Code § 7286(b)).

1008.4 COMPLAINTS OF RETALIATION

Any member who feels he/she has been retaliated against in violation of this policy should promptly report the matter to any supervisor, command staff member, Chief of Police or the City Director of Human Resources.

Members shall act in good faith, not engage in unwarranted reporting of trivial or minor deviations or transgressions, and make reasonable efforts to verify facts before making any complaint in order to avoid baseless allegations. Members shall not report or state an intention to report information or an allegation knowing it to be false, with willful or reckless disregard for the truth or falsity of the information or otherwise act in bad faith.

Investigations are generally more effective when the identity of the reporting member is known, thereby allowing investigators to obtain additional information from the reporting member. However, complaints may be made anonymously. All reasonable efforts shall be made to protect the reporting member's identity. However, confidential information may be disclosed to the extent required by law or to the degree necessary to conduct an adequate investigation and make a determination regarding a complaint. In some situations, the investigative process may not be complete unless the source of the information and a statement by the member is part of the investigative process.

1008.5 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors are expected to remain familiar with this policy and ensure that members under their command are aware of its provisions.

The responsibilities of supervisors include, but are not limited to:

(a) Ensuring complaints of retaliation are investigated as provided in the Personnel Complaints Policy.

(b) Receiving all complaints in a fair and impartial manner.

(c) Documenting the complaint and any steps taken to resolve the problem.

(d) Acknowledging receipt of the complaint, notifying the Chief of Police via the chain of command and explaining to the member how the complaint will be handled.

(e) Taking appropriate and reasonable steps to mitigate any further violations of this policy.

(f) Monitoring the work environment to ensure that any member making a complaint is not subjected to further retaliation.

(g) Periodic follow-up with the complainant to ensure that retaliation is not continuing.

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(h) Not interfering with or denying the right of a member to make any complaint.

(i) Taking reasonable steps to accommodate requests for assignment or schedule changes made by a member who may be the target of retaliation if it would likely mitigate the potential for further violations of this policy.

1008.6 COMMAND STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chief of Police should communicate to all supervisors the prohibition against retaliation.

Command staff shall treat all complaints as serious matters and shall ensure that prompt actions take place, including but not limited to:

(a) Communicating to all members the prohibition against retaliation.

(b) The timely review of complaint investigations.

(c) Remediation of any inappropriate conduct or condition and instituting measures to eliminate or minimize the likelihood of recurrence.

(d) The timely communication of the outcome to the complainant.

1008.7 WHISTLE-BLOWING

California law protects members who (Labor Code § 1102.5; Government Code § 53296 et seq.):

(a) Report a violation of a state or federal statute or regulation to a government or law enforcement agency, including the member's supervisor or any other member with the authority to investigate the reported violation.

(b) Provide information or testify before a public body if the member has reasonable cause to believe a violation of law occurred.

(c) Refuse to participate in an activity that would result in a violation of a state or federal statute or regulation.

(d) File a complaint with a local agency about gross mismanagement or a significant waste of funds, abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety. Members shall exhaust all available administrative remedies prior to filing a formal complaint.

(e) Are family members of a person who has engaged in any protected acts described above.

Members are encouraged to report any legal violations through the chain of command (Labor Code § 1102.5).

Members who believe they have been the subject of retaliation for engaging in such protected behaviors should promptly report it to a supervisor. Supervisors should refer the complaint to the Professional Standards Unit for investigation pursuant to the Personnel Complaints Policy.

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1008.7.1 DISPLAY OF WHISTLE-BLOWER LAWS

The Department shall display a notice to members regarding their rights and responsibilities under the whistle-blower laws, including the whistle-blower hotline maintained by the Office of the Attorney General (Labor Code § 1102.8).

1008.8 RECORDS RETENTION AND RELEASE

The Records Supervisor shall ensure that documentation of investigations is maintained in accordance with the established records retention schedules.

1008.9 TRAINING

The policy should be reviewed with each new member.

All members should receive periodic refresher training on the requirements of this policy.

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Reporting of Employee Convictions

1010.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Convictions of certain offenses may restrict or prohibit an employee's ability to properly perform official duties. Therefore, all employees shall be required to promptly notify the Department of any past and current criminal convictions.

The Administrative Operations Supervisor shall submit within 30 days a notice to the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) of any appointment, termination, reinstatement, name change or status change regarding any peace officer, reserve peace officer, public safety dispatcher and records supervisor employed by this department (11 CCR 1003).

The Administrative Operations Supervisor shall submit in a timely manner a notice to POST of a felony conviction or Government Code § 1029 reason that disqualifies any current peace officer employed by this department or any former peace officer if this department was responsible for the investigation (11 CCR 1003).

1010.2 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONVICTIONS, OUTSTANDING WARRANTS AND RESTRAINING ORDERS

California and federal law prohibit individuals convicted of, or having an outstanding warrant for, certain offenses and individuals subject to certain court orders from lawfully possessing a firearm. Such convictions and court orders often involve allegations of the use or attempted use of force or threatened use of a weapon on any individual in a domestic relationship (e.g., spouse, cohabitant, parent, child) (18 USC § 922; Penal Code § 29805).

All members are responsible for ensuring that they have not been disqualified from possessing a firearm by any such conviction or court order and shall promptly report any such conviction or court order to a supervisor, as provided in this policy.

1010.3 OTHER CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND COURT ORDERS

Government Code § 1029 prohibits any person convicted of a felony from being a peace officer in the State of California. This prohibition applies regardless of whether the guilt was established by way of a verdict, guilty, or nolo contendere plea.

Convictions of certain violations of the Vehicle Code and other provisions of law may also place restrictions on an employee’s ability to fully perform the duties of the job.

Outstanding warrants as provided in Penal Code § 29805 also place restrictions on a member’s ability to possess a firearm.

Moreover, while legal restrictions may or may not be imposed by statute or by the courts upon conviction of any criminal offense, criminal conduct by members of this department may be inherently in conflict with law enforcement duties and the public trust.

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1010.4 REPORTING PROCEDURE

All members of this department and all retired officers with an identification card issued by the Department shall promptly notify their immediate supervisor (or the Chief of Police in the case of retired officers) in writing of any past or current criminal arrest, outstanding warrant or conviction regardless of whether or not the matter is currently on appeal and regardless of the penalty or sentence, if any.

All members and all retired officers with an identification card issued by the Department shall further promptly notify their immediate supervisor (or the Chief of Police in the case of retired officers) in writing if the member or retiree becomes the subject of a domestic violence restraining order or similar court order or becomes the subject of an outstanding warrant.

Any member whose criminal conviction unduly restricts or prohibits that member from fully and properly performing his/her duties may be disciplined including, but not limited to, being placed on administrative leave, reassignment and/or termination. Any effort to remove such disqualification or restriction shall remain entirely the responsibility of the member on his/her own time and expense.

Any member failing to provide prompt written notice pursuant to this policy shall be subject to discipline.

1010.5 PROCEDURE FOR RELIEF

Pursuant to Penal Code § 29855, a peace officer may petition the court for permission to carry a firearm following a conviction under state law. Federal law, however, does not provide for any such similar judicial relief and the granting of a state court petition under Penal Code § 29855 will not relieve one of the restrictions imposed by federal law. Therefore, relief for any employee falling under the restrictions imposed by federal law may only be obtained by expungement of the conviction. Employees shall seek relief from firearm restrictions on their own time and through their own resources.

Pursuant to Family Code § 6389(h), an individual may petition the court for an exemption to any restraining order, which would thereafter permit the individual to carry a firearm or ammunition as a part of the individual's employment. Relief from any domestic violence or other restriction shall also be pursued through the employee’s own resources and on the employee’s own time.

Pending satisfactory proof of relief from any legal restriction imposed on an employee’s duties, the employee may be placed on administrative leave, reassigned, or disciplined. The Department may, but is not required to return an employee to any assignment, reinstate any employee, or reverse any pending or imposed discipline upon presentation of satisfactory proof of relief from any legal restriction set forth in this policy.

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Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace

1012.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear and uniform guidelines regarding drugs and alcohol in the workplace (41 USC § 8103).

1012.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this department to provide a drug- and alcohol-free workplace for all members.

1012.3 GENERAL GUIDELINES

Alcohol and drug use in the workplace or on department time can endanger the health and safety of department members and the public.

Members who have consumed an amount of an alcoholic beverage or taken any medication, or combination thereof, that would tend to adversely affect their mental or physical abilities shall not report for duty. Affected members shall notify the Watch Commander or appropriate supervisor as soon as the member is aware that the member will not be able to report to work. If the member is unable to make the notification, every effort should be made to have a representative contact the supervisor in a timely manner. If the member is adversely affected while on-duty, the member shall be immediately removed and released from work (see the Work Restrictions section in this policy).

1012.3.1 USE OF MEDICATIONS

Members should not use any medications that will impair their ability to safely and completely perform their duties. Any member who is medically required or has a need to take any such medication shall report that need to the member's immediate supervisor prior to commencing any on-duty status.

No member shall be permitted to work or drive a vehicle owned or leased by the Department while taking any medication that has the potential to impair the member's abilities, without a written release from the member's physician.

1012.3.2 USE OF MARIJUANA

Possession of marijuana, including medical marijuana, or being under the influence of marijuana on- or off-duty is prohibited and may lead to disciplinary action.

1012.4 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members shall report for work in an appropriate mental and physical condition. Members are prohibited from purchasing, manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, possessing or using controlled substances or alcohol on department premises or on department time (41 USC § 8103). The lawful possession or use of prescribed medications or over-the-counter remedies is excluded from this prohibition.

Members who are authorized to consume alcohol as part of a special assignment shall not do so to the extent of impairing on-duty performance.

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Members shall notify a supervisor immediately if they observe behavior or other evidence that they believe demonstrates that a fellow member poses a risk to the health and safety of the member or others due to drug or alcohol use.

Members are required to notify their immediate supervisors of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than five days after such conviction (41 USC § 8103).

1012.5 EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

There may be available a voluntary employee assistance program to assist those who wish to seek help for alcohol and drug problems (41 USC § 8103). Insurance coverage that provides treatment for drug and alcohol abuse also may be available. Employees should contact the Human Resources Department, their insurance providers or the employee assistance program for additional information. It is the responsibility of each employee to seek assistance before alcohol or drug problems lead to performance problems.

1012.6 WORK RESTRICTIONS

If a member informs a supervisor that he/she has consumed any alcohol, drug or medication that could interfere with a safe and efficient job performance, the member may be required to obtain clearance from his/her physician before continuing to work.

If the supervisor reasonably believes, based on objective facts, that a member is impaired by the consumption of alcohol or other drugs, the supervisor shall prevent the member from continuing work and shall ensure that he/she is safely transported away from the Department.

1012.7 SCREENING TESTS

A supervisor may require an employee to submit to a screening under any of the following circumstances:

(a) The supervisor reasonably believes, based upon objective facts, that the employee is under the influence of alcohol or drugs that are impairing the employee's ability to perform duties safely and efficiently.

(b) The employee discharges a firearm in the performance of the employee's duties (excluding training or authorized euthanizing of an animal).

(c) The employee discharges a firearm issued by the Department while off-duty, resulting in injury, death, or substantial property damage.

(d) The employee drives a motor vehicle in the performance of the employee's duties and becomes involved in an incident that results in bodily injury, death, or substantial damage to property.

1012.7.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The supervisor shall prepare a written record documenting the specific facts that led to the decision to require the test, and shall inform the employee in writing of the following:

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(a) The test will be given to detect either alcohol or drugs, or both.

(b) The result of the test is not admissible in any criminal proceeding against the employee.

(c) The employee may refuse the test, but refusal may result in dismissal or other disciplinary action.

1012.7.2 DISCIPLINE

An employee may be subject to disciplinary action if the employee:

(a) Fails or refuses to submit to a screening test as requested.

(b) After taking a screening test that indicates the presence of a controlled substance, fails to provide proof, within 72 hours after being requested, that the employee took the controlled substance as directed, pursuant to a current and lawful prescription issued in the employee's name.

1012.8 COMPLIANCE WITH THE DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE ACT

No later than 30 days following notice of any drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace involving a member, the Department will take appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, and/or requiring the member to satisfactorily participate in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program (41 USC § 8104).

1012.9 CONFIDENTIALITY

The Department recognizes the confidentiality and privacy due to its members. Disclosure of any information relating to substance abuse treatment, except on a need-to-know basis, shall only be with the express written consent of the member involved or pursuant to lawful process.

The written results of any screening tests and all documents generated by the employee assistance program are considered confidential medical records and shall be maintained in the member's confidential medical file in accordance with the Personnel Records Policy.

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Military Leave

1013.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Employees who are members of the Reserve Corps of the Armed Forces of the United States, the California National Guard, or the Naval Militia shall be entitled to certain rights all governed by certain regulations and laws.

Employees who are members of the Reserve Corps of the Armed Forces of the United States, the California National Guard, or the Naval Militia shall be entitled to certain rights all governed by certain regulations and laws.

1013.2 ONCE A MONTH/WEEKEND DRILLS

Employees who are members of the reserve military units and the California National Guard required to attend scheduled reserve drill periods shall use their own free time, compensatory time, or vacation time to fulfill such reserve obligations. If such reserve obligations fall on the employee's regular work shift, the Department shall make every attempt to change the employee's work schedule to avoid the necessity of using vacation, overtime, or loss of pay.

1013.3 SHORT TERM MILITARY LEAVE/ANNUAL MILITARY TRAINING

Employees who are members of reserve military units and California National Guard required to attend annual military training shall be granted a Military Leave of Absence, and shall receive compensation for up to 30 calendar days per year while on military duty.

1013.4 EMERGENCY MILITARY LEAVE/ACTIVE DUTY

Employees who are members of reserve military units and the California National Guard who are called into active duty by either the military forces of the United States or the Governor of the State of California during a time of extreme emergency or insurrection, shall be granted a Military Leave of Absence and shall receive compensation for the first 30 calendar days of such active duty.

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Sick Leave

1014.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides general guidance regarding the use and processing of sick leave. The accrual and terms of use of sick leave for eligible employees are detailed in the City personnel manual or applicable collective bargaining agreement.

This policy is not intended to cover all types of sick or other leaves. For example, employees may be entitled to additional paid or unpaid leave for certain family and medical reasons as provided for in the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) (29 USC § 2601 et seq.), the California Family Rights Act, leave for victims of crime or abuse, or for organ or bone marrow donor procedures (29 CFR 825; Government Code § 12945.2; Labor Code § 230.1; Labor Code § 1510).

1014.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department to provide eligible employees with a sick leave benefit.

1014.3 USE OF SICK LEAVE

Sick leave is intended to be used for qualified absences. Sick leave is not considered vacation. Abuse of sick leave may result in discipline, denial of sick leave benefits, or both.

Employees on sick leave shall not engage in other employment or self-employment or participate in any sport, hobby, recreational activity or other activity that may impede recovery from the injury or illness (see Outside Employment Policy).

Qualified appointments should be scheduled during a member's non-working hours when it is reasonable to do so.

1014.3.1 NOTIFICATION

All members should notify the Watch Commander or appropriate supervisor as soon as they are aware that they will not be able to report to work and no less than one hour before the start of their scheduled shifts. If, due to an emergency, a member is unable to contact the supervisor, every effort should be made to have a representative for the member contact the supervisor (Labor Code § 246).

When the necessity to be absent from work is foreseeable, such as planned medical appointments or treatments, the member shall, whenever possible and practicable, provide the Department with no less than 30 days' notice of the impending absence (Labor Code § 246).

Upon return to work, members are responsible for ensuring their time off was appropriately accounted for, and for completing and submitting the required documentation describing the type of time off used and the specific amount of time taken.

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1014.4 EXTENDED ABSENCE

Members absent from duty for more than three consecutive days may be required to furnish a statement from a health care provider supporting the need to be absent and/or the ability to return to work. Members on an extended absence shall, if possible, contact their supervisor at specified intervals to provide an update on their absence and expected date of return.

Nothing in this section precludes a supervisor from requiring, with cause, a health care provider's statement for an absence of three or fewer days after the first three days of paid sick leave are used in a 12-month period.

1014.5 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of supervisors include, but are not limited to:

(a) Monitoring and regularly reviewing the attendance of those under their command to ensure that the use of sick leave and absences is consistent with this policy.

(b) Attempting to determine whether an absence of four or more days may qualify as family medical leave and consulting with legal counsel or the Human Resources Department as appropriate.

(c) Addressing absences and sick leave use in the member's performance evaluation when excessive or unusual use has:

  1. Negatively affected the member's performance or ability to complete assigned duties.

  2. Negatively affected department operations.

(d) When appropriate, counseling members regarding excessive absences and/or inappropriate use of sick leave.

(e) Referring eligible members to an available employee assistance program when appropriate.

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Communicable Diseases

1016.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides general guidelines to assist in minimizing the risk of department members contracting and/or spreading communicable diseases.

1016.2 PROCEDURES FOR EXPOSURE TO BLOOD, BODILY FLUIDS OR AEROSOL TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES

All department personnel who are exposed to another person's blood, bodily fluids or an aerosol transmissible disease (e.g., during an altercation or while attending to any injured person) shall follow these procedures and guidelines.

Exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials includes, but is not limited to, the contact of such substances with the eye, mouth, other mucous membranes, non-intact skin, needle sticks, human bites, cuts or abrasions or any exposure that otherwise qualifies under Health and Safety Code § 121060.1 or 8 CCR § 5193.

Exposure to an aerosol transmissible disease is any event in which all of the following have occurred (8 CCR 5199):

(a) An employee has been exposed to an individual who is a case or a suspected case of a reportable aerosol transmissible disease, or to a work area or to equipment that is reasonably expected to contain aerosol transmissible pathogens associated with a reportable aerosol transmissible disease.

(b) The exposure occurred without the benefit of applicable exposure controls required by this policy.

(c) It reasonably appears from the circumstances of the exposure that transmission of disease is sufficiently likely to require medical evaluation.

1016.2.1 EXPOSURE CONTROL OFFICER

The Chief of Police will assign a person as the Department's Exposure Control Officer. The ECO shall be responsible for the following:

(a) The overall management of the bloodborne pathogen Exposure Control Plan (ECP).

(b) Establishing written procedures and a training program related to aerosol transmissible diseases, as required by 8 CCR § 5199.

(c) Working with management to develop and administer any additional related policies and practices necessary to support the effective implementation of this plan.

(d) Remaining current on all legal requirements concerning bloodborne pathogens and other communicable diseases, as required by 8 CCR § 5193.

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(e) Acting as a liaison during OSHA inspections, conducting program audits to maintain an up-to-date ECP and ensuring exposure report forms are available and adequate for employees to properly report incidents of exposure.

(f) Maintaining an up-to-date list of police personnel requiring training. Developing and implementing a training program, maintaining class rosters and quizzes, and periodically reviewing and updating the training program.

(g) Reviewing and updating the ECP annually (on or before January 1 of each year).

Department supervisors are responsible for exposure control in their respective areas. They shall work directly with the ECO and any affected employees to ensure that the proper exposure control procedures are followed.

1016.2.2 UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

All human blood and body fluids such as saliva, urine, semen, and vaginal secretions are to be treated as if they are known to be infectious. Where it is not possible to distinguish between body fluid types, all body fluids are to be assumed potentially infectious.

1016.2.3 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Personal protective equipment is the last line of defense against communicable disease. Therefore, the following equipment is provided for all personnel to assist in the protection against such exposures:

- Not less than two pair disposable latex gloves. (Keeping a box in the car recommended.)
- Safety glasses or goggles
- Rescue mask with a one-way valve
- Alcohol (or similar substance) to flush skin at emergency site. (Keeping several alcohol hand wipes in the car recommend)

The protective equipment is to be kept in each police vehicle; inspected at the start of each shift and replaced immediately upon returning to the station if used or damaged during the shift, or as otherwise needed.

1016.2.4 IMMUNIZATIONS

All department personnel who, in the line of duty, may be exposed to or have contact with a communicable disease shall be offered appropriate treatment immunization.

1016.2.5 WORK PRACTICES

All personnel shall use the appropriate barrier precautions to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposure whenever contact with blood or body fluid is anticipated.

Disposable gloves shall be worn on all medical emergency responses. Disposable gloves shall be worn before making physical contact with any patient and/or when handling items (e.g.,

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evidence, transportation vehicle) soiled with blood or other body fluids. Should one's disposable gloves become contaminated with blood or other body fluids, the gloves shall be disposed of as contaminated waste. Care should be taken to avoid touching other items (e.g., pens, books, and personal items in general) while wearing the disposable gloves in a potentially contaminated environment.

All procedures involving blood or other potentially infectious materials shall be done in a way to minimize splashing, spraying, or otherwise generating droplets of those materials.

Eating, drinking, smoking, applying lip balm, and handling contact lenses shall be prohibited in areas where a potential for an exposure exists.

1016.3 DISPOSAL AND DECONTAMINATION

The following procedures will apply to the disposal and decontamination after responding to an event that involved contact with a person's blood or body fluids:

1016.3.1 USE OF WASTE CONTAINERS

Officers shall dispose of biohazard with the on-scene fire response vehicle, or at the attending clinic/hospital with their approval, or in an appropriately marked biohazard waste container at the station immediately upon arrival.

The biohazard waste container located at the station shall be collapsible, leakproof, red in color or appropriately labeled with a biohazard warning and routinely emptied.

1016.3.2 DECONTAMINATION OF SKIN AND MUCOUS MEMBRANES

Personnel shall wash their hands immediately (on-scene if possible), or as soon as possible following the removal of potentially contaminated gloves. Antibacterial soap and warm water or an approved disinfectant shall be used to wash one's hands, paying particular attention to the fingernails.

If an employee's intact skin contacts someone else's blood or bodily fluids or other potentially infectious materials, the employee shall immediately wash the exposed part of his/her body with soap and warm water and/or an approved disinfectant, as soon as possible. If the skin becomes grossly contaminated, body washing shall be followed by an approved hospital strength disinfectant. If large areas of the employee's skin are contaminated, the employee shall shower as soon as possible, using warm water and soap and/or an approved disinfectant. Medical treatment should be obtained.

Contaminated non-intact skin (e.g., injured skin, open wound) shall be cleaned using an approved disinfectant and then dressed or bandaged as required. Medical treatment is required.

All hand, skin, and mucous membrane washing that takes place in the station shall be done in the designated cleaning or decontamination area. Cleaning shall not be done in the kitchen, bathrooms, or other locations not designated as the cleaning or decontamination area.

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1016.3.3 SHARPS AND ITEMS THAT CUT OR PUNCTURE

All personnel shall avoid using or holding sharps (needles) unless needed to do so while assisting a paramedic, or collecting them for evidence. Unless required for evidentiary reasons related to evidence preservation, employees are not to recap sharps. If recapping is necessary, a one-handed method shall be employed to avoid a finger prick. Disposal, when practicable, shall be into a puncture proof biohazard container.

All sharps and items that cut or puncture (e.g., broken glass, razors, and knives) shall be treated cautiously to avoid cutting, stabbing, or puncturing one's self or any other person. In addition, if a sharp object contains known or suspected blood or other bodily fluids, that item is to be treated as a contaminated item. If the item is not evidence, touching it with the hands shall be avoided. Rather, use a device such as tongs, or a broom and a dustpan to cleanup debris. If the material must be hand held, protective gloves must be worn.

1016.3.4 DISPOSABLE PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Contaminated disposable supplies (gloves, dressings, CPR mask) shall be transported with the patient or suspect in the ambulance or police vehicle. The waste material shall then be disposed of in a biohazard waste container at the hospital or police station. Disposable gloves are to be worn while placing the waste into the waste biohazard container, placing the gloves in with the waste when through.

1016.3.5 DECONTAMINATION OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

After using any reusable personal protective equipment, it shall be washed or disinfected and stored appropriately. If the personal protective equipment is non-reusable (e.g., disposable gloves), it shall be discarded in a biohazard waste container as described in Policy Manual § 1016.3.4.

Any personal protective equipment that becomes punctured, torn, or loses its integrity, shall be removed as soon as feasible. The employee shall wash up and replace the personal protective equipment if the job has not been terminated. If this situation resulted in a contaminated non-intact skin event, Policy Manual § 1016.3.2 shall be implemented.

Contaminated reusable personal protective equipment that must be transported prior to cleaning it shall be placed into a biohazard waste bag and transported in the ambulance, paramedic truck or police vehicle. Gloves shall be worn while handling the biohazard waste bag and during placement into the biohazard waste container, and then included in with the waste.

1016.3.6 DECONTAMINATION OF NON-DISPOSABLE EQUIPMENT

Contaminated non-disposable equipment (e.g., flashlight, gun, baton, clothing, portable radio) shall be decontaminated as soon as possible. If it is to be transported, it shall be done by first placing it into a biohazard waste bag.

Grossly contaminated non-disposable equipment items shall be transported to a hospital, fire station, or police station for proper cleaning and disinfecting. Porous surfaces such as nylon bags and straps shall be brushed and scrubbed with a detergent and hot water, laundered and allowed

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to dry. Non-porous surfaces (e.g., plastic or metal) shall be brushed and scrubbed with detergent and hot water, sprayed with a bleach solution, rinsed, and allowed to dry. Delicate equipment (e.g., radios) should be brushed and scrubbed very carefully using a minimal amount of a type of germicide that is approved by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) .

While cleaning equipment, pay close attention to handles, controls, portable radios, and corners (tight spots). Equipment cleaning shall not be done in the kitchen, bathrooms, or other areas not designated as the cleaning/decontamination area.

Contaminated equipment should be cleaned using an approved EPA germicide or a 1:100 solution of chlorine bleach (one-quarter-cup of bleach per one gallon of water) while wearing disposable gloves and goggles. Large particles of contaminants such as, vomit, feces, blood clots, etc. should first be removed (using a disposable towel or other means to prevent direct contact) and properly disposed of.

1016.3.7 DECONTAMINATION OF CLOTHING

Contaminated clothing such as uniforms and undergarments shall be removed as soon as feasible and rinsed in cold water to prevent the setting of bloodstains. If the clothing may be washed in soap and hot water, do so as soon as possible. If the clothing must be dry cleaned, place it into a biohazard waste bag and give it to the Exposure Control Officer. The ECO will secure a dry cleaner that is capable of cleaning contaminated clothing, and inform them of the potential contamination. This dry cleaning will be done at the Department's expense.

Contaminated leather boots shall be brushed and scrubbed with detergent and hot water. If the contaminant soaked through the boot, the boot shall be discarded.

1016.3.8 DECONTAMINATION OF VEHICLES

Contaminated vehicles and components such as the seats, radios, and doors shall be washed with soap and warm water and disinfected with an approved germicide as soon as feasible.

1016.3.9 DECONTAMINATION OF STATION AND CLEANING AREA

The ECO shall designate a location at the station that will serve as the area for cleaning/ decontamination. This area is to be used to keep equipment clean and sanitary and for the employees to wash any potential contamination from their bodies. This area is to be thoroughly cleaned after each use and to be maintained in a clean and sanitary order at all times between each use. The application of cosmetics, smoking cigarettes, consuming food and drink are prohibited in this designated area at all times.

1016.4 POST-EXPOSURE REPORTING AND FOLLOW-UP REQUIREMENTS

In actual or suspected exposure incidents, proper documentation and follow-up action must occur to limit potential liabilities and to ensure the best protection and care for the employee(s).

1016.4.1 EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT EXPOSURE

To provide appropriate and timely treatment should exposure occur, all employees shall verbally report the exposure to their immediate supervisor and complete a written exposure report as

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soon as possible following the exposure or suspected exposure. That report shall be submitted to the employee's immediate supervisor. Additionally, employees should document in the exposure report whether they would like the person who was the source of the exposure to be tested for communicable diseases.

1016.4.2 SUPERVISOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The supervisor on-duty shall investigate every exposure that occurs as soon as possible following the incident, while gathering the following information:

(a) Name and social security number of the employee(s) exposed.

(b) Date and time of incident.

(c) Location of incident.

(d) What potentially infectious materials were involved.

(e) Source of material or person.

(f) Current location of material or person.

(g) Work being done during exposure.

(h) How the incident occurred or was caused.

(i) PPE in use at the time of the incident.

(j) Actions taken post-event (e.g., clean-up, notifications).

The supervisor shall advise the employee of the laws and regulations concerning disclosure of the identity and infectious status of a source, and Policy § 1016.5, which addresses source testing.

If the ECO is unavailable to seek testing of the person who was the source of the exposure, it is the responsibility of the exposed employee's supervisor to ensure testing is sought (Policy § 1016.5).

1016.4.3 MEDICAL CONSULTATION, EVALUATION AND TREATMENT

Any employee who was exposed or who suspects he/she was exposed to HIV or to hepatitis B or C should be seen by a physician or qualified health care provider as soon as possible. The doctor or qualified health care provider should be provided with the supervisor's report and the employee's medical records relevant to the visit and examination. The blood of the exposed employee shall be tested.

The health care professional will provide the ECO and/or the City's Risk Manager with a written opinion/evaluation of the exposed employee's medical condition. This opinion should only contain the following information:

- If a post-exposure treatment is indicated for the employee.
- If the employee received a post-exposure treatment.
- Confirmation that the employee received the evaluation results.

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- Confirmation that the employee was informed of any medical condition resulting from the exposure incident and whether further treatment or evaluation will be required.
- Whether communicable disease testing from the source is warranted, and if so, which diseases should the testing include.

All other findings or diagnosis shall remain confidential and are not to be included in the written report.

1016.4.4 COUNSELING
The Department shall provide the exposed employee (and his/her family if necessary) the opportunity for counseling and consultation.

1016.4.5 CONFIDENTIALITY OF REPORTS
Most of the information involved in this process must remain confidential. The ECO shall ensure that all records and reports are kept in the strictest confidence.

The ECO shall be responsible for maintaining records containing the employee's treatment status and the results of examinations, medical testing and follow-up procedures.

The Risk Manager shall be responsible for maintaining the name and social security number of the employee and copies of any information provided to the consulting health care professional.

This information is confidential and shall not be disclosed to anyone without the employee's written consent (except as required by law). Test results from persons who may have been the source of an exposure are to be kept confidential as well.

1016.5 SOURCE TESTING
Testing for communicable diseases of a person who was the source of an exposure should be sought when it is desired by the exposed employee or when it is otherwise appropriate. There are five methods to obtain such testing. It is the responsibility of the ECO to ensure that the proper testing and reporting occur. These methods are:

(a) Obtaining voluntary consent from any person who may be the source of an exposure to cover testing for any communicable disease.

(b) Filing a report with the county health officer when an employee is exposed to the bodily fluids of an arrestee. The county health officer may pursue testing for HIV or hepatitis B or C (Penal Code § 7510 et seq.).

(c) Seeking consent for testing or applying for a court order for HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C testing (Health and Safety Code § 121060 et seq.).

(d) Seeking a court order when the person who may be the source of an exposure will not consent to testing and the exposure does not fall under the statutory schemes for testing. This covers testing for any communicable disease as deemed appropriate by a health care professional and documented in the request for the court order.

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(e) Under certain circumstances, a court may issue a search warrant for the purpose of HIV testing an adult or juvenile when an employee of the Ventura Police Department qualifies as a crime victim (Penal Code § 1524.1).

1016.5.1 EXPOSURE FROM A NON-ARRESTEE

Upon notification of an employee's exposure to a person who was not arrested, the ECO should attempt to determine if the person who was the source of the exposure will voluntarily consent to testing. If consent is indicated, the following steps should be taken:

(a) A licensed health care provider should notify the person to be tested of the exposure and make a good faith effort to obtain voluntary informed consent from the person or his/her authorized legal representative to perform a test for HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and other communicable diseases the health care provider deems appropriate.

(b) The voluntary informed consent obtained by the health care provider must be in writing and include consent for three specimens of blood for testing. The ECO should document the consent as a supplement to the Exposure Control Report.

(c) The results of the tests should be made available to the source and the exposed employee.

If consent is not obtained, the ECO should promptly consult with City Attorney and consider requesting that a court order be sought for appropriate testing.

1016.5.2 EXPOSURE FROM AN ARRESTEE

Upon notification of an exposure to an employee by a person who was arrested, the ECO should take the following steps:

(a) Comply with the statutory scheme of Health and Safety Code § 121060. This includes seeking consent from the person who was the source of the exposure and seeking a court order if consent is not given.

(b) Take reasonable steps to immediately contact the County Health Officer and provide preliminary information regarding the circumstances of the exposure and the status of the involved individuals to determine whether the County Health Officer will order testing (Penal Code § 7510).

(c) In all cases, comply with the reporting and testing scheme of Penal Code § 7510 et seq. This includes completing a State Department of Health Services Form CDPH 8479 and submitting it to the County Health Officer with a copy of the Exposure Control Report by the end of the employee's shift. If submission by the end of the shift is not practicable, it must occur as soon as possible but no later than two days after the incident. The exposed employee's name should not appear on this form.

(d) Remain in contact with the County Health Officer to determine whether testing of the arrestee will occur and whether the testing satisfies the medical needs of the employee.

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(e) The results of the tests should be made available to the donor and the exposed employee.

Since there is potential for overlap between the two statutory schemes, the ECO is responsible for coordinating the testing with the County Health Officer to prevent unnecessary or duplicate testing.

In the rare event that the exposed employee is not covered by either statutory scheme, the ECO should seek consent or a court order in the same manner as for a non-arrestee.

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Smoking and Tobacco Use Policy

1018.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes limitations on smoking and the use of tobacco products by members and others while on-duty or while in Ventura Police Department facilities or vehicles.

For the purposes of this policy, smoking and tobacco use includes, but is not limited to, any tobacco product, such as cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, tobacco pouches and chewing tobacco, as well as any device intended to simulate smoking, such as an electronic cigarette or personal vaporizer.

1018.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department recognizes that tobacco use is a health risk and can be offensive to others.

Smoking and tobacco use also presents an unprofessional image for the Department and its members. Therefore smoking and tobacco use is prohibited by members and visitors in all department facilities, buildings and vehicles, and as is further outlined in this policy (Government Code § 7597; Labor Code § 6404.5).

1018.3 SMOKING AND TOBACCO USE

Smoking and tobacco use by members is prohibited anytime members are in public view representing the Ventura Police Department.

It shall be the responsibility of each member to ensure that no person under his/her supervision smokes or uses any tobacco product inside City facilities and vehicles.

1018.4 ADDITIONAL PROHIBITIONS

No person shall use tobacco products within 20 feet of a main entrance, exit or operable window of any public building (including any department facility), or buildings on the campuses of the University of California, California State University and California community colleges, whether present for training, enforcement or any other purpose (Government Code § 7596 et seq.).

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Personnel Complaints

1020.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the reporting, investigation and disposition of complaints regarding the conduct of members of the Ventura Police Department.

1020.1.1 PERSONNEL COMPLAINTS DEFINED

Personnel complaints consist of any allegation of misconduct or improper job performance against any department employee that, if true, would constitute a violation of department policy, federal, state or local law.

Inquiries about employee conduct which, even if true, would not qualify as a personnel complaint may be handled informally by a department supervisor and shall not be considered complaints.

This policy shall not apply to any interrogation, counseling, instruction, informal verbal admonishment or other routine or unplanned contact of an employee in the normal course of duty, by a supervisor or any other employee, nor shall this policy apply to an investigation concerned solely and directly with alleged criminal activities (Cal. Govt. Code 3303(i)).

Personnel Complaints shall be classified in one of the following categories:

Informal - A matter in which the complaining party is satisfied that appropriate action has been taken by a department supervisor of rank greater than the accused employee. Informal complaints need not be documented on a personnel complaint form and the responsible supervisor shall have the discretion to handle the complaint in any manner consistent with this policy.

Formal - A matter in which the complaining party requests further investigation or which a department supervisor determines that further action is warranted. Such complaints may be investigated by a department supervisor of rank greater than the accused employee or referred to the Professional Standards Unit depending on the seriousness and complexity of the investigation.

Incomplete - A matter in which the complaining party either refuses to cooperate or becomes unavailable after diligent follow-up investigation. At the discretion of the assigned supervisor or the Professional Standards Unit, such matters need not be documented as personnel complaints, but may be further investigated depending on the seriousness of the complaint and the availability of sufficient information.

1020.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department takes seriously all complaints regarding the service provided by the Department and the conduct of its members.

The Department will accept and address all complaints of misconduct in accordance with this policy and applicable federal, state and local law, municipal and county rules and the requirements of any collective bargaining agreements.

It is also the policy of this department to ensure that the community can report misconduct without concern for reprisal or retaliation.

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1020.2.1 AVAILABILITY OF COMPLAINT FORMS

Personnel complaint forms will be maintained in a clearly visible location in the public lobby. Forms may also be available at other government facilities.

1020.2.2 SOURCE OF COMPLAINTS

(a) A department employee becoming aware of alleged misconduct shall immediately notify a supervisor.

(b) A supervisor receiving a complaint from any source alleging misconduct of an employee which, if true, could result in disciplinary action.

(c) Anonymous complaints and third party complaints should be accepted and investigated to the extent that sufficient information is provided.

1020.2.3 ACCEPTANCE OF COMPLAINTS

A complaint may be filed in person, in writing, or by telephoning the Department. Although not required, every effort should be made to have the complainant appear in person. The following should be considered before taking a complaint:

(a) Complaints shall not be prepared unless the alleged misconduct or job performance is of a nature which, if true, would normally result in disciplinary action

(b) When an uninvolved supervisor or the Watch Commander determines that the reporting person is satisfied that their complaint required nothing more than an explanation regarding the proper/improper implementation of department policy or procedure, a complaint need not be taken

(c) When the complainant is intoxicated to the point where his/her credibility appears to be unreliable, identifying information should be obtained and the person should be provided with a Personnel Complaint form

(d) Depending on the urgency and seriousness of the allegations involved, complaints from juveniles should generally be taken only with their parents or guardians present and after the parents or guardians have been informed of the circumstances prompting the complaint

1020.2.4 COMPLAINT DOCUMENTATION

Formal complaints of alleged misconduct may be documented by the complainant or by a supervisor on a personnel complaint form. The supervisor shall ensure that the nature of the complaint is defined as clearly as possible.

When a Personnel Complaint form is completed in person, the complainant should legibly write a detailed narrative of his/her complaint. If circumstances indicate that this is not feasible, the complaint may be dictated to the receiving supervisor. In an effort to ensure accuracy in any complaint, it is recommended that a recorded statement be obtained from the reporting party. A refusal by a party to be recorded shall not alone be grounds to refuse to accept a complaint.

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Whether handwritten or dictated, the complainant's signature should be obtained at the conclusion of the statement. The complainant should be provided with a copy of his/her own original complaint per Penal Code § 832.7.

1020.3 DOCUMENTATION

Supervisors shall ensure that all formal complaints are documented on a complaint form. The supervisor shall ensure that the nature of the complaint is defined as clearly as possible.

All complaints and inquiries should also be documented in a log that records and tracks complaints. The log shall include the nature of the complaint and the actions taken to address the complaint. On an annual basis, the Department should audit the log and send an audit report to the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

1020.4 ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS

Allegations of misconduct will be administratively investigated as follows.

1020.4.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

In general, the primary responsibility for the investigation of a personnel complaint shall rest with the member's immediate supervisor, unless the supervisor is the complainant, or the supervisor is the ultimate decision-maker regarding disciplinary action or has any personal involvement regarding the alleged misconduct. The Chief of Police or the authorized designee may direct that another supervisor investigate any complaint.

A supervisor who becomes aware of alleged misconduct shall take reasonable steps to prevent aggravation of the situation.

The responsibilities of supervisors include but are not limited to:

(a) Ensuring that upon receiving or initiating any formal complaint, a complaint form is completed.

  1. The original complaint form will be directed to the Watch Commander of the accused member, via the chain of command, who will take appropriate action and/or determine who will have responsibility for the investigation.

  2. In circumstances where the integrity of the investigation could be jeopardized by reducing the complaint to writing or where the confidentiality of a complainant is at issue, a supervisor shall orally report the matter to the member's Assistant Chief or the Chief of Police, who will initiate appropriate action.

(b) Responding to all complainants in a courteous and professional manner.

(c) Resolving those personnel complaints that can be resolved immediately.

  1. Follow-up contact with the complainant should be made within 24 hours of the Department receiving the complaint.

  2. If the matter is resolved and no further action is required, the supervisor will note the resolution on a complaint form and forward the form to the Watch Commander.

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(d) Ensuring that upon receipt of a complaint involving allegations of a potentially serious nature, the Watch Commander and the Chief of Police are notified via the chain of command as soon as practicable.

(e) Promptly contacting the Human Resources Department and the Watch Commander for direction regarding their roles in addressing a complaint that relates to sexual, racial, ethnic or other forms of prohibited harassment or discrimination.

(f) Forwarding unresolved personnel complaints to the Watch Commander, who will determine whether to contact the complainant or assign the complaint for investigation.

(g) Informing the complainant of the investigator's name and the complaint number within three days after assignment.

(h) Investigating a complaint as follows:

1. Making reasonable efforts to obtain names, addresses and telephone numbers of witnesses.

2. When appropriate, ensuring immediate medical attention is provided and photographs of alleged injuries and accessible uninjured areas are taken.

(i) Ensuring that the procedural rights of the accused member are followed (Government Code § 3303 et seq.).

(j) Ensuring interviews of the complainant are generally conducted during reasonable hours.

1020.4.2 ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES

Whether conducted by a supervisor or a member of the Professional Standards Unit, the following applies to members covered by the Public Safety Officers Procedural Bill of Rights Act (POBR) (Government Code § 3303):

(a) Interviews of an accused member shall be conducted during reasonable hours and preferably when the member is on-duty. If the member is off-duty, he/she shall be compensated.

(b) Unless waived by the member, interviews of an accused member shall be at the Ventura Police Department or other reasonable and appropriate place.

(c) No more than two interviewers should ask questions of an accused member.

(d) Prior to any interview, a member shall be informed of the nature of the investigation, the name, rank and command of the officer in charge of the investigation, the interviewing officers and all other persons to be present during the interview.

(e) All interviews shall be for a reasonable period and the member's personal needs should be accommodated.

(f) No member should be subjected to offensive or threatening language, nor shall any promises, rewards or other inducements be used to obtain answers.

(g) Any member refusing to answer questions directly related to the investigation may be ordered to answer questions administratively and may be subject to discipline for failing to do so.

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1. A member should be given an order to answer questions in an administrative investigation that might incriminate the member in a criminal matter only after the member has been given a *Lybarger* advisement. Administrative investigators should consider the impact that compelling a statement from the member may have on any related criminal investigation and should take reasonable steps to avoid creating any foreseeable conflicts between the two related investigations. This may include conferring with the person in charge of the criminal investigation (e.g., discussion of processes, timing, implications).
2. No information or evidence administratively coerced from a member may be provided to anyone involved in conducting the criminal investigation or to any prosecutor.

(h) The interviewer should record all interviews of members and witnesses. The member may also record the interview. If the member has been previously interviewed, a copy of that recorded interview shall be provided to the member prior to any subsequent interview.

(i) All members subjected to interviews that could result in discipline have the right to have an uninvolved representative present during the interview. However, in order to maintain the integrity of each individual's statement, involved members shall not consult or meet with a representative or attorney collectively or in groups prior to being interviewed.

(j) All members shall provide complete and truthful responses to questions posed during interviews.

(k) No member may be requested or compelled to submit to a polygraph examination, nor shall any refusal to submit to such examination be mentioned in any investigation (Government Code § 3307).

No investigation shall be undertaken against any officer solely because the officer has been placed on a prosecutor's *Brady* list or the name of the officer may otherwise be subject to disclosure pursuant to *Brady v. Maryland*. However, an investigation may be based on the underlying acts or omissions for which the officer has been placed on a Brady list or may otherwise be subject to disclosure pursuant to *Brady v. Maryland* (Government Code § 3305.5).

1020.4.3 NOTICE TO COMPLAINANT OF INVESTIGATION STATUS

The member conducting the investigation should provide the complainant with periodic updates on the status of the investigation, as appropriate.

1020.5 DISPOSITION OF PERSONNEL COMPLAINTS

Each allegation shall be classified with one of the following dispositions:

Unfounded - When the investigation discloses that the alleged act(s) did not occur or did not involve department personnel. Complaints which are determined to be frivolous will fall within the classification of unfounded (Penal Code § 832.5(c)).

Exonerated - When the investigation discloses that the alleged act occurred, but that the act was justified, lawful and/or proper.

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Not Sustained - When the investigation discloses that there is insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the employee.

Sustained - When the investigation discloses sufficient evidence to establish that the act occurred and that it constituted misconduct.

If an investigation discloses misconduct or improper job performance which was not alleged in the original complaint, the investigator shall take appropriate action with regard to any additional allegations.

1020.6 COMPLETION OF INVESTIGATIONS

Every investigator or supervisor assigned to investigate a personnel complaint or other alleged misconduct shall proceed with due diligence in an effort to complete the investigation within one year from the date of discovery by an individual authorized to initiate an investigation. In the event that an investigation cannot be completed within one year of discovery, the assigned investigator or supervisor shall ensure that an extension or delay is warranted within the exceptions set forth in Government Code § 3304(d) or Government Code § 3508.1. If the nature of the allegations dictate that confidentiality is necessary to maintain the integrity of the investigation, the involved employee(s) need not be notified of the pending investigation unless and until the employee is interviewed or formally charged within one year of discovery.

Within 30 days of the final review by the Chief of Police or his /her designee, written notice of the findings shall be sent to the complaining party. This notice shall indicate the findings, however, will not disclose the amount of discipline, if any imposed. The complaining party should also be provided with a copy of his/her own original complaint (Penal Code § 832.7).

Upon completion of the investigation, the investigating supervisor shall turn in the original complaint, a copy of the written notice of findings, and any other related documents to the Professional Standards Commander. The Professional Standards Commander shall ensure that all documents have been properly scanned into the Administrative Investigations Management (AIM) program, and that the written notice of findings was sent to the complainant.

Any complaining party who is not satisfied with the findings of the Department concerning their complaint may contact the Chief of Police to discuss the matter further.

1020.6.1 CONFIDENTIALITY OF PERSONNEL FILES

All investigations of personnel complaints, whether originating from a citizen or internally, shall be considered confidential peace officer personnel files. The contents of such files shall not be revealed to other than the involved employee or authorized personnel except pursuant to lawful process.

In the event that an accused employee (or the representative of such employee) knowingly makes false representations regarding any internal investigation and such false representations are communicated to any media source, the Department may disclose sufficient information from the employee's personnel file to refute such false representations (Penal Code § 832.5).

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All sustained citizen's complaints shall be maintained for a period of at least five years (Penal Code § 832.5). All internally initiated complaints shall be maintained at least two years (Government Code § 34090 et seq.).

Sustained complaints shall be maintained in the employee's personnel file. Complaints which are unfounded, exonerated or not sustained shall be maintained by the Professional Standards Unit apart from the employee's personnel file.

1020.7 ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE

When a complaint of misconduct is of a serious nature, or when circumstances indicate that allowing the accused to continue to work would adversely affect the mission of the Department, the Chief of Police or the authorized designee may temporarily assign an accused employee to administrative leave. Any employee placed on administrative leave:

(a) May be required to relinquish any department badge, identification, assigned weapons and any other department equipment.

(b) Shall be required to continue to comply with all policies and lawful orders of a supervisor.

(c) May be temporarily reassigned to a different shift, generally a normal business-hours shift, during the investigation. The employee may be required to remain available for contact at all times during such shift, and will report as ordered.

1020.8 REQUIRED REPORTING TO POST

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall notify POST on the appropriate POST form within 10 days of certain officer personnel events, including but not limited to (Penal Code § 13510.9):

(a) Termination or separation from employment or appointment. Separation from employment or appointment includes any involuntary termination, resignation, or retirement.

    1. A POST affidavit-of-separation form shall be executed and maintained by the Department and submitted to POST as required by Penal Code § 13510.9.

(b) Events that could affect an officer’s POST certification, such as:

    1. Complaints, charges, or allegations of misconduct
    2. Findings of civilian review boards
    3. Final dispositions of any investigations
    4. Civil judgments or court findings based on conduct, or settlement of a civil claim against an officer or the Ventura Police Department based on allegations of conduct by an officer

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall be responsible for providing POST access to or duplication of investigation documentation (e.g., physical or documentary evidence, witness

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statements, analysis, conclusions) for up to two years after reporting of the disposition of an investigation (Penal Code § 13510.9).

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Seat Belt Procedure

1022.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines for the use of seat belts and child restraints. This policy will apply to all members operating or riding in department vehicles (Vehicle Code § 27315.5).

1022.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Child restraint system - An infant or child passenger restraint system that meets Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) and Regulations set forth in 49 CFR 571.213.

1022.2 WEARING OF SAFETY RESTRAINTS

All members shall wear properly adjusted safety restraints when operating or riding in a seat equipped with restraints, in any vehicle owned, leased or rented by this department while on- or off-duty, or in any privately owned vehicle while on-duty. The member driving such a vehicle shall ensure that all other occupants, including non-members, are also properly restrained.

Exceptions to the requirement to wear safety restraints may be made only in exceptional situations where, due to unusual circumstances, wearing a seat belt would endanger the member or the public. Members must be prepared to justify any deviation from this requirement.

1022.3 TRANSPORTING SUSPECTS, PRISONERS OR ARRESTEES

Suspects, prisoners and arrestees should be in a seated position and secured in the rear seat of any department vehicle with a prisoner restraint system or, when a prisoner restraint system is not available, by seat belts provided by the vehicle manufacturer. The prisoner restraint system is not intended to be a substitute for handcuffs or other appendage restraints.

Prisoners in leg restraints shall be transported in accordance with the Handcuffing and Restraints Policy.

1022.4 INOPERABLE SEAT BELTS

Department vehicles shall not be operated when the seat belt in the driver's position is inoperable. Persons shall not be transported in a seat in which the seat belt is inoperable.

Department vehicle seat belts shall not be modified, removed, deactivated or altered in any way, except by the vehicle maintenance and repair staff, who shall do so only with the express authorization of the Chief of Police.

Members who discover an inoperable restraint system shall report the defect to the appropriate supervisor. Prompt action will be taken to replace or repair the system.

1022.5 TRANSPORTING CHILDREN

Children under the age of 8 shall be transported in compliance with California’s child restraint system requirements (Vehicle Code § 27360; Vehicle Code § 27363).

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Rear seat passengers in a cage-equipped vehicle may have reduced clearance, which requires careful seating and positioning of seat belts. Due to this reduced clearance, and if permitted by law, children and any child restraint system may be secured in the front seat of such vehicles provided this positioning meets federal safety standards and the vehicle and child restraint system manufacturer's design and use recommendations. In the event that a child is transported in the front seat of a vehicle, the seat should be pushed back as far as possible and the passenger-side airbag should be deactivated. If this is not possible, members should arrange alternate transportation when feasible. A child shall not be transported in a rear-facing child restraint system in the front seat in a vehicle that is equipped with an active frontal passenger airbag (Vehicle Code § 27363).

1022.6 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department that members use safety and child restraint systems to reduce the possibility of death or injury in a motor vehicle collision.

1022.7 VEHICLES MANUFACTURED WITHOUT SEAT BELTS

Vehicles manufactured and certified for use without seat belts or other restraint systems are subject to the manufacturer's operator requirements for safe use.

1022.8 VEHICLE AIRBAGS

In all vehicles equipped with airbag restraint systems, the system will not be tampered with or deactivated, except when transporting children as written elsewhere in this policy. All equipment installed in vehicles equipped with airbags will be installed as per the vehicle manufacturer specifications to avoid the danger of interfering with the effective deployment of the airbag device.

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Body Armor

1024.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide law enforcement officers with guidelines for the proper use of body armor.

1024.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department to maximize officer safety through the use of body armor in combination with prescribed safety procedures. While body armor provides a significant level of protection, it is not a substitute for the observance of officer safety procedures.

1024.3 ISSUANCE OF BODY ARMOR

The Administrative Operations supervisor shall ensure that body armor is issued to all officers when the officer begins service at the Ventura Police Department and that, when issued, the body armor meets or exceeds the standards of the National Institute of Justice.

The Administrative Operations supervisor shall establish a body armor replacement schedule and ensure that replacement body armor is issued pursuant to the schedule or whenever the body armor becomes worn or damaged to the point that its effectiveness or functionality has been compromised.

1024.3.1 USE OF SOFT BODY ARMOR

Generally, the use of body armor is recommended and subject to the following:

(a) Officers shall only wear agency-approved body armor.

(b) Officers should wear body armor anytime they are in a situation where they could reasonably be expected to take enforcment action.

(c) Body armor shall be worn when an officer is taking part in department range training.

1024.3.2 INSPECTIONS OF BODY ARMOR

Supervisors should ensure that body armor is worn and maintained in accordance with this policy through routine observation and periodic documented inspections. Annual inspections of body armor should be conducted by an authorized designee for fit, cleanliness, and signs of damage, abuse and wear.

1024.3.3 CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF SOFT BODY ARMOR

Soft body armor should never be stored for any period of time in an area where environmental conditions (e.g., temperature, light, humidity) are not reasonably controlled (e.g., normal ambient room temperature/humidity conditions), such as in automobiles or automobile trunks.

Soft body armor should be cared for and cleaned pursuant to the manufacturer's care instructions provided with the soft body armor. The instructions can be found on labels located on the external surface of each ballistic panel. The carrier should also have a label that contains care instructions. Failure to follow these instructions may damage the ballistic performance capabilities of the armor.

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If care instructions for the soft body armor cannot be located, contact the manufacturer to request care instructions.

Soft body armor should not be exposed to any cleaning agents or methods not specifically recommended by the manufacturer, as noted on the armor panel label.

Soft body armor should be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended replacement schedule.

1024.4 TACTEC PLATE CARRIERS

The Department has outfitted patrol vehicles and most specialty assignment vehicles with 5.11 Tactec Plate Carriers and ceramic ballistic plates. The plate carriers and their ballistic plates are capable of protecting vital areas against high powered rifle rounds, up to and including 7.62 mm rounds.

1024.4.1 DEPLOYMENT OF TACTEC PLATE CARRIERS

Tactec Plate Carriers should be deployed during any high risk situation where high powered firearms are expected to be present. The decision to deploy the Tactec Plate Carrier is at the discretion of the individual officer, unless the officer is ordered to deploy the carrier by a superior.

The ceramic ballistic plates in the Tactec Plate Carrier are designed to be worn in conjunction with (ICW) soft body armor. The ceramic plates are not stand alone plates. In order to provide complete protection, the plate carrier and ceramic plates must be deployed in addition to soft body armor.

The Tactec Plate Carriers are one size fits all. In the event that an officer decides to deploy the plate carrier, the officer should simply remove the plate carrier from its protective container and don it directly over the uniform and soft body armor. Specialty assignment officers should don soft body armor prior to donning the plate carrier.

1024.4.2 CARE AND STORAGE OF TACTEC PLATE CARRIERS

Ceramic plates can be damaged very easliy and must be handled with care. Failure to follow these instructions may damage the ballistic performance capabilities of the armor.

(a) Plate carriers shall be kept in the trunk of Patrol and Specialty assignment vehicles.

(b) Plate carriers shall be stored in their protective containers unless being deployed.

(c) Plate carriers shall not be stored with personal property.

(d) Plate carriers shall not be removed from vehicles unless being deployed or inspected.

1024.5 RANGEMASTER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Rangemaster should:

(a) Monitor technological advances in the body armor industry for any appropriate changes to Department approved body armor.

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(b) Assess weapons and ammunition currently in use and the suitability of approved body armor to protect against those threats.

(c) Provide training that educates officers about the safety benefits of wearing body armor.

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Respirator Protection Program

1025.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The potential for exposure to respiratory hazards exists during the performance of specific job duties within the police department. The purpose of this program is to ensure that members are protected from exposure to these hazards.

1025.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department to establish procedures and supply equipment designed to reduce the risk of exposure to respiratory hazardous conditions to members during the performance of their duties. The establishment of this program complies with Federal and State Occupational Safety and Health Regulations.

1025.3 SCOPE AND APPLICATION

This applies to all members who may be required to wear respirators during normal work operations and during certain non-routine or emergency operations. The requirement to wear a respirator is determined based on the member's potential exposure to respiratory hazards.

1025.3.1 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Respirator Program Administrator: The Special Operations Commander is responsible for overseeing the respiratory protection program.

1025.3.2 EQUIPMENT SELECTION AND WORKPLACE FACTORS

(a) Respirator Selection: The Ventura Police Department will issue AVON FM-12 and C50 full face masks air-purifying respirators. Respirators and canisters will be provided to officers. Officers are not authorized to use a personal respirator or canisters, only that which is provided by the department.

(b) Powered Air-Purifying Respirators (PAPR's): Officers will be issued Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPR) when the physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP) recommends the use of a PAPR for medical reasons, or if the workplace and user factors require.

1025.3.3 RESPIRATOR USE

(a) Face Piece Seal Protection: The use of respirators under controllable conditions that would compromise the face piece-to-face seal will not be permitted. Examples of these conditions include facial hair that interferes with the face piece seal or valve function, absence of normally worn dentures, facial deformities (e.g., scars, deep skin creases, prominent cheekbones), or the use of jewelry or headgear that projects under the face piece seal. Fit testing cannot be conducted if any of these conditions exists.

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Additionally, corrective glasses or goggles, or other personal protective equipment, must be worn in such a way that they do not interfere with the seal of the face piece to the face.

(b) Breakthrough: If a member detects breakthrough, the member shall exit the area immediately, or as soon as safety conditions permit, remove the respirator, and perform decontamination procedures. Breakthrough shall be reported to the incident commander or officer in charge.

(c) Change Schedule for Cartridge Filters: A cartridge replacement schedule is based on manufacturer breakthrough test data.

(d) Cartridge Filter Replacement: Cartridge filters will be changed according to the manufacturer's specification, whenever the wearer detects an increase in breathing resistance, or after usage in a hazardous materials environment.

1025.3.4 MEDICAL EVALUATION

Members who use respirators must be able to tolerate the physical and psychological stress imposed by respirator use. Members will not be allowed to wear respirators until a physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP) has determined that they are medically able to do so.

(a) The initial medical evaluation consists of completing and submitting a confidential Cal/OSHA medical questionnaire to the city-provided PLHCP and receiving an initial medical examination by the PLHCP.

(b) Further medical evaluations will be provided when:

1. The member reports medical signs or symptoms that are related to the ability to use a respirator
2. A physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP), a supervisor, or the program administrator informs the agency that a member needs to be re-evaluated,
3. Observations made during fit testing and program evaluation indicate a need for re-evaluation, or
4. A change occurs in workplace conditions (e.g., physical work effort, protective clothing, and temperature) that may result in a substantial increase in the physiological burden placed on the member.

(c) PLCHP's Written Recommendations: The PLCHP will provide the department with a written recommendation stating authorization to wear the respirator or any limitations during the use of the respirator. The member will receive a copy of the PLHCP's written recommendations from the designated medical clinic. The PLHCP will not be disclosed to the City of Ventura or the Ventura Police Department information concerning diagnosis, test results, or other confidential medical information.

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1025.3.5 FIT TESTING

Fit testing will be required for all members who wear respirators with a tight-fitting face piece. Fit testing will be performed:

(a) After a member has completed their medical evaluation and prior to being allowed to wear any respirator with a tight fitting face piece in the work environment.

(b) At least annually thereafter.

(c) Whenever a different respirator face piece is used.

(d) When there are changes in the member's physical condition that could affect respiratory fit (e.g., obvious change in body weight, facial scarring, etc.)

1025.4 TRAINING

Department representatives chosen by the Program Administrator will provide training to respirator users prior to fit testing. Training shall be provided prior to the time of initial assignment to respirator use, and at least annually thereafter.

1025.5 MAINTENANCE AND CARE

Each officer shall be provided with a respirator for their exclusive use that is clean, sanitary, and in good working order.

(a) **Cleaning and Disinfections**: Respirators will be cleaned and disinfected by the assigned member using the manufacturer's recommendations for each respirator.

(b) **Storage**: Respirators will be stored in the issued carrying case in compliance with the manufacturer's recommendation so that they are protected against damage, contamination, dust, sunlight, temperature extremes, excessive moisture, and damaging chemicals. Members who are issued PAPR's will properly charge the unit's batteries when not in use, in compliance with the manufacturer's recommendation.

(c) **Inspection**: Respirators will be inspected on a monthly basis and before each use. Respirator inspections will be conducted in accordance to the manufacturer's recommendations. An inspection log shall be kept with each respirator. This will be attached to the respirator carrying case and shall be completed by the member's supervisor, noting the date of each monthly inspection. This log will be replaced during the annual fit test.

(d) **Repairs**: Any defective respirators shall be removed from service, and shall be repaired or discarded as appropriate. Only persons who have been trained to perform such operations shall make repairs. All repairs shall be made according to the manufacturer's recommendations and specifications.

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1025.6 RECORD KEEPING

The Program Administrator is responsible for ensuring proper records are kept for this program.

(a) **Medical Records**: The Program Administrator will retain a copy of the PLHCP's written recommendation for each employee authorizing use of a respirator, subject to medical evaluation. This must be maintained for one year, or until the next medical evaluation.

(b) Completed medical questionnaires, results of relevant medical tests and personnel medical records shall be retained by the City's PLHCP and are confidential. These records are made available, in accordance with the California Code of Regulations §3204, Title 8, for a minimum of thirty years after an employee's separation or termination.

(c) **Training Records**: The Program Administrator is responsible for the retention of member training records that include the names of members trained and the dates when training was conducted. These records will be kept in the member's training file.

(d) **Fit Test Records**: Documentation of annual fit testing will be maintained in the Training Division for one year or until the next fit test is administered. These records will consist of the type of test (Qualitative or Quantitative), name and ID of member; make, model, and size of respirator, date of test, and the results of the fit test.(e) Respiratory Protection Program: A copy of this program and the above records shall be made available to all affected members.

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Personnel Records

1026.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy governs maintenance and access to personnel records. Personnel records include any file maintained under an individual member's name.

1026.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this department to maintain personnel records and preserve the confidentiality of personnel records pursuant to the Constitution and the laws of California (Penal Code § 832.7).

1026.3 DEPARTMENT FILE

The department file shall be maintained as a record of a person’s employment/appointment with this department. The department file should contain, at a minimum:

(a) Personal data, including photographs, marital status, names of family members, educational and employment history, or similar information. A photograph of the member should be permanently retained.

(b) Election of employee benefits.

(c) Personnel action reports reflecting assignments, promotions, and other changes in employment/appointment status. These should be permanently retained.

(d) Original performance evaluations. These should be permanently retained.

(e) Discipline records, including copies of sustained personnel complaints (see the Personnel Complaints Policy).

1. Disciplinary action resulting from sustained internally initiated complaints or observation of misconduct shall be maintained pursuant to the established records retention schedule and at least four years (Government Code § 12946).

2. Disciplinary action resulting from a sustained civilian's complaint involving misconduct shall be maintained pursuant to the established records retention schedule and at least 15 years (Penal Code § 832.5).

3. A civilian’s complaint involving misconduct that was not sustained shall be maintained pursuant to the established records retention schedule and at least five years (Penal Code § 832.5).

(f) Adverse comments such as supervisor notes or memos may be retained in the department file after the member has had the opportunity to read and initial the comment (Government Code § 3305).

1. Once a member has had an opportunity to read and initial any adverse comment, the member shall be given the opportunity to respond in writing to the adverse comment within 30 days (Government Code § 3306).

2. Any member response shall be attached to and retained with the original adverse comment (Government Code § 3306).

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3. If a member refuses to initial or sign an adverse comment, at least one supervisor should note the date and time of such refusal on the original comment and the member should sign or initial the noted refusal. Such a refusal, however, shall not be deemed insubordination, nor shall it prohibit the entry of the adverse comment into the member's file (Government Code § 3305).

(g) Commendations and awards.

(h) Any other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

1026.4 DIVISON FILE

Division files may be separately maintained internally by a member's supervisor for the purpose of completing timely performance evaluations. The Division file may contain supervisor comments, notes, notices to correct and other materials that are intended to serve as a foundation for the completion of timely performance evaluations.

All materials intended for this interim file shall be provided to the employee prior to being placed in the file in accordance with Government Code § 3305 and Government Code § 3306.

This file will be maintained by the applicable division secretary.

1026.5 TRAINING FILE

An individual training file shall be maintained by the Professional Standards Sergeant for each member. Training files will contain records of all training; original or photocopies of available certificates, transcripts, diplomas and other documentation; and education and firearms qualifications. Training records may also be created and stored remotely, either manually or automatically (e.g., Daily Training Bulletin (DTB) records).

(a) The involved member is responsible for providing the Professional Standards Sergeant or immediate supervisor with evidence of completed training/education in a timely manner.

(b) The Professional Standards Sergeant or supervisor shall ensure that copies of such training records are placed in the member’s training file.

1026.6 INTERNAL AFFAIRS FILE

Internal affairs files shall be maintained under the exclusive control of the Professional Standards Unit in conjunction with the office of the Chief of Police. Access to these files may only be approved by the Chief of Police or the Professional Standards Unit supervisor.

These files shall contain the complete investigation of all formal complaints of member misconduct, regardless of disposition (Penal Code § 832.12). Investigations of complaints that result in the following findings shall not be placed in the member's file but will be maintained in the internal affairs file:

(a) Not sustained

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(b) Unfounded

(c) Exonerated

Investigation files arising out of sustained civilian's complaints involving misconduct shall be maintained pursuant to the established records retention schedule and for a period of at least 15 years. Investigations that resulted in other than a sustained finding may not be used by the Department to adversely affect an employee's career (Penal Code § 832.5).

Investigation files arising out of internally generated complaints shall be maintained pursuant to the established records retention schedule and for at least four years (Government Code § 12946).

Investigation files arising out of a civilian complaint involving misconduct that was not sustained shall be maintained pursuant to the established records retention schedule and for at least five years (Penal Code § 832.5).

1026.7 MEDICAL FILE

A medical file shall be maintained separately from all other personnel records and shall contain all documents relating to the member's medical condition and history, including but not limited to:

(a) Materials relating to a medical leave of absence, including leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

(b) Documents relating to workers' compensation claims or the receipt of short- or long-term disability benefits.

(c) Fitness-for-duty examinations, psychological and physical examinations, follow-up inquiries and related documents.

(d) Medical release forms, doctor's slips and attendance records that reveal a member's medical condition.

(e) Any other documents or materials that reveal the member's medical history or medical condition, including past, present or future anticipated mental, psychological or physical limitations.

1026.8 SECURITY

Personnel records should be maintained in a secured location and locked either in a cabinet or access-controlled room. Personnel records maintained in an electronic format should have adequate password protection.

Personnel records are subject to disclosure only as provided in this policy, the Records Maintenance and Release Policy or according to applicable discovery procedures.

Nothing in this policy is intended to preclude review of personnel records by the City Manager, City Attorney or other attorneys or representatives of the City in connection with official business.

1026.8.1 REQUESTS FOR DISCLOSURE

Any member receiving a request for a personnel record shall promptly notify the Custodian of Records or other person charged with the maintenance of such records.

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Upon receipt of any such request, the responsible person shall notify the affected member as soon as practicable that such a request has been made (Evidence Code § 1043).

The responsible person shall further ensure that an appropriate response to the request is made in a timely manner, consistent with applicable law. In many cases, this may require assistance of available legal counsel.

All requests for disclosure that result in access to a member's personnel records shall be logged in the corresponding file.

1026.8.2 RELEASE OF PERSONNEL INFORMATION
Personnel records shall not be disclosed except as allowed by law (Penal Code § 832.7; Evidence Code § 1043) (See also Records Maintenance and Release Policy).

Any person who maliciously, and with the intent to obstruct justice or the due administration of the laws, publishes, disseminates, or otherwise discloses the residence address or telephone number of any member of this department may be guilty of a misdemeanor (Penal Code § 146e).

The Department may release any factual information concerning a disciplinary investigation if the member who is the subject of the investigation (or the member's representative) publicly makes a statement that is published in the media and that the member (or representative) knows to be false. The disclosure of such information, if any, shall be limited to facts that refute any such false statement (Penal Code § 832.7).

1026.8.3 RELEASE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT GANG INFORMATION
Information relating to the termination of an officer from this department for participation in a law enforcement gang shall be disclosed to another law enforcement agency that is conducting a pre-employment background investigation except where specifically prohibited by law (Penal Code § 13670).

1026.9 NON-SWORN PERSONNEL FILES

Professional Staff personnel files can be located in the following places:

1026.9.1 DEPARTMENT FILES

(a) Professional Staff employees classified as full-time will have an official Personnel File which is maintained by the Human Resources Department at City Hall. All documents that originate from the Ventura Police Department will be scanned into an electronic Department File prior to the original being forwarded to Human Resources. The same procedures that apply to peace officer Department Files apply to Professional Staff Department Files.

(b) All other Professional Staff employees not classified as full-time will have Department Files maintained in the same manner as peace officer Department Files.

1026.9.2 DIVISON FILES

(a) Professional Staff employees classified as full-time will have their Divison Files maintained in the same manner as peace officer Divison Files.

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(b) Professional Staff employees not classified as full-time do not have Division Files.

1026.10 MEMBERS' ACCESS TO THEIR PERSONNEL RECORDS

Any member may request access to the member's own personnel records during the normal business hours of those responsible for maintaining such files. Any member seeking the removal of any item from the member's personnel records shall file a written request to the Chief of Police through the chain of command. The Department shall remove any such item if appropriate, or within 30 days provide the member with a written explanation of why the contested item will not be removed. If the contested item is not removed from the file, the member’s request and the written response from the Department shall be retained with the contested item in the member’s corresponding personnel record (Government Code § 3306.5).

Members may be restricted from accessing files containing any of the following information:

(a) An ongoing internal affairs investigation to the extent that it could jeopardize or compromise the investigation pending final disposition or notice to the member of the intent to discipline.

(b) Confidential portions of internal affairs files that have not been sustained against the member.

(c) Criminal investigations involving the member.

(d) Letters of reference concerning employment/appointment, licensing, or issuance of permits regarding the member.

(e) Any portion of a test document, except the cumulative total test score for either a section of the test document or for the entire test document.

(f) Materials used by the Department for staff management planning, including judgments or recommendations concerning future salary increases and other wage treatments, management bonus plans, promotions and job assignments, or other comments or ratings used for department planning purposes.

(g) Information of a personal nature about a person other than the member if disclosure of the information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the other person's privacy.

(h) Records relevant to any other pending claim between the Department and the member that may be discovered in a judicial proceeding.

1026.11 RETENTION AND PURGING

Unless provided otherwise in this policy, personnel records shall be maintained in accordance with the established records retention schedule.

(a) During the preparation of each member’s performance evaluation, all personnel complaints and disciplinary actions should be reviewed to determine the relevancy, if any, to progressive discipline, training and career development. Each supervisor responsible for completing the member's performance evaluation should determine whether any prior sustained disciplinary file should be retained beyond the required period for reasons other than pending litigation or other ongoing legal proceedings.

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(b) If a supervisor determines that records of prior discipline should be retained beyond the required period, approval for such retention should be obtained through the chain of command from the Chief of Police.

(c) If, in the opinion of the Chief of Police, a personnel complaint or disciplinary action maintained beyond the required retention period is no longer relevant, all records of such matter may be destroyed in accordance with the established records retention schedule.

1026.12 RELEASE OF PERSONNEL RECORDS AND RECORDS RELATED TO CERTAIN INCIDENTS, COMPLAINTS, AND INVESTIGATIONS OF OFFICERS

Personnel records and records related to certain incidents, complaints, and investigations of officers shall be released pursuant to a proper request under the Public Records Act and subject to redaction and delayed release as provided by law.

The Custodian of Records should work as appropriate with the Chief of Police or the Professional Standards Unit supervisor in determining what records may qualify for disclosure when a request for records is received and if the requested record is subject to redaction or delay from disclosure.

For purposes of this section, a record includes (Penal Code § 832.7(b)(3):

- All investigation reports.
- Photographic, audio, and video evidence.
- Transcripts or recordings of interviews.
- Autopsy reports.
- All materials compiled and presented for review to the District Attorney or to any person or body charged with determining whether to file criminal charges against an officer in connection with an incident, whether the officer's action was consistent with law and department policy for purposes of discipline or administrative action, or what discipline to impose or corrective action to take.
- Documents setting forth findings or recommending findings.
- Copies of disciplinary records relating to the incident, including any letters of intent to impose discipline, any documents reflecting modifications of discipline due to the *Skelly* or grievance process, and letters indicating final imposition of discipline or other documentation reflecting implementation of corrective action.

Unless a record or information is confidential or qualifies for delayed disclosure as provided by Penal Code § 832.7(b)(8) or other law, the following records (hereinafter qualifying records) shall be made available for public inspection no later than 45 days from the date of a request (Penal Code § 832.7(b)(1)):

(a) Records relating to the report, investigation, or findings of:

1. The discharge of a firearm at another person by an officer.
2. The use of force against a person resulting in death or in great bodily injury (as defined by Penal Code § 243(f)(4)) by an officer.

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3. A sustained finding involving a complaint that alleges unreasonable or excessive force.
4. A sustained finding that an officer failed to intervene against another officer using force that is clearly unreasonable or excessive.

(b) Records relating to an incident where a sustained finding was made by the Department or oversight agency regarding:

1. An officer engaged in sexual assault of a member of the public (as defined by Penal Code § 832.7(b)).
2. Dishonesty of an officer relating to the reporting, investigation, or prosecution of a crime, or directly relating to the reporting of, or investigation of misconduct by, another officer, including but not limited to any false statements, filing false reports, destruction, falsifying, or concealing of evidence, or perjury.
3. An officer engaged in conduct including but not limited to verbal statements, writings, online posts, recordings, and gestures involving prejudice or discrimination against a person on the basis of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, or military and veteran status.
4. An officer made an unlawful arrest or conducted an unlawful search.

Qualifying records will be made available regardless of whether the officer resigns before the Department or an oversight agency concludes its investigation (Penal Code § 832.7(b)(3)).

A record from a separate and prior investigation or assessment of a separate incident shall not be released unless it is independently subject to disclosure (Penal Code § 832.7(b)(4)).

When an investigation involves multiple officers, the Department shall not release information about allegations of misconduct or the analysis or disposition of an investigation of an officer unless it relates to a sustained finding of a qualified allegation as provided by Penal Code § 832.7(b)(5). However, factual information about the action of the officer during an incident or the statements of an officer shall be released if the statements are relevant to a finding of the qualified allegation against another officer that is subject to release (Penal Code § 832.7(b)(5)).

1026.12.1 NOTICE OF DELAY OF RECORDS

When there is justification for delay of disclosure of qualifying records, the Custodian of Records shall provide written notice of the reason for any delay to a requester as follows (Penal Code § 832.7):

(a) Provide the specific basis for the determination that the interest in delaying disclosure clearly outweighs the public interest in disclosure. The notice shall also include the estimated date for the disclosure of the withheld information.

(b) When delay is continued beyond the initial 60 days because of criminal enforcement proceedings against anyone, at 180-day intervals provide the specific basis that

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disclosure could reasonably be expected to interfere with a criminal enforcement proceeding and the estimated date for disclosure.

1. Information withheld shall be disclosed when the specific basis for withholding the information is resolved, the investigation or proceeding is no longer active, or no later than 18 months after the date of the incident, whichever occurs sooner, unless:

    (a) When the criminal proceeding is against someone other than an officer and there are extraordinary circumstances to warrant a continued delay due to the ongoing criminal investigation or proceeding, then the Department must show by clear and convincing evidence that the interest in preventing prejudice to the active and ongoing criminal investigation or proceeding outweighs the public interest for prompt disclosure of records about misconduct or use of force by officers.

In cases where an action to compel disclosure is brought pursuant to Government Code § 6258, the Department may justify delay by filing an application to seal the basis for withholding if disclosure of the written basis itself would impact a privilege or compromise a pending investigation (Penal Code § 832.7(b)(8)).

1026.12.2 DELAY OF RELEASE

Unless otherwise directed by the Chief of Police, the Custodian of Records should consult with a supervisor familiar with the underlying investigation to determine whether to delay disclosure of qualifying records due to any of the following conditions (Penal Code § 832.7):

(a) Active criminal investigations

1. Disclosure may be delayed 60 days from the date the misconduct or use of force occurred or until the District Attorney determines whether to file criminal charges, whichever occurs sooner.

2. After the initial 60 days, delay of disclosure may be continued if the disclosure could reasonably be expected to interfere with a criminal enforcement proceeding against an officer or against someone other than an officer who engaged in misconduct or used the force.

(b) Filed criminal charges

1. When charges are filed related to an incident in which misconduct occurred or force was used, disclosure may be delayed until a verdict on those charges is returned at trial or, if a plea of guilty or no contest is entered, the time to withdraw the plea has passed.

(c) Administrative investigations

1. Disclosure may be delayed until:

    (a) There is a determination from the investigation whether the misconduct or use of force violated law or department policy, but no longer than 180 days after the date of the department's discovery of the misconduct or use of force or allegation of misconduct or use of force

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1026.12.3 REDACTION

The Custodian of Records, in consultation with the Chief of Police or authorized designee, shall redact the following portions of qualifying records made available for release (Penal Code § 832.7(b)(6)):

(a) Personal data or information (e.g., home address, telephone number, identities of family members) other than the names and work-related information of officers

(b) Information that would compromise the anonymity of whistleblowers, complainants, victims, and witnesses

(c) Confidential medical, financial, or other information where disclosure is prohibited by federal law or would cause an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy that clearly outweighs the strong public interest in records about possible misconduct and use of force

(d) Where there is a specific, articulable, and particularized reason to believe that disclosure of the record would pose a significant danger to the physical safety of the officer or another person

Additionally, a record may be redacted, including redacting personal identifying information, where, on the facts of the particular case, the public interest served by not disclosing the information clearly outweighs the public interest served by disclosing it (Penal Code § 832.7(b)(7)).

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Request for Change of Assignment

1028.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

It is the intent of the Department that all requests for change of assignment are considered equally. To facilitate the selection process, the following procedure is established whereby all such requests will be reviewed on an equal basis as assignments are made.

1028.2 REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT

Personnel wishing a change of assignment are to complete a Request for Change of Assignment form. The form should then be forwarded through the chain of command to their Division Commander.

1028.2.1 PURPOSE OF FORM

The form is designed to aid employees in listing their qualifications for specific assignments. All relevant experience, education and training should be included when completing this form.

All assignments an employee is interested in should be listed on the form.

The Request for Change of Assignment form will remain in effect until the end of the calendar year in which it was submitted. Effective January 1st of each year, employees still interested in new positions will need to complete and submit a new Change of Assignment Request form.

1028.3 SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTARY

The officer's immediate supervisor shall make appropriate comments in the space provided on the form before forwarding it to the Division Commander of the employee involved. In the case of patrol officers, the Watch Commander must comment on the request with his/her recommendation before forwarding the request to the Division Commander. If the Watch Commander does not receive the Change of Assignment Request Form, the Division Commander will initial the form and return it to the employee without consideration.

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Patrol Scheduling

1029.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that proper procedures are followed during scheduling of vacations and other leaves. The Department intends to balance the employee's needs against the need to have flexibility and discretion in meeting operational needs. The paramount concern is the need to meet operational requirements of the Department.

1029.2 LEAVE REQUESTS

Patrol requests for days off (Vacation, Personal Leave, Comp) should be submitted two weeks prior to the requested time off. Any requests made less than two weeks in advance will not be approved unless the patrol team is above staffing minimums and no other employees are scheduled off.

Only one employee is allowed off per team per shift unless there is prior watch commander approval.

If officer requests a day off or several days off that include a holiday (i.e. Christmas Eve and Day, Thanksgiving, 4th of July, New Years Eve and Day), it is the officer's responsibility to find a replacement for the holiday if it will bring the team below staffing minimums.

There may be circumstances where day off requests are not approved for certain days for organizational needs, such as maximum deployment incidents or events.

1029.3 PATROL ON-CALL

Patrol officers that are placed on call for patrol shift coverage are on call beginning at 0600 hrs and concluding at 1900 hrs.

Officers on-call are required to be available by phone during those hours. Once a vacancy requires the use of the on-call officer the supervisor or Watch Commander will make the notification to the on-call officer as soon as practical.

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Employee Commendations

1030.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Special recognition may be in order whenever an employee performs his/her duties in an exemplary manner. This procedure provides general guidelines for the commending of exceptional employee performance.

1030.2 WHO MAY MAKE COMMENDATIONS

A written commendation may be made by any supervisor regarding any other employee of the Department, provided the reporting person is superior in rank or is the person-in-charge of the individual being commended. Additionally, investigating officers may commend uniformed officers for exceptional assistance in investigative functions, with approval from the investigator's supervisor. Any employee may recommend a commendation to the supervisor of the employee subject to commendation.

1030.3 COMMENDABLE ACTIONS

A meritorious or commendable act by an employee of this department may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Superior handling of a difficult situation by an employee
- Conspicuous bravery or outstanding performance by any employee of the Department
- Any action or performance that is above and beyond the typical duties of an employee

1030.3.1 COMMENDATION INCIDENT REPORT

The Commendation Incident Report shall be used to document the commendation of the employee and shall contain the following:

(a) Employee name, bureau, and assignment at the date and time of the commendation

(b) A brief account of the commendable action shall be documented on the form with report numbers, as appropriate

(c) Signature of the commending supervisor

Completed reports shall be forwarded to the appropriate Division Commander for his/her review. The Division Commander shall sign and forward the report to the Chief of Police for his/her review.

The Chief of Police will return the commendation to the employee for his/her signature. The report will then be returned to the Administrative Secretary for entry into the employee's personnel file.

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Fitness for Duty

1032.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

All officers are required to be free from any physical, emotional, or mental condition which might adversely affect the exercise of peace officer powers. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all officers of this department remain fit for duty and able to perform their job functions (Government Code § 1031).

1032.2 EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) It shall be the responsibility of each member of this department to maintain good physical condition sufficient to safely and properly perform essential duties of their position.

(b) Each member of this department shall perform his/her respective duties without physical, emotional, and/or mental constraints.

(c) During working hours, all employees are required to be alert, attentive, and capable of performing his/her assigned responsibilities.

(d) Any employee who feels unable to perform his/her duties shall promptly notify a supervisor. In the event that an employee believes that another employee is unable to perform his/her duties, such observations and/or belief shall be promptly reported to a supervisor.

1032.3 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) A supervisor observing an employee, or receiving a report of an employee who is perceived to be, unable to safely perform his/her duties due to a physical or mental condition shall take prompt and appropriate action in an effort to resolve the situation.

(b) Whenever feasible, the supervisor should attempt to ascertain the reason or source of the problem and in all cases a preliminary evaluation should be made in an effort to determine the level of inability of the employee to perform his/her duties.

(c) In the event the employee appears to be in need of immediate medical or psychiatric treatment, all reasonable efforts should be made to provide such care.

(d) In conjunction with the Watch Commander or employee's available Assistant Chief, a determination should be made whether or not the employee should be temporarily relieved from his/her duties.

(e) The Chief of Police shall be promptly notified in the event that any employee is relieved from duty.

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1032.4 NON-WORK RELATED CONDITIONS

Any employee suffering from a non-work related condition which warrants a temporary relief from duty may be required to use sick leave or other paid time off (PTO) in order to obtain medical treatment or other reasonable rest period.

1032.5 WORK RELATED CONDITIONS

Any employee suffering from a work related condition which warrants a temporary relief from duty shall be required to comply with personnel rules and guidelines for processing such claims.

Upon the recommendation of the Watch Commander or unit supervisor and concurrence of a Assistant Chief, any employee whose actions or use of force in an official capacity result in death or serious injury to another may be temporarily removed from regularly assigned duties and/or placed on paid administrative leave for the wellbeing of the employee and until such time as the following may be completed:

(a) A preliminary determination that the employee's conduct appears to be in compliance with policy and, if appropriate.

(b) The employee has had the opportunity to receive necessary counseling and/or psychological clearance to return to full duty.

1032.6 PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

(a) Whenever circumstances reasonably indicate that an employee is unfit for duty, the Chief of Police may serve that employee with a written order to undergo a physical and/or psychological examination in cooperation with Human Resources Department to determine the level of the employee's fitness for duty. The order shall indicate the date, time and place for the examination.

(b) The examining physician or therapist will provide the Department with a report indicating that the employee is either fit for duty or, if not, listing any functional limitations which limit the employee's ability to perform job duties (Civil Code § 56.10 (c)(8)(A)). If the employee places his/her condition at issue in any subsequent or related administrative action/grievance, the examining physician or therapist may be required to disclose any and all information which is relevant to such proceeding (Civil Code § 56.10(c)(8)(B)).

(c) In order to facilitate the examination of any employee, the Department will provide all appropriate documents and available information to assist in the evaluation and/or treatment.

(d) All reports and evaluations submitted by the treating physician or therapist shall be part of the employee's confidential personnel file.

(e) Any employee ordered to receive a fitness for duty examination shall comply with the terms of the order and cooperate fully with the examining physician or therapist

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regarding any clinical interview, tests administered or other procedures as directed. Any failure to comply with such an order and any failure to cooperate with the examining physician or therapist may be deemed insubordination and shall be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

(f) Once an employee has been deemed fit for duty by the examining physician or therapist, the employee will be notified to resume his/her duties.

1032.7 LIMITATION ON HOURS WORKED

Absent emergency operations members should not work more than:

- 16 hours in one day (24 hour) period or
- 30 hours in any 2 day (48 hour) period or
- 84 hours in any 7 day (168 hour) period

Except in very limited circumstances members should have a minimum of 8 hours off between shifts. Supervisors should give consideration to reasonable rest periods and are authorized to deny overtime or relieve to off-duty status any member who has exceeded the above guidelines.

Limitations on the number of hours worked apply to shift changes, shift trades, rotation, holdover, training, general overtime and any other work assignments.

1032.8 APPEALS

An employee who is separated from paid employment or receives a reduction in salary resulting from a fitness for duty examination shall be entitled to an administrative appeal as outlined in the Personnel Complaints Policy.

1032.9 PSYCHOLOGICAL OR EMOTIONAL INJURIES

Any sworn officer who is off work due to an emotional or psychological condition, whether work or non-work related shall relinquish any badge, departmental identification, assigned weapon(s) and any other departmental equipment as requested to the Professional Standards Commander.

The employee may be ordered to refrain from taking any action as a departmental employee or in an official capacity. The employee shall be required to continue to comply with all policies and lawful orders of a supervisor.

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Temporary Total Disability and Temporary Modified Duty Assignments

1033.1 SCOPE

The Ventura Police Department's Administrative Regulation for Temporary Total Disability (TTD) and Temporary Modified Duty (TMD) Assignments shall apply to all department employees (sworn and civilian) who, for medical reasons, are temporarily unable to perform their usual and customary duties.

1033.2 PURPOSE

The occurrence of lost workdays can be detrimental to the Department's ever-present mission to provide public safety. TMD, when used appropriately, can assist the Department in meeting critical and emergency staffing needs. The inappropriate use of TMD placement can be detrimental to organizational productivity.

The purpose of this policy is to supplement the City of Ventura's AP&P No. 12.15, which establishes the basic Temporary Modified Duty Assignment policies for all City employees.

1033.3 DEFINITIONS

(a) Authorized Medical Provider: The medical providers who are authorized by City Risk Management to provide emergency care and follow-up care to any city employee seeking treatment for an on-duty injury. For the purposes of this directive, Authorized Medical Providers includes those medical providers who have been pre-designated by department members

(b) Temporary Total Disability (TTD): When an employee's medical restriction does not allow for a reasonable accommodation of any type of TMD assignment because of injury or illness on a short-term basis and the restrictions have not been deemed to be permanent.

1033.4 POLICY

Employees temporarily disabled from their regular job may be considered for Temporary Modified Duty Assignments subject to the requirements and policies set forth in City AP&P No. 12.15.

Employee's placed on Modified Duty will normally work a Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. schedule. Exceptions to the normal Modified Duty schedule may be made by the Professional Standards Commander based upon a specific modified duty assignment or immediate Department need.

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1033.5 RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) Chief: Sworn officers assigned to TMD shall retain their peace officer status, unless otherwise determined by the Chief of Police. All employees who qualify under this policy are subject to all Department rules, regulations and policies

(b) Professional Standards Commander: The Professional Standards Commander is responsible for insuring that personnel on TMD return to full-duty as soon as possible by monitoring the injured employee's progress. The Professional Standards Commander shall devise and implement a monitoring plan to ensure that any approved TMD assignment continues to comply with the employee's work restrictions

(c) Employee: An employee must immediately notify his or her supervisor or manager of any condition, medical or otherwise, that impacts their ability to completely perform their usual and customary duties or TMD in an effective and safe manner. Employees classified as temporarily, partially disabled shall report to the Professional Standards Commander for consideration of an accommodation to allow for a TMD assignment. After consultation with the affected Division Commander and approval of the Chief of Police, the employee shall receive line supervision from the Department unit to which they are assigned. The Professional Standards Commander will monitor the assignment with the goal of achieving the successful return of the employee to full duty under the general provisions of this order. The intent of a TMD assignment is to provide early and transitional opportunities in order to return to full productive work status, keep employees involved in productive work, but not subject them to conditions that may aggravate their medical conditions. Such employees, as well as their supervisors, are to use their good judgment and confine any direct intervention to those instances that present an immediate and clear jeopardy to life or substantial property loss.

1033.6 TEMPORARY TOTAL DISABILITY PROCEDURES

In order for the Ventura Police Department to execute critical mission for public safety, it is essential that all Department members be readily available for contact and assistance as community need dictates. The purpose of this procedure is to ensure the Department's ability to quickly access and mobilize member resources.

Members deemed by the city to be temporarily totally disabled (TTD) are required to notify the Department immediately and adhere to all medical restrictions, as required by the treating physician at all times. A member placed on TTD status shall report in person, unless otherwise impractical or prohibited by medical restrictions, to the Professional Standards Commander or Sergeant within one business day of the diagnosis.

Unless prohibited by specific medical restrictions, an employee placed on TTD status shall report weekly, in person, to the Professional Standards Commander or designee.

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If an employee is unable to report in person to the Professional Standards Commander or designee at the police department facility, then he or she will make himself or herself available to meet in person at the employee's residence.

If it is most practical, the Professional Standards Commander or designee may, at their discretion, accept a telephone conversation in lieu of an in-person meeting. Unless prohibited by specific medical restrictions, an employee placed on TTD status shall return telephone calls to the Professional Standards Commander or designee as necessary.

While on TTD status, employees may not take a vacation or other leave of absence without authorization from the Professional Standards Commander or designee. While on vacation, employees will remain on 4850 time.

The employee may be excused from the weekly contact if he or she is out of the local area due to an authorized vacation or other authorized leave of absence.

1033.7 PROCEDURE FOR REQUEST OF TEMPORARY MODIFIED DUTY

Employees unable to perform their usual and customary duties may request a TMD assignment by complying with the procedures outlined in section 4(a) through 4(f) of City AP&P No. 12.15. This request must be made to the Professional Services Commander within 24 hours of the medical appointment from which the restrictions were given.

1033.8 MEDICAL EXAMINATION PROCEDURES

(a) The field supervisor on-duty or the designee of the on-duty Watch Commander should accompany an employee, who is injured on duty, to the initial medical examination appointment. The supervisor or designee shall not attempt to witness the examination or inquire as to the medical details of the medical examination. The sole purpose of the supervisor or designee being present shall be to contact the treating medical provider, after the examination is completed, to explain the department TMD policy and TMD opportunities to the physician, and to confirm whether or not the employee is able to work a TMD assignment.

(b) The Professional Standards Commander or any other on duty supervisor he designates shall whenever necessary accompany the employee to medical examination appointments subsequent to the initial examination. As with the initial examination, the supervisor or designee shall not attempt to witness the examination or inquire as to the medical details of the medical examination. The Professional Standards Commander or his designee shall contact the treating medical provider solely for the purpose of explaining the TMD policy and TMD opportunities to the provider and to confirm whether or not the employee is able to work a TMD assignment.

(c) The Professional Standards Commander shall be responsible for knowing when follow-up medical appointments are scheduled and will be responsible for contacting

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the injured employee to let them know when a supervisor or manager will be attending any medical examination appointment and the reasons for attending.

(d) Any conversations between the Professional Standards Commander or his designee and the treating medical provider will be conducted in the presence of the injured employee.

1033.9 PSYCHOLOGICAL OR EMOTIONAL INJURIES

Any sworn officer who is placed off work due to a psychological condition, whether work or non-work related, shall be subject to an independent psychological examination by the Department contracted psychological services provider, pursuant to Ventura Police Department Policy Section 1032.6, and shall have his or her Peace Officer powers suspended by the Chief of Police for the duration of the condition, if the examination indicates that the officer is not psychologically fit to exercise his or her Peace Officer powers.

1033.10 TRAINING OF SWORN PERSONNEL RETURNING TO PATROL DUTY

Sworn employees who are off work for 6 months or more on TTD status, and who return to a uniformed patrol assignment, shall satisfactorily complete the department's field training refresher program prior to release as a solo patrol officer. This training shall be conducted by a department authorized field-training officer and will minimally consist of demonstrated knowledge in all field training program-learning objectives as indicated by completion of the standard FTO checklist. This procedure can be conducted by a face to face meeting and interview between an FTO and the returning sworn employee, and does not necessarily require the sworn employee to actually demonstrate performance in the field.

The purpose of the refresher program is to ensure that the returning sworn employee is familiar with any changes to the law and/or to any department policy or procedure that may have changed during the period of TTD. The length of time in refresher training will depend on the returning employee's demonstrated knowledge of the field-training program learning objectives and any changes to the law or procedures. The employee's supervisor may, at the recommendation of the FTO, require time spent in the field where the returning employee will be required to demonstrate knowledge in all field training program-learning objectives.

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Meal Periods and Breaks

1034.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To provide the highest possible customer service to the community and establish protocols for meal breaks, responses to calls for service, and other dispatch related directions to assist patrol in providing professional and timely service.

1034.1.1 MEAL PERIODS

Sworn employees and dispatchers shall remain on duty subject to call during meal breaks. All other employees are not on call during meal breaks unless directed otherwise by a supervisor.

Uniformed patrol and traffic officers shall request clearance from the Communications Center prior to taking a meal period. Uniformed officers shall take their breaks within the City limits unless on assignment outside of the City.

The time spent for the meal period shall not exceed the authorized time allowed.

1034.1.2 15 MINUTE BREAKS

Each employee is entitled to a 15 minute break, near the mid point, for each four-hour work period. Only one 15 minute break shall be taken during each four hours of duty. No breaks shall be taken during the first or last hour of an employee's shift unless approved by a supervisor.

Employees normally assigned to the police facility shall remain in the police facility for their breaks. This would not prohibit them from taking a break outside the facility if on official business.

Field officers will take their breaks in their assigned areas, subject to call and shall monitor their radios. When field officers take their breaks away from their vehicles, they shall do so only with the knowledge and clearance of the Communications Center.

1034.1.3 PATROL CODE SEVEN

Patrol A Watch – 2 Units at a time can be cleared for Code 7 prior to B Watch Deployment provided there are no pending calls for service with a suspect present in the affected beat.
During the A/B or B/C Deployment, once B watch has been deployed, up to 4 units may be cleared for Code 7 provided there are no pending calls for service with a suspect present in any of the affected beats of the requesting units. Patrol C Watch - 2 Units at a time can be cleared for Code 7 provided there are no pending calls for service with a suspect present in the affected beat.

1034.1.4 PATROL CROSS BEAT DISPATCHING

To provide the highest level of customer service, in the event that such calls are pending for more than 60 minutes or there are multiple calls pending, it may be required to dispatch officers from an adjoining beat to handle priority 3 calls for service in an adjoining beat.

1034.1.5 EOW DISPATCH CALLS

Any priority 1 or 2 calls that are considered in progress near the end of either A or C watch and there are no other units available, will be dispatched as soon as practical. If there is a priority 3 call,

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units will be dispatched where there is an expectation that the criminal event can be eliminated within 45 minutes of EOW.

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Lactation Break Policy

1035.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide reasonable accommodations to employees desiring to express breast milk for the employee's infant child (Labor Code § 1034).

1035.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this department to provide, in compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act, reasonable break time and appropriate facilities to accommodate any employee desiring to express breast milk for her nursing infant child (29 USC § 207 and Labor Code § 1030).

1035.3 LACTATION BREAK TIME

A rest period should be permitted each time the employee has the need to express breast milk (29 USC § 207; Labor Code § 1030). In general, lactation breaks that cumulatively total 30 minutes or less during any four-hour work period or major portion of a four-hour work period would be considered reasonable. However, individual circumstances may require more or less time. Such breaks, if feasible, should be taken at the same time as the employee's regularly scheduled rest or meal periods.

While a reasonable effort will be made to provide additional time beyond authorized breaks, any such time exceeding regularly scheduled and paid break time will be unpaid (Labor Code § 1030).

Employees desiring to take a lactation break shall notify Communications Center or a supervisor prior to taking such a break. Such breaks may be reasonably delayed if they would seriously disrupt department operations (Labor Code § 1032).

Once a lactation break has been approved, the break should not be interrupted except for emergency or exigent circumstances.

1035.4 PRIVATE LOCATION

The Department will make reasonable efforts to accommodate employees with the use of an appropriate room or other location to express milk in private. Such room or place should be in close proximity to the employee's work area and shall be other than a bathroom or toilet stall. The location must be shielded from view and free from intrusion from co-workers and the public (29 USC § 207 and Labor Code § 1031).

Employees occupying such private areas shall either secure the door or otherwise make it clear to others that the area is occupied with a need for privacy. All other employees should avoid interrupting an employee during an authorized break, except to announce an emergency or other urgent circumstance.

Authorized lactation breaks for employees assigned to the field may be taken at the nearest appropriate private area.

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1035.5 STORAGE OF EXPRESSED MILK

Any employee storing expressed milk in any authorized refrigerated area within the Department shall clearly label it as such and shall remove it when the employee ends her shift.

1035.5.1 STATE REQUIREMENTS

Employees have the right to request lactation accommodations. If a break time or location accommodation cannot be provided, the supervisor shall provide the member with a written response regarding the reasons for the determination (Labor Code § 1034).

Lactation rooms or other locations should comply with the prescribed feature and access requirements of Labor Code § 1031.

Employees who believe that their rights have been violated under this policy or have been the subject of discrimination or retaliation for exercising or attempting to exercise their rights under this policy, are encouraged to follow the chain of command in reporting a violation, but may also file a complaint directly with the Labor Commissioner (Labor Code § 1033).

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Time Card Procedures

1036.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Payroll records are submitted to Professional Standards on a bi-weekly basis for the payment of wages.

1036.1.1 RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPLETION OF PAYROLL RECORDS

Employees are responsible for the accurate and timely submission of payroll records for the payment of wages.

1036.1.2 TIME REQUIREMENTS

All employees are paid on a bi-weekly basis usually on Friday with certain exceptions such as holidays. Payroll records shall be completed and submitted to Professional Standards no later than 8:00 a.m. on the Wednesday morning before the end of the pay period, unless specified otherwise.

1036.2 TIME REQUIREMENTS

Members who are eligible for the payment of wages are paid on a scheduled, periodic basis, generally on the same day or date each period, with certain exceptions, such as holidays. Payroll records shall be completed and submitted to Administrative Operations as established by the City payroll procedures.

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Overtime Compensation Requests

1038.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

It is the policy of the Department to compensate non-exempt salaried employees who work authorized overtime either by payment of wages as agreed and in effect through the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), or by the allowance of accrual of compensatory time off. In order to qualify for either, the employee must complete and submit a Request for Overtime Payment as soon as practical after overtime is worked.

1038.1.1 DEPARTMENT POLICY

Because of the nature of police work, and the specific needs of the Department, a degree of flexibility concerning overtime policies must be maintained.

Non-exempt employees are not authorized to volunteer work time to the Department. All requests to work overtime shall be approved in advance by a supervisor. If circumstances do not permit prior approval, then approval shall be sought as soon as practical during the overtime shift and in no case later than the end of shift in which the overtime is worked.

Short periods of work at the end of the normal duty day (e.g., less than one hour in duration) may be handled unofficially between the supervisor and the employee by flexing a subsequent shift schedule to compensate for the time worked rather than by submitting requests for overtime payments. If the supervisor authorizes or directs the employee to complete a form for such a period, the employee shall comply.

The individual employee may request compensatory time in lieu of receiving overtime payment, however, the employee may not exceed 480 hours of compensatory time.

1038.2 REQUEST FOR OVERTIME COMPENSATION

Employees shall submit all overtime compensation requests to their immediate supervisors as soon as practicable for verification and forwarding to the Administrative Operations Division.

Failure to submit a request for overtime compensation in a timely manner may result in discipline.

1038.2.1 EMPLOYEES RESPONSIBILITY

Employees shall complete the requests immediately after working the overtime and turn them in to their immediate supervisor or the Watch Commander. Employees submitting overtime cards for on-call pay when off duty shall submit cards to the Watch Commander the first day after returning for work.

1038.2.2 SUPERVISORS RESPONSIBILITY

The supervisor who verifies the overtime earned shall verify that the overtime was worked before approving the request.

After the entry has been made on the employee's time card, the overtime payment request form is forwarded to the employee's Assistant Chief for final approval.

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1038.2.3 DIVISION COMMANDERS RESPONSIBILITY
Division Commanders, after approving payment, will then forward the form to the Chief of Police for review.

1038.3 ACCOUNTING FOR OVERTIME WORKED

Employees are to record the actual time worked in an overtime status. In some cases, the Memorandum of Understanding provides that a minimum number of hours will be paid, (e.g., two hours for Court, four hours for outside overtime). The supervisor will enter the actual time worked.

1038.3.1 ACCOUNTING FOR PORTIONS OF AN HOUR
When accounting for less than a full hour, time worked shall be rounded up to the nearest quarter of an hour as indicated by the following chart:

TIME WORKED	INDICATE ON CARD
1 to 15 minutes	.25
16 to 30 minutes	.50
31 to 45 minutes	.75
46 to 60 minutes	1 hour

1038.3.2 VARIATION IN TIME REPORTED
Where two or more employees are assigned to the same activity, case, or court trial and the amount of time for which payment is requested varies from that reported by the other officer, the Watch Commander or other approving supervisor may require each employee to include the reason for the variation as part of the overtime payment request.

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Outside Employment

1040.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

In order to avoid actual or perceived conflicts of interest for departmental employees engaging in outside employment, all employees shall obtain written approval from the Chief of Police prior to engaging in any outside employment. Approval of outside employment shall be at the discretion of the Chief of Police in accordance with the provisions of this policy.

1040.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Outside Employment - Any member of this department who receives wages, compensation or other consideration of value from another employer, organization or individual not affiliated directly with this department for services, product(s) or benefits rendered. For purposes of this section, the definition of outside employment includes those employees who are self-employed and not affiliated directly with this department for services, product(s) or benefits rendered.

Outside Overtime - Any member of this department who performs duties or services on behalf of an outside organization, company, or individual within this jurisdiction. Such outside overtime shall be requested and scheduled directly through this department so that the Department may be reimbursed for the cost of wages and benefits.

1040.2 OBTAINING APPROVAL

No member of this department may engage in any outside employment without first obtaining prior written approval of the Chief of Police. Failure to obtain prior written approval for outside employment or engaging in outside employment prohibited by this policy may lead to disciplinary action.

In order to obtain approval for outside employment, the employee must complete an Outside Employment Application which shall be submitted to the employee's immediate supervisor. The application will then be forwarded through channels to the Chief of Police for consideration.

If approved, the employee will be provided with a copy of the approved permit. Unless otherwise indicated in writing on the approved permit, a permit will be valid through the end of the calendar year in which the permit is approved. Any employee seeking to renew a permit shall submit a new Outside Employment Application in a timely manner.

Any employee seeking approval of outside employment, whose request has been denied, shall be provided with a written reason for the denial of the application at the time of the denial (Penal Code § 70(e)(3)).

1040.2.1 APPEAL OF DENIAL OF OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

If an employee's Outside Employment Application is denied or withdrawn by the Department, the employee may file a written notice of appeal to the Chief of Police within ten days of the date of denial.

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If the employee's appeal is denied, the employee may file a grievance pursuant to the procedure set forth in the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

1040.2.2 REVOCATION/SUSPENSION OF OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT PERMITS
Any outside employment permit may be revoked or suspended under the following circumstances:

(a) Should an employee's performance at this department decline to a point where it is evaluated by a supervisor as needing improvement to reach an overall level of competency, the Chief of Police may, at his or her discretion, revoke any previously approved outside employment permit(s). That revocation will stand until the employee's performance has been reestablished at a satisfactory level and his/her supervisor recommends reinstatement of the outside employment permit

(b) Suspension or revocation of a previously approved outside employment permit may be included as a term or condition of sustained discipline

(c) If, at any time during the term of a valid outside employment permit, an employee's conduct or outside employment conflicts with the provisions of department policy, the permit may be suspended or revoked

(d) When an employee is unable to perform at a full duty capacity due to an injury or other condition, any previously approved outside employment permit may be subject to similar restrictions as those applicable to the employee's full time duties until the employee has returned to a full duty status

1040.3 PROHIBITED OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT
Consistent with the provisions of Government Code § 1126, the Department expressly reserves the right to deny any Outside Employment Application submitted by an employee seeking to engage in any activity which:

(a) Involves the employee's use of departmental time, facilities, equipment or supplies, the use of the Department badge, uniform, prestige or influence for private gain or advantage

(b) Involves the employee's receipt or acceptance of any money or other consideration from anyone other than this department for the performance of an act which the employee, if not performing such act, would be required or expected to render in the regular course or hours of employment or as a part of the employee's duties as a member of this department

(c) Involves the performance of an act in other than the employee's capacity as a member of this department that may later be subject directly or indirectly to the control, inspection, review, audit or enforcement of any other employee of this department

(d) Involves time demands that would render performance of the employee's duties for this department less efficient

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1040.3.1 OUTSIDE SECURITY AND PEACE OFFICER EMPLOYMENT

Consistent with the provisions of Penal Code § 70, and because it would further create a potential conflict of interest, no member of this department may engage in any outside or secondary employment as a private security guard, private investigator or other similar private security position.

Any private organization, entity or individual seeking special services for security or traffic control from members of this department must submit a written request to the Chief of Police in advance of the desired service. Such outside extra duty overtime assignments will be assigned, monitored and paid through the Department.

(a) The applicant will be required to enter into an indemnification agreement prior to approval.

(b) The applicant will further be required to provide for the compensation and full benefits of all employees requested for such outside security services.

(c) Should such a request be approved, any employee working outside overtime shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. The officer(s) shall wear the departmental uniform/identification.
2. The officer(s) shall be subject to the rules and regulations of this department.
3. No officer may engage in such outside employment during or at the site of a strike, lockout, picket, or other physical demonstration of a labor dispute.
4. Compensation for such approved outside security services shall be pursuant to normal overtime procedures.
5. Outside security services shall not be subject to the collective bargaining process.
6. No officer may engage in outside employment as a peace officer for any other public agency without prior written authorization of the Chief of Police.

1040.3.2 OUTSIDE OVERTIME ARREST AND REPORTING PROCEDURE

Any employee making an arrest or taking other official police action while working in an approved outside overtime assignment shall be required to complete all related reports in a timely manner pursuant to department policy. Time spent on the completion of such reports shall be considered incidental to the outside overtime assignment.

1040.3.3 SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

Except for emergency situations or with prior authorization from the Division Commander, undercover officers or officers assigned to covert operations shall not be eligible to work overtime or other assignments in a uniformed or other capacity which might reasonably disclose the officer's law enforcement status.

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1040.4 DEPARTMENT RESOURCES

Employees are prohibited from using any department equipment or resources in the course of or for the benefit of any outside employment. This shall include the prohibition of access to official records or databases of this department or other agencies through the use of the employee's position with this department.

1040.4.1 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL RECORDS

Employees approved for outside employment expressly agree that their personal financial records may be requested and reviewed/audited for potential conflict of interest (Government Code § 3308; Government Code § 1126). Prior to providing written approval for an outside employment position, the Department may request that an employee provide his/her personal financial records for review/audit in order to determine whether a conflict of interest exists. Failure of the employee to provide the requested personal financial records could result in denial of the off-duty work permit. If, after approving a request for an outside employment position, the Department becomes concerned that a conflict of interest exists based on a financial reason, the Department may request that the employee provide his/her personal financial records for review/audit. If the employee elects not to provide the requested records, his/her off-duty work permit may be revoked pursuant to § 1040.2.2(c) of this policy.

1040.5 CHANGES IN OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT STATUS

If an employee terminates his or her outside employment during the period of a valid permit, the employee shall promptly submit written notification of such termination to the Chief of Police through channels. Any subsequent request for renewal or continued outside employment must thereafter be processed and approved through normal procedures set forth in this policy.

Employees shall also promptly submit in writing to the Chief of Police any material changes in outside employment including any change in the number of hours, type of duties, or demands of any approved outside employment. Employees who are uncertain whether a change in outside employment is material are advised to report the change.

1040.6 OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT WHILE ON DISABILITY

Department members engaged in outside employment who are placed on disability leave or modified/light-duty shall inform their immediate supervisor in writing within five days whether or not they intend to continue to engage in such outside employment while on such leave or light-duty status. The immediate supervisor shall review the duties of the outside employment along with any related doctor's orders, and make a recommendation to the Chief of Police whether such outside employment should continue.

In the event the Chief of Police determines that the outside employment should be discontinued or if the employee fails to promptly notify his/her supervisor of his/her intentions regarding their work permit, a notice of revocation of the member's permit will be forwarded to the involved employee, and a copy attached to the original work permit.

Criteria for revoking the outside employment permit include, but are not limited to, the following:

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(a) The outside employment is medically detrimental to the total recovery of the disabled member, as indicated by the City's professional medical advisors.

(b) The outside employment performed requires the same or similar physical ability, as would be required of an on-duty member.

(c) The employee’s failure to make timely notice of their intentions to their supervisor.

When the disabled member returns to full duty with the Ventura Police Department, a request (in writing) may be made to the Chief of Police to restore the permit.

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Occupational Disease and Work-Related Injury Reporting

1042.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance regarding the timely reporting of occupational diseases, mental health issues, and work-related injuries.

1042.2 POLICY

The Ventura Police Department will address occupational diseases and work-related injuries appropriately, and will comply with applicable state workers' compensation requirements (Labor Code § 3200 et seq.).

1042.2.1 INJURIES REQUIRING MEDICAL CARE

All work related injuries and work related illnesses requiring medical care must be reported to the Risk Management Office and a claim form shall be provided to the injured employee within 24 hours from the time the injury was discovered, excluding weekends and holidays.

1042.2.2 ACCIDENT DEFINED

Accident - is defined as any occurrence from which bodily injury or property damage may result, regardless of whether any injury or damage actually does occur (e.g., exposure where no immediate injury is apparent).

1042.2.3 EMPLOYEE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Any employee sustaining any work-related injury or illness, as well as any employee who is involved in any accident while on duty shall report such injury, illness or accident as soon as practical to his/her supervisor.

Any employee observing or learning of a potentially hazardous condition is to promptly report the condition to his/her immediate supervisor.

Any employee sustaining a work-related injury or illness that requires relief from duty is required to be examined/treated by a doctor.

Any employee sustaining a work-related injury or illness that requires relief from duty is also required to comply with departmental policies and directives relating to the duty to periodically call in during absences, as well as the duty to notify the Department of any change in condition or anticipated duration of the absence.

When appropriate, an employee being treated for an on-duty injury should inform the attending physician that a modified duty assignment may be available at the Department. Limited-service duty may be available for the employees whose injuries prevent resumption of regular duties.

An injured employee or employee who has suffered a work-related illness shall report as soon as practical to his/her immediate supervisor the medical findings concerning the injury and the extent

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and duration of any work restrictions if they are known. In addition, such employees are required to promptly submit all medical releases, whether partial or full releases, to their supervisor.

1042.2.4 SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITY
A supervisor learning of any work-related injury, illness or accident shall promptly prepare the appropriate forms as outlined under Policy Manual § 1042.2. Updated copies of forms with instructions for completion provided by Risk Management are kept on the Supervisors' Drive.

For work-related accidents, injuries or illness not requiring professional medical care, a Supervisor's Report of Injury form shall be completed in triplicate. All copies of the completed form shall be forwarded to the supervisor's Assistant Chief, through the chain of command.

When an accident, injury, or illness is reported initially on the Supervisor's Report of Injury form and the employee subsequently requires professional medical care, the State of California Employer's Report of Occupational Injury or Illness form shall then be completed. The injured employee shall also sign the form in the appropriate location.

Every injured employee must be provided with an Employee's Claim for Workers' Compensation Benefits Form (DWC-1) within 24 hours, regardless of the nature of illness or injury.

Copies of any reports documenting the accident or injury should be forwarded to the Assistant Chief as soon as they are completed.

1042.2.5 ASSISTANT CHIEF RESPONSIBILITY
The Assistant Chief receiving a report of a work-related accident or injury should review the report for accuracy and determine what additional action should be taken. The report shall then be forwarded to the Chief of Police.

1042.2.6 CHIEF OF POLICE RESPONSIBILITY
The Chief of Police shall review and forward copies of the report to the Human Resources Department. Any copies of the report and any related documents retained by the Department shall be filed in the employee's confidential medical file and not in the employee's personnel file (see Policy Manual § 1026).

1042.3 INJURY NOT REQUIRING MEDICAL ATTENTION
Those injuries and illnesses not requiring medical attention shall be recorded on a Supervisor's Report of Injury form. This form shall be completed and signed by a supervisor.

This form shall be signed by the affected employee, indicating that he/she desired no medical attention at the time of the report. By signing this form, the employee will not preclude his/her ability to seek medical attention later.

1042.4 SETTLEMENT OF INJURY CLAIMS
Occasionally, an employee's work-related injury results from the negligent or wrongful acts of another, for which the employee, the City, and/or other insurers are entitled to recover civilly. To

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ensure that the City's interests are protected and that the employee has the benefit of the City's experience in these matters, the following procedure is to be followed:

1042.4.1 EMPLOYEE TO REPORT INITIAL CONTACTS

When an employee sustains work-related injuries caused by another person and is then approached by such person or an agent, insurance company, or attorney and offered a settlement of claims, that employee shall take no action other than to make a written report of this contact to his/her supervisor as soon as possible.

1042.4.2 NO SETTLEMENT WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL

No less than ten (10) days prior to accepting and finalizing the settlement of any third party claim arising out of or related to an on duty injury, the employee shall provide the Chief of Police with written notice of the proposed terms of such settlement. In no case shall the employee accept a settlement without first providing such written notice to the Chief of Police. The purpose of such notice to permit the City to determine whether or not the offered settlement will affect any claim the City may have regarding payment for damage(s) to equipment or reimbursement for wages against the person who caused the accident or injury and to protect the City's right of subrogation, while ensuring that the employee's rights to receive compensation for injuries are not affected.

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Personal Appearance Standards

1044.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

In order to project uniformity and neutrality toward the public and other members of the department, employees shall maintain their personal hygiene and appearance to project a professional image appropriate for this department and for their assignment.

1044.2 GROOMING STANDARDS

Unless otherwise stated and because deviations from these standards could present officer safety issues, the following appearance standards shall apply to all employees, except those whose current assignment would deem them not appropriate, and where the Chief of Police has granted exception.

1044.2.1 HAIR

Hairstyles of all members shall be neat in appearance. For male sworn members, hair must not extend below the top edge of the uniform collar while assuming a normal stance.

For female sworn members, hair must be no longer than the horizontal level of the bottom of the uniform patch when the employee is standing erect, worn up or in a tightly wrapped braid or ponytail.

1044.2.2 MUSTACHES

A short and neatly trimmed mustache may be worn. Mustaches shall not extend greater than one half inch beyond and one half inch below the corner of the mouth.

1044.2.3 SIDEBURNS

Sideburns shall not extend below the bottom of the ear. They shall not be excessively thick, or wider than 1-1/2 times their width from the juncture at the top of the ear.

1044.2.4 FACIAL HAIR

Facial hair other than sideburns, mustaches and eyebrows shall not be worn, unless authorized by the Chief of Police or his or her designee.

1044.2.5 FINGERNAILS

Fingernails extending beyond the tip of the finger can pose a safety hazard to officers or others. For this reason, fingernails shall be trimmed so that no point of the nail extends beyond the tip of the finger.

1044.2.6 JEWELRY AND ACCESSORIES

No jewelry or personal ornaments shall be worn by officers on any part of the uniform or equipment, except those authorized within this manual. Jewelry, if worn around the neck, shall not be visible above the shirt collar.

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1044.3 TATTOOS

While on duty or representing the Department in any official capacity, employees are prohibited from displaying any tattoos, decals or body art with the exception of employees who have received their commander's approval and are working in an undercover capacity, participating in non-uniformed department training or meeting out of public view and not in uniform. All tattoos shall be covered entirely by the uniform, business attire or black colored cover-up sleeves (e.g., long-sleeved shirts or long pants.) Only black colored cover-up sleeves or black colored long sleeved compression shirts are authorized to wear with short sleeved uniform shirts. Small tattoos located near the wrist or hands can be covered with flesh colored tattoo cover-up tape or small bandages. Under no circumstances are employees to have offensive tattoos or body art that depict racial, sexual, discriminatory, gang-related or obscene language. Tattoos on the neck, face, and hands are prohibited, with the exception of ring tattoos which must be covered by the means mentioned above.

1044.4 BODY PIERCING OR ALTERATION

Except for a single stud pierced earring worn in the lobe of each ear, body piercing or alteration to any area of the body visible in any authorized uniform or attire that is a deviation from normal anatomical features and which is not medically required is prohibited. Such body alteration includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Tongue splitting or piercing.

(b) The complete or transdermal implantation of any material other than hair replacement.

(c) Abnormal shaping of the ears, eyes, nose or teeth

(d) Branding or scarification.

1044.4.1 EARRINGS ON MALE EMPLOYEES

Male employees shall not be permitted to wear earrings while on duty, in uniform or in other authorized attire, without permission of the Chief of Police or his/her designee.

1044.5 MAKEUP

If worn, makeup shall be in good taste. Members shall not use makeup that is excessive.

1044.6 CLOTHING

Unless otherwise directed by a supervisor, members clothing should be appropriate business attire, and should be in good taste with appropriate undergarments. Members may be required to wear uniforms.

1044.7 WEIGHT

Weight shall be maintained commensurate with height within the tolerable limits of acceptable medical standards.

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1044.8 EXEMPTIONS

Members who seek cultural (e.g., culturally protected hairstyles) or other exemptions to this policy that are protected by law should generally be accommodated (Government Code § 12926). A member with an exemption may be ineligible for an assignment if the individual accommodation presents a security or safety risk. The Chief of Police should be advised any time a request for such an accommodation is denied or when a member with a cultural or other exemption is denied an assignment based on a safety or security risk.

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Uniform Regulations

1046.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The uniform policy of the Ventura Police Department is established to ensure that uniformed officers will be readily identifiable to the public through the proper use and wearing of department uniforms. Employees should also refer to the following associated Policy Manual sections:

Section 700 - Department Owned and Personal Property

Section 1024 - Body Armor

Section 1044 - Grooming Standards

The Uniform and Equipment Specifications manual is maintained and periodically updated by the Chief of Police or his/her designee. Any unauthorized equipment must be approved by the Professional Standards Commander prior to use in service. That manual should be consulted regarding authorized equipment and uniform specifications.

The Ventura Police Department will provide uniforms for all employees required to wear them in the manner, quantity and frequency agreed upon in the respective employee group's collective bargaining agreement. Authorized wool uniforms will be at the employees expense except for class A uniforms.

1046.2 WEARING AND CONDITION OF UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

Police employees wear the uniform to be identified as the law enforcement authority in society. The uniform also serves an equally important purpose to identify the wearer as a source of assistance in an emergency, crisis or other time of need.

(a) Uniform and equipment shall be maintained in a serviceable condition and shall be ready at all times for immediate use. Uniforms shall be neat, clean, and appear professionally pressed.

(b) All peace officers of this department shall possess and maintain at all times, a serviceable uniform and the necessary equipment to perform uniformed field duty.

(c) Personnel shall wear only the uniform specified for their rank and assignment.

(d) The uniform is to be worn in compliance with the specifications set forth in the department's uniform specifications that are maintained separately from this policy.

(e) All supervisors will perform periodic inspections of their personnel to ensure conformance to these regulations.

(f) Civilian attire shall not be worn in combination with any distinguishable part of the uniform.

(g) Uniforms are only to be worn while on duty, while in transit to or from work, for court, or at other official department functions or events.

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(h) If the uniform is worn while in transit, an outer garment shall be worn over the uniform shirt so as not to bring attention to the employee while he/she is off-duty.

(i) Employees are not to purchase or drink alcoholic beverages while wearing any part of the department uniform, including the uniform pants.

(j) Mirrored sunglasses will not be worn with any Department uniform.

(k) Visible jewelry, other than those items listed below, shall not be worn with the uniform unless specifically authorized by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

1. Wrist watch
2. Wedding ring(s), class ring, or other ring of tasteful design. A maximum of one ring/set may be worn on each hand
3. Medical alert bracelet

1046.3 UNIFORM CLASSES

1046.3.1 CLASS A UNIFORM

The Class A uniform is to be worn on special occasions such as funerals, graduations, ceremonies, or as directed. The Class A uniform is required for all sworn personnel. The Class A uniform includes the standard issue uniform with:

- Wool long-sleeved shirt and wool pants
- Black tie, shall be affixed to the shirt with a white metal bar-type tie clasp. The bar shall not exceed 1" in height and width compatible with the width of the tie. The tie bar shall be worn on a line even with the buttons on the shirt pockets.
- Four Ventura Police Department Pea buttons
- Polished shoes
- Soft cover as directed
- Boots with pointed toes are not permitted
- Basket weave Sam Brown with the following items affixed:
  - Duty gun and department approved holster.
  - One handcuff case with handcuffs; to be worn to the rear on gun side.
  - Baton ring (no baton).
  - One magazine case.
  - Four keepers, one on each side to the front and two centered in middle of back.
- Hash marks on left sleeve – one hash mark for every 5 years of sworn law enforcement service.

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(a) When the class A uniform is worn for any promotional interview, specialty assignment interview, or collateral assignment interview, a department-issued American flag pin may be worn on the left shirt pocket flap, centered above the Pea button. No other pins, medals, insignias, epaulettes, or ribbons shall be worn. If the employee is interviewing for a promotion and is currently in an acting capacity at a higher rank, they shall not wear the acting rank insignia.

(b) When the class A uniform is worn for any event other than an interview, one department approved assignment insignia (pin) of the employee's choice may be worn on the left shirt pocket flap, centered above the Pea button. The department issued American flag pin may be worn in place of an assignment insignia. No other pins, medals, insignias, epaulettes, or ribbons shall be worn. Acting rank insignias may be worn as long as the employee is not engaged in an interview for promotion or advancement.

1046.3.2 CLASS B UNIFORM

All officers will possess and maintain a serviceable Class B uniform at all times.

The Class B uniform will consist of the same garments and equipment as the Class A uniform with the following exceptions:

- The long or short sleeved shirt may be worn with the collar open. When a long-sleeved shirt is being worn, at no time will the sleeves be rolled up on the arm. No tie is required
- A white or black crew neck t-shirt must be worn with the uniform
- A black long sleeved compression shirt may be worn underneath a short sleeve d Class B uniform.
- All shirt buttons must remain buttoned except for the last button at the neck
- Shoes or boots shall be black smooth grain leather or similar synthetic material having an acceptable likeness to leather with a plain toe and capable of being polished
- Boots with pointed toes are not permitted
- One department approved assignment insignia (pin) may be worn on the left shirt pocket flap, centered above the Pea button. The department-issued American flag pin may be worn in place of an assignment insignia. No other pins, medals, epaulettes, or ribbons shall be worn.

1046.3.3 CLASS C UNIFORM

The Class C uniform may be established to allow field personnel cooler clothing during the summer months or special duty. The Chief of Police will establish the regulations and conditions for wearing the Class C Uniform and the specifications for the Class C Uniform. The wearing of a class C uniform requires supervisor approval.

- Class C Bike patrol uniform (Black Corner Stone Snag-Proof Tactical Polo with VPD patch on shoulders and soft cloth badge, United Uniform Stretch Bike Patrol Shorts, Department issued body armor.

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1046.3.4 SPECIALIZED UNIT UNIFORMS

The Chief of Police may authorize special uniforms to be worn by officers in specialized units such as Canine Team, SWAT, Bicycle Patrol, Motor Officers, and other specialized assignments.

ABC :

- Class A or B uniform for normal duty
- Class C (Black 5.11 Polo with VPD badge embroidered, 5.11 stone colored tactical pants and black shoes/boots)

Academy:

- Class A or B uniform with a campaign hat
- Physical training uniform (screen-printed shirt, academy approved shorts and athletic shoes)

Communications:

- Class A or B uniform

Major Crimes:

- Class B uniform or business attire (shirt/tie/slacks). Black 5.11 investigations jacket
- Class C (Black 5.11 Polo with VPD badge embroidered, 5.11 stone colored tactical pants and black shoes/boots)

Motors:

- Class A motor uniform (Long sleeved shirt with a white ascot, motor breaches with silver strip and black motor boots. No cover).
- Class B motor uniform (5.11 shirt, 5.11 vest carrier (optional), Motosport shirt and pants, patrol boots, motor jacket or patrol jacket, motor baseball hat).
- Class C motor uniform (5.11 shirt, 5.11 vest carrier (optional), 5.11 pants, patrol boots, patrol jackets, motor baseball hat)

PTF (Patrol Task Force) :

- Class B PTF uniform (Black long or short sleeved-printed shirt, navy 5.11 pants, patrol boots and outer vest cover (optional).
- Class C Bike patrol uniform (Black Under Armour Tactical Performance Polo Shirt with VPD patch on shoulders and soft cloth badge, Black Bellwether 201 Bike Patrol Shorts, Black Safariland Model 6501 Armor Carrier outer vest cover (optional).

Professional Standards :

- Class A or B uniform

PROS:

- Class A or B uniform

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- Class C PROS uniform (Black 5.11 Polo with VPD badge embroidered, black 5.11 pants and black shoes/boots)

SCU:

- Normal Duty casual wear (no shorts, sandals, tank tops)
- Class C SCU uniform (Black undershirt, black tactical vest with VPD embroidered, patches on front, back and name tape. Blue jeans or black tactical pants, patrol boots or closed toed shoes).

SET:

- Class A or B uniform
- Class C SET uniform (Black long or short sleeve screen-printed shirt, black tactical vest with VPD embroidered, patches on front, back and name tape, 5.11 black colored tactical pants and black shoes/boots)
- Optional Class C SET uniform (Black 5.11 Polo with VPD badge embroidered, 5.11 black colored tactical pants and black shoes/boots).

SRO:

- Class A or B uniform
- Class C (Black 5.11 Polo with VPD badge embroidered, 5.11 stone colored tactical pants and black shoes/boots)

1046.3.5 AUTHORIZED UNIFORMS, EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES

The Ventura Police Department authorizes specific uniform items, accessories and attachments which are listed in this policy and sanctioned by the Chief of Police. Ventura Police Department employees may not use or carry any safety item, tool or other piece of equipment unless specifically authorized in this policy or by the Chief of Police or designee.

Uniform

- Flying Cross or Elbeco Long Sleeve Wool Class A Shirt
- Flying Cross or Elbeco Wool Class A Trousers
- 5.11 PDU Class B Shirt (short or long sleeved, with 2 or 4 pockets)
- 5.11 PDU Class B Cargo Pant
- 5.11 PDU Class B Pant
- Flying Cross Waterproof Duty Jacket
- Kirkland Jacket 956270
- Elbeco Shield Performance Soft Shell Jacket Model #SH3500
- 5.11 Tactical Duty Jacket
- Neese (4703RSC3M) Reversible Raincoat

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Patrol Holster

- Blackhawk SERPA Level 3 Light Bearing Duty Holster
- Blackhawk SERPA Level 3 Duty Holster
- Safariland 7360 ALS/SLS Level 3 Retention Duty Holster with light
- Safariland 7360 ALS/SLS Level 3 Retention Duty Holster

When using the Blackhawk SERPA holster, the following weapon light is authorized with it:

- Xiphos NTX Night Ops

When using the Safariland 7360 holster, the following weapon lights are authorized for use with it:

- Streamlight TLR-1
- Streamlight TLR-1S
- Streamlight TLR-1HL

1046.3.6 DISCRETIONARY ISSUED EQUIPMENT
The following equipment is issued to officers and is used at their discretion or on instructions of a supervising officer.

- Soft cap, ball cap, campaign hat (Academy position)
- Heavy weight or light weight jacket
- Rain gear
- Ballistic Helmet (ballistic helmet shall be worn during high risk incidents such as riots, warrant service and armed encounters when practical).

1046.3.7 DUTY BELT
Ventura Police Department authorizes the use of Nylon, leather or synthetic leather basket weave duty belts.

A full gun belt is considered to be an outer belt, at least 1 ¾ inches in width, worn over the trouser belt designed to hold additional equipment and will consist of a holster approved by the Ventura Police Department. At least one magazine pouch designed to hold a minimum of two additional magazines with covers to retain the magazines, a handcuff pouch that will hold a minimum of one pair of handcuffs that has a cover to retain the handcuffs and a baton ring.

Additional equipment may be worn on the full gun belt as long as the equipment is authorized and is fully enclosed and or secured and will not come off the belt during police activity.

1046.3.8 FOOTWEAR
Shoes or boots worn with the authorized uniform of the day must be black smooth grain leather or similar synthetic material having an acceptable likeness to leather with a plain toe, capable of being polished.The heel shall not exceed 1-1.2 inches in height.

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Shoes or boots shall be clean, free of dirt or grime and shall be polished to a smooth blackened appearance. Athletic type shoes and boots that meet the above description are approved for wear with Class B, C, and civilian uniforms.For full dress (Class A) uniform functions, highly polished plain-toed uniform shoes are required.Black color socks shall be worn if visible.

1046.3.9 UNDERSHIRT
Members wearing an undershirt that is visible when in uniform shall wear a white or black undershirt (crew neck type.) Members may also wear a black long sleeved compression undershirt when wearing short sleeve uniform shirts. (no logos or writing will be visible)

1046.3.10 TATTOO COVER-UP SLEEVES
Members may wear tattoo cover-up sleeves while in Class B and C Uniforms. Tattoo sleeves shall only be black in color and have no visible logos or writing. Cover-up sleeves shall be purchased entirely at the expense of the employee.

1046.3.11 GLOVES
Gloves shall be black in color and permit the use of assigned equipment. "Sap" gloves are prohibited.

1046.3.12 SAPS
A SAP is defined as a leather-covered hand weapon, which may be weighted or spring loaded such as a blackjack.The carrying and use of any "sap" is prohibited.

1046.3.13 FLASHLIGHT
Members may use flashlights of their choice.

1046.3.14 KNIVES
The Department authorizes the carrying of knives by officers while on duty, in compliance with 12020 PC. The knife/knives must be carried in a sheath or case consistent with uniform appearance, or concealed on the person in a safe, secure manner. The knife/knives must have a fixed or folding blade, no longer than 6" in length. No switchblade or gravity-style knife is authorized.

Members must report to the Chief of Police or his/her designee, the type of knife that is carried, including whether it is fixed or folding blade and the blade length.

1046.4 TRAINING ATTIRE
Employees shall maintain a professional appearance during department training days. The following appearance standards shall apply to all employees, except those whose current assignment require casual wear as a uniform, and where the Chief of Police has granted an exception.

The objectives for training days can dictate the suitable attire for the training day, in those cases, the recommended training day attire will accompany the training day notification.

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Employees attending training where they are compensated by the Ventura Police Department or represent the department shall not wear the following articles of clothing:

(a) No Hats - Except for Outdoor Training

(b) No Tank Tops

(c) No Offensive or Inappropriate Printed Tee Shirts

(d) No Non-Uniform Shorts

(e) No Sandals or Flip Flops

1046.5 DEPARTMENT ISSUED IDENTIFICATION

The Department issues each employee an official department identification card bearing the employee's name, identifying information and photo likeness. All employees shall be in possession of their department issued identification card at all times while on duty or when carrying a concealed weapon.

(a) Whenever on duty or acting in an official capacity representing the department, employees shall display their department issued identification in a courteous manner to any person upon request and as soon as practical.

(b) Officers working specialized assignments may be excused from the possession and display requirements when directed by their Assistant Chief.

1046.6 INSIGNIA AND PATCHES

(a) Shoulder Patches - The authorized shoulder patch supplied by the Department shall be machine stitched to the sleeves of all uniform shirts and jackets, three-quarters of an inch below the shoulder seam of the shirt and be bisected by the crease in the sleeve.

(b) Service stripes, stars, etc. - Service stripes and other indicators for length of service may be worn on long sleeved shirts and jackets. They are to be machine stitched onto the uniform. The bottom of the service stripe shall be sewn the width of one and one-half inches above the cuff seam with the rear of the service stripes sewn on the dress of the sleeve. The stripes are to be worn on the left sleeve only. One service stripe is authorized for each 5-years of service in a sworn law enforcement capacity.

(c) The regulation nameplate, or an authorized sewn on cloth nameplate, shall be worn at all times while in uniform. Members shall wear only the nameplate issued to them. The nameplate shall display the employee's first initial and last name. The nameplate shall be worn and placed on the top of the right pocket flap located in the middle, bisected by the pressed shirt seam, with equal distance from both sides of the nameplate to the outer edge of the pocket. When a jacket is worn, the nameplate or an authorized sewn on cloth nameplate shall be affixed to the jacket in the same manner as the uniform.

(d) Assignment Insignias – Assignment insignias may be worn on Class A and Class B uniforms as described under the specific uniform policy sections. Assignment insignias may be worn for any specialty or collateral assignment. The insignia must

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be approved by the Chief of Police prior to being displayed on any uniform. The Professional Standards Sergeant will maintain a board displaying all of the approved assignment insignias for the department. Only insignias displayed on that board may be worn on the uniform. In order to wear an assignment insignia, the employee must be currently in that assignment or must have successfully completed that assignment.

(e) Flag Pin - A department issued flag pin may be worn above the pea button on the left shirt pocket flap.

(f) Badge - The department issued badge, or an authorized sewn on cloth or plastic replica, must be worn and visible at all times while in uniform. Members shall wear only the badge issued to them. Plainclothes officers will carry their issued flat badge at all times while on duty except during undercover assignments.

(g) Rank Insignia - The designated insignia indicating the employee's rank must be worn at all times while in uniform. The Chief of Police may authorize exceptions.

(h) Optional Rank Insignia

1. Officers who have ten (10) years of service as a police officer for the Ventura Police Department may wear the single chevron and those with twenty years of service with the Ventura Police Department may wear a star beneath the single chevron.

2. Corporals with ten (10) years of service at the rank of corporal with the Ventura Police Department may wear a star beneath the corporal's chevrons.

3. Sergeants with ten (10) years of service with the Ventura Police Department at the rank of sergeant may wear a star beneath the sergeant's chevrons.

4. Civilian employees who have ten (10) years of service with the Ventura Police Department may wear a five-line nametag, with the second line denoting their tenure.

1046.6.1 MOURNING BADGE

Uniformed employees may wear a black mourning band across the uniform badge whenever a law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty. The following mourning periods will be observed:

(a) An officer of this department - From the time of death until midnight on the 14th day after the death.

(b) An officer from California - From the time of death until midnight on the day of the funeral.

(c) Funeral attendee - While attending the funeral of an out of region fallen officer.

(d) National Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15th) - From 0001 hours until 2359 hours.

(e) As directed by the Chief of Police.

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1046.7 PROFESSIONAL STAFF ATTIRE

There are assignments within the Department that do not require the wearing of a uniform because recognition and authority are not essential to their function. There are also assignments in which the wearing of professional staff attire is necessary.

(a) All employees shall wear clothing that fits properly, is clean and free of stains, and not damaged or excessively worn.

(b) All male administrative, investigative and support personnel who elect to wear professional staff clothing to work shall wear button style shirts with a collar, slacks or suits that are moderate in style.

(c) All female administrative, investigative, and support personnel who elect to wear professional staff clothing to work shall wear dresses, slacks, shirts, blouses, or suits which are moderate in style.

(d) The following items shall not be worn on duty:

1. T-shirt alone
2. Open toed sandals or thongs
3. Swimsuit, tube tops, or halter-tops
4. Spandex type pants or see-through clothing
5. Distasteful printed slogans, buttons or pins

(e) Variations from this order are allowed at the discretion of the Chief of Police or designee when the employee's assignment or current task is not conducive to the wearing of such clothing.

(f) No item of civilian attire may be worn on duty that would adversely affect the reputation of the Ventura Police Department or the morale of the employees.

1046.7.1 UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL STAFF ATTIRE

Professional staff uniformed employees will be readily identifiable to the public through the proper use and wearing of department uniforms.

Cadet:

- Light blue Flying Cross long or short sleeve uniform shirt with cadet rockers, navy blue 5.11 cargo uniform pants, and black shoes/boots (optional; department approved jacket)

Evidence Tech:

- Light blue Flying Cross long or short sleeve uniform shirt with evidence tech rockers, navy blue 5.11 cargo uniform pants, and black shoes/ boots (optional; department approved jacket)
- Navy blue 5.11 polo shirt with VPD Evidence Technician and the employee's name below it embroidered above the left chest, CSI printed in silkscreen on the back of the shirt, 5.11 stone colored tactical pants and black shoes/boots.

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Investigative Technician:

- Light blue Flying Cross long or short sleeve uniform shirt with Investigative Tech rockers, navy blue 5.11 cargo uniform pants, and black shoes/ boots (optional; department approved jacket)
- Navy blue 5.11 polo shirt with INV. Tech over the VPD badge embroidered above the left chest and the employee's name embroidered above the right chest, 5.11 stone colored tactical pants and black shoes/boots.

Management Technician:

- Light blue Flying Cross long or short sleeve uniform shirt with MGNT Tech rockers, navy blue 5.11 cargo uniform pants, and black shoes/ boots (optional; department approved jacket)
- Grey Elbeco short sleeve UFX uniform polo with MGNT Tech II over the VPD badge embroidered above the left chest and the employee's name embroidered above the right chest, navy blue uniform pants (cargo optional) and black shoes/boots. (optional; department approved jacket or sweater).

PSO:

- Light blue Flying Cross long or short sleeve uniform shirt with PSO or Sr. PSO rockers, navy blue 5.11 uniform pants (cargo optional) and black shoes/ boots (optional; department approved jacket or sweater)
- Royal blue Elbeco short sleeve UFX uniform polo with PSO over the VPD badge embroidered above the left chest and the employee's name embroidered above the right chest, navy blue uniform pants (cargo optional) and black shoes/boots. (optional; department approved jacket or sweater) This uniform is not authorized for field duty or special events.

Public Safety Dispatcher:

- Black 5.11 polo with VPD Command Center and the employee's name below it embroidered above the left chest, black pants, and dark colored shoes (optional; department approved jacket or sweater)

Records Clerk:

- Black 5.11 polo with VPD Records and the employee's name below it embroidered above the left chest black 5.11 pants and dark colored shoes (optional; department approved jacket or sweater)

1046.8 VOLUNTEER STAFF ATTIRE

Volunteer staff uniformed employees will be readily identifiable to the public through the proper use and wearing of department uniforms.

Range Volunteer:

- Black Cornerstone polo shirt with Range Volunteer and the employee's name below it embroidered above the left chest, khaki colored tactical pants, and black shoes/boots.

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Rangemaster Volunteer:

- Black 5.11 PDU Shirt (short or long sleeved, with 2 or 4 pockets), VPD patches with volunteer rockers, VPD soft badge with VIP number embroidered above the left pocket, name ribbon above the right pocket, black 5.11 PDU Class B Cargo Pant, and black shoes/boots.

VIP:

- White Flying Cross long or short sleeve uniform shirt with volunteer rockers, black Dickies pants, black uniform belt, and black shoes/boots (optional; department VIP approved jacket)

1046.9 OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT - MAINTENANCE, AND REPLACEMENT

(a) Any of the items listed in this policy as optional Uniform and Equipment shall be purchased totally at the expense of the employee. No part of the purchase cost shall be offset by the Department for the cost of providing the Department issued item.

(b) Maintenance of optional items shall be the financial responsibility of the purchasing employee. For example, repairs due to normal wear and tear.

(c) Replacement of items listed in this order as optional shall be done as follows:

1. When the item is no longer functional because of normal wear and tear, the employee bears the full cost of replacement.
2. When the item is no longer functional because of damage in the course of the employee's duties, it shall be replaced following the procedures for the replacement of damaged personal property. (Policy Manual § 700)

1046.10 POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, ENDORSEMENTS, AND ADVERTISEMENTS

Unless specifically authorized by the Chief of Police, Ventura Police Department employees may not wear any part of the uniform, be photographed wearing any part of the uniform, utilize a department badge, patch or other official insignia, or cause to be posted, published, or displayed, the image of another employee, or identify himself/herself as an employee of the Ventura Police Department to do any of the following (Government Code §§ 3206 and 3302):

(a) Endorse, support, oppose, or contradict any political campaign or initiative.

(b) Endorse, support, oppose, or contradict any social issue, cause, or religion.

(c) Endorse, support, or oppose, any product, service, company or other commercial entity.

(d) Appear in any commercial, social, or non-profit publication, or any motion picture, film, video, public broadcast, or any website.

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1046.11 RETIREE BADGES

The Chief of Police may issue identification in the form of a badge, insignia, emblem, device, label, certificate, card or writing that clearly states the person has honorably retired from the Ventura Police Department. This identification is separate and distinct from the identification authorized by Penal Code § 25455 and referenced in the Retired Officer CCW Endorsement Policy in this manual.

A badge issued to an honorably retired peace officer that is not affixed to a plaque or other memento will have the words "Retired" clearly visible on its face. A retiree shall be instructed that any such badge will remain the property of the Ventura Police Department and will be revoked in the event of misuse or abuse (Penal Code § 538d).

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Flag Protocol for Line-of-Duty Deaths

1047.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To establish protocol for flying flags at half-staff at City facilities when there has been a line-of-duty death for police officers, firefighters, or elected officials.

1047.2 POLICY

(a) The Police Chief or Fire Chief (in the case of fallen firefighters) will determine the appropriateness of flying flags at half-staff at the police facility and other City buildings.

(b) If the lowering of flags is deemed appropriate, the Police or Fire Chief will advise the City Manager's office of the decision and the length of time the flags are to be flown at half-staff.

(c) The City Manager's office has responsibility for relaying this information to appropriate City staff, directing that all City buildings fly their flags at half-staff for the same duration.

(d) This policy will include both national and state periods of mourning as directed by the President of the United States or the Governor of California, as well as the two established days of remembrance set forth by Congress (Memorial Day and Pearl Harbor Day).

(e) Flags will not be flown at half-staff for a deceased police officer who was retired at the time of his/her death, unless specifically approved by the Chief of Police.

(f) The desk officer has the responsibility to move the flags at the Police/Fire Headquarters to the appropriate position.

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Police Cadets

1048.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Cadets work under direct supervision, perform a variety of routine and progressively more advanced tasks in an apprenticeship program in preparation for a career in law enforcement.

1048.2 PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Professional Standards Commander and Professional Standards Sergeant will serve as the Program Coordinators. These supervisors will be responsible for tracking the educational and job performance of cadets as well as making their individual assignments throughout the Department. He/she will also monitor the training provided for all cadets and review all decisions affecting job assignments, status for compensation, school attendance and performance evaluations.

1048.2.1 PROGRAM ADVISORS

The Program Coordinator may select individual officers to serve as advisors for the Cadet Program. These officers will serve as mentors for each cadet. Cadets will bring special requests, concerns, and suggestions to their program advisor for advice or direction before contacting the Program Coordinator. One advisor may be designated as the Coordinator's assistant to lead scheduled meetings and training sessions involving the cadets. Multiple cadets may be assigned to each program advisor. Program advisors are not intended to circumvent the established chain of command. Any issues that may be a concern of the individual's supervisor should be referred back to the Program Coordinator.

1048.3 ORIENTATION AND TRAINING

Newly hired cadets will receive an orientation of the organization and facilities before reporting to their first assignment. On-the-job training will be conducted in compliance with the Cadet Training Manual. Training sessions will be scheduled as needed to train cadets for as many assignments as possible. In addition to job-specific training, information will be offered to prepare cadets to compete successfully in the police officer selection process, as well as the academy training. All training will focus on improving job performance, as well as preparation to become police officers. These meetings will also offer an opportunity to receive continuous feedback regarding progress of the program.

1048.4 CADET UNIFORMS

Each cadet will be provided two uniforms meeting the specifications described in the Uniform Manual for civilian employees.

1048.5 ROTATION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Rotating job assignments should occur on a regular basis to enhance the career development for each cadet. Department needs and concerns will take precedence over individual considerations with the final decision resting with the Professional Standards Commander.

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In general, senior cadets will be assigned to positions requiring more technical skill or responsibility, as well as serving to train cadets for new assignments or those newly hired.

1048.6 RIDE-ALONG PROCEDURES

All cadets are authorized to participate in the Ride-Along Program on their own time and as approved by their immediate supervisor and the appropriate Watch Commander. Applicable waivers must be signed in advance of the ride-along.

1048.7 PERFORMANCE MEMORANDUM

All cadets will receive an annual memorandum documenting their performance and assessing their potential as police officers.

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Nepotism and Conflicting Relationships

1050.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure equal opportunity and effective employment practices by avoiding actual or perceived favoritism, discrimination or actual or potential conflicts of interest by or between members of this department. These employment practices include: recruiting, testing, hiring, compensation, assignment, use of facilities, access to training opportunities, supervision, performance appraisal, discipline and workplace safety and security.

1050.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Business relationship - Serving as an employee, independent contractor, compensated consultant, owner, board member, shareholder, or investor in an outside business, company, partnership, corporation, venture or other transaction, where the Department employee's annual interest, compensation, investment or obligation is greater than $250.

Conflict of interest - Any actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest in which it reasonably appears that a department employee's action, inaction or decisions are or may be influenced by the employee's personal or business relationship.

Nepotism - The practice of showing favoritism to relatives over others in appointment, employment, promotion or advancement by any public official in a position to influence these personnel decisions.

Personal relationship - Includes marriage, cohabitation, dating or any other intimate relationship beyond mere friendship.

Public official - A supervisor, officer or employee vested with authority by law, rule or regulation or to whom authority has been delegated.

Relative - An employee's parent, stepparent, spouse, domestic partner, significant other, child (natural, adopted or step), sibling or grandparent.

Subordinate - An employee who is subject to the temporary or ongoing direct or indirect authority of a supervisor.

Supervisor - An employee who has temporary or ongoing direct or indirect authority over the actions, decisions, evaluation and/or performance of a subordinate employee.

1050.2 RESTRICTED DUTIES AND ASSIGNMENTS

The Department will not prohibit all personal or business relationships between employees. However, in order to avoid nepotism or other inappropriate conflicts, the following reasonable restrictions shall apply (Government Code § 12940):

(a) Employees are prohibited from directly supervising, occupying a position in the line of supervision or being directly supervised by any other employee who is a relative or with whom they are involved in a personal or business relationship.

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1. If circumstances require that such a supervisor/subordinate relationship exist temporarily, the supervisor shall make every reasonable effort to defer matters pertaining to the involved employee to an uninvolved supervisor.
2. When personnel and circumstances permit, the Department will attempt to make every reasonable effort to avoid placing employees in such supervisor/ subordinate situations. The Department, however, reserves the right to transfer or reassign any employee to another position within the same classification in order to avoid conflicts with any provision of this policy.

(b) Employees are prohibited from participating in, contributing to or recommending promotions, assignments, performance evaluations, transfers or other personnel decisions affecting an employee who is a relative or with whom they are involved in a personal or business relationship.

(c) Whenever possible, FTOs and other trainers will not be assigned to train relatives. FTOs and other trainers are prohibited from entering into or maintaining personal or business relationships with any employee they are assigned to train until such time as the training has been successfully completed and the employee is off probation.

(d) To avoid actual or perceived conflicts of interest, members of this department shall refrain from developing or maintaining personal or financial relationships with victims, witnesses or other individuals during the course of or as a direct result of any official contact.

(e) Except as required in the performance of official duties or, in the case of immediate relatives, employees shall not develop or maintain personal or financial relationships with any individual they know or reasonably should know is under criminal investigation, is a convicted felon, parolee, fugitive or registered sex offender or who engages in serious violations of state or federal laws.

1050.2.1 EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITY

Prior to entering into any personal or business relationship or other circumstance which the employee knows or reasonably should know could create a conflict of interest or other violation of this policy, the employee shall promptly notify his/her uninvolved, next highest level of supervisor.

Whenever any employee is placed in circumstances that would require the employee to take enforcement action or provide official information or services to any relative or individual with whom the employee is involved in a personal or business relationship, the employee shall promptly notify his/her uninvolved, immediate supervisor. In the event that no uninvolved supervisor is immediately available, the employee shall promptly notify dispatch to have another uninvolved employee either relieve the involved employee or minimally remain present to witness the action.

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1050.2.2 SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Upon being notified of, or otherwise becoming aware of any circumstance that could result in or constitute an actual or potential violation of this policy, a supervisor shall take all reasonable steps to promptly mitigate or avoid such violations whenever possible. Supervisors shall also promptly notify the Chief of Police of such actual or potential violations through the chain of command.

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Department Badges

1052.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Ventura Police Department badge and uniform patch as well as the likeness of these items and the name of the Ventura Police Department are property of the Department and their use shall be restricted as set forth in this policy.

1052.2 POLICY

The uniform badge shall be issued to department members as a symbol of authority and the use and display of departmental badges shall be in strict compliance with this policy. Only authorized badges issued by this department shall be displayed, carried or worn by members while on duty or otherwise acting in an official or authorized capacity.

1052.2.1 FLAT BADGE

All sworn officers shall be issued a flat badge capable of being carried in a wallet. The use of the flat badge is subject to all the same provisions of departmental policy as the uniform badge.

Should the flat badge become lost, damaged, or otherwise removed from the officer's control, he/she shall make the proper notifications as outlined in the Policy Manual 700.

1052.2.2 CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

Badges and departmental identification cards issued to non-sworn personnel shall be clearly marked to reflect the position of the assigned employee (e.g. Parking Control, Dispatcher).

(a) Non-sworn personnel shall not display any department badge except as a part of his/her uniform and while on duty, or otherwise acting in an official and authorized capacity.

(b) Non-sworn personnel shall not display any department badge or represent him/herself, on or off duty, in such a manner which would cause a reasonable person to believe that he/she is a sworn peace officer.

1052.2.3 RETIREE UNIFORM BADGE

Only members who are honorably retired may, at the Chief's discretion, be considered to receive a retirement badge and/or identification card.

(a) Sworn members may receive a wallet badge. The wallet badge will have the word "retired" printed in lieu of the employee number and will indicate the rank or job classification at the time of retirement.

(b) Sworn and civilian members' duty badge and last identification card may be mounted on a plaque at the employee's expense, or by arrangement with another resource (employee union, retirement gift, etc.).

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(c) Sworn and civilian members may receive a retired identification card. The card shall clearly indicate that the member is retired, and shall reflect the member's last rank or job classification.

(d) In the case of sworn members, the identification card shall indicate whether or not the retiree may carry a concealed firearm pursuant to Sections 12027(a)(1) and 12031(b) of the California Penal Code. If so authorized by the Police Chief, the identification card will reflect the expiration date of the concealed weapons endorsement. The expiration date shall be five years from date of issuance

1052.3 UNAUTHORIZED USE

Except as required for on-duty use by current employees, no badge designed for carry or display in a wallet, badge case or similar holder shall be issued to anyone other than a current employee or honorably retired peace officer.

Department badges are issued to all sworn employees and civilian uniformed employees for official use only. The department badge, shoulder patch or the likeness thereof, or the department name shall not be used for personal or private reasons including, but not limited to, letters, memoranda, and electronic communications such as electronic mail or web sites and web pages.

The use of the badge, uniform patch and department name for all material (printed matter, products or other items) developed for department use shall be subject to approval by the Chief of Police.

Employees shall not loan his/her department badge or identification card to others and shall not permit the badge or identification card to be reproduced or duplicated.

1052.4 PERMITTED USE BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS

The likeness of the department badge shall not be used without the expressed authorization of the Chief of Police and shall be subject to the following:

(a) The employee associations may use the likeness of the department badge for merchandise and official association business provided they are used in a clear representation of the association and not the Ventura Police Department. The following modifications shall be included:

1. The text on the upper and lower ribbons is replaced with the name of the employee association.

2. The badge number portion displays the acronym of the employee association.

(b) The likeness of the department badge for endorsement of political candidates shall not be used without the expressed approval of the Chief of Police.

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Therapy Comfort Canines

1053.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines for the use of therapy comfort canines to help department employees, victims, and witnesses cope with the exposure to traumatic incidents, support the department's wellness program to improve members' resiliency and overall well-being, and participate in community outreach.

1053.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Ventura Police Department that therapy comfort canines and handlers regularly train to maintain the appropriate proficiency to reasonably carry out the objectives of the program.

1053.3 ASSIGNMENT

Therapy comfort canines may be assigned to any fulltime employee of the Police Department. Therapy comfort canine teams will primarily be responsible for their normal job assignments. Therapy comfort canine handlers will be expected to make the therapy comfort canines regularly available to staff throughout their normal work hours. Use of the therapy comfort canine following critical incidents, for special events, or any other request outside of their normal assignment will be reviewed and approved by the Therapy Comfort Canine Coordinator or Watch Commander.

1053.4 THERAPY COMFORT CANINE COORDINATOR

Along with all applicable responsibilities described under Section 1053, the Therapy Comfort Canine Coordinator will have the following additional responsibilities related to the therapy comfort canine program:

(a) Maintaining liaison with the contracted training vendor.

(b) Ensuring that the therapy comfort canine and handler meet the minimum training and performance standards as set by the training vendor.

(c) Maintaining liaison with the Department's Wellness Program Coordinator ensuring that the therapy comfort canine program provides the most benefit to department members.

1053.5 REQUESTS FOR THERAPY COMFORT CANINE TEAMS

While the primary focus of Ventura Police Department's therapy comfort canine program is internal staff wellness; the teams can be utilized to help individuals exposed to trauma, those who experience vicarious trauma, investigators requesting assistance during interviews, and other instances where the use of the therapy comfort canine would be suitable under this policy to achieve a department goal.

At all times, consideration of the therapy comfort canine and handler's health and safety will be the guiding principle utilized to determine the best method of response to provide service in the

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safest atmosphere for all involved. This response is left to the discretion of the Therapy Comfort Canine Coordinator. The therapy comfort canine handler at the scene can terminate the response if the handler feels that the situation is not safe for the canine or handler. If there is a dispute about the manner of response, the handler will confer with the Therapy Comfort Canine Coordinator or on-duty Watch Commander to resolve the conflict. Therapy comfort canine teams shall not respond or be utilized during active scenes.

When the therapy comfort canine is deployed, the handler will be focused on ensuring the therapy comfort canine is responding appropriately; therefore, safety considerations must include the presence of loose or aggressive dogs, suspects who could pose a threat to the handler and therapy comfort canine, and any other environmental concern that could be present.

Therapy comfort canines will not be intermingled with the enforcement canines in the K9 Unit due to the vast differences in their functional roles and temperaments, and to avoid adverse interactions between the animals.

1053.6 THERAPY COMFORT CANINE DEPLOYMENTS

Most therapy comfort canine sessions should last between 30-45 minutes but no longer than approximately one hour. In some circumstances, it could go longer (investigative interview), but that should be the exception. Afterward, the handler will ensure the dog has a break.

In the absence of a scheduled request for service or appearance, teams will visit units within the police department, as their regular work assignment allows. These visits should not interfere with normal operations and should not extend beyond approximately 30 minutes. Care should be taken if someone who is working does not want to interact with the dog. The supervisor should be consulted for approval before bringing the dog to the unit.

Self-initiated interactions are also encouraged at special events or known locations that attract residents and visitors if dogs are welcome (outdoor shopping areas, City-sponsored events-particularly those occurring outdoors). Care should be taken when the temperatures are extremely hot or cold because it poses a risk to the dog's well-being. Appearances such as this should last no more than an hour at a time, and the dog should be given a break afterward.

The Therapy Comfort Canine Coordinator will consider after-hours requests in consultation with the Division Commander on a case-by-case basis. If a call-in is determined to be appropriate for the situation, the Therapy Comfort Canine Coordinator will schedule the event with the handler.

1053.7 REPORTING OF BITES OR INJURIES

Any bite or injury caused by a canine, whether on or off-duty, shall be promptly reported to the Therapy Comfort Canine Coordinator. The Therapy Comfort Canine Coordinator, or on-duty supervisor, will immediately respond to the scene of the incident. Unintended bites or injuries caused by a canine should be documented in an administrative report.

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If an individual alleges an injury, either visible or not visible, a supervisor shall be notified, and both the individual's injured and uninjured areas shall be photographed as soon as practicable after first tending to the immediate needs of the injured party. Photographs shall be retained as evidence in accordance with current department evidence procedures. The photographs shall be retained until the time any related civil proceeding has expired.

Canines used by law enforcement agencies are generally exempt from impoundment and reporting requirements; however, the canine shall be made available for examination at any reasonable time if requested by the local health department. The canine handler shall also notify the local health department if the canine exhibits any abnormal behavior after a bite (Health and Safety Code § 121685).

1053.8 HANDLER SELECTION

The minimum qualifications for the assignment of canine handler include:

(a) A fulltime member of the Ventura Police Department with a minimum of two years of service.

(b) Residing in a home with a yard that is appropriate to house a medium to large canine safely.

(c) Agreeing to be assigned to the position for a minimum of five years.

1053.9 HANDLER RESPONSIBILITIES

The canine handler shall ultimately be responsible for the health and welfare of the canine and shall ensure that the canine receives proper nutrition, grooming, training, medical care, affection, and living conditions.

The canine handler will be responsible for the following:

(a) The dog will be brushed to remove excess hair and reduce any shedding.

(b) The dog will be bathed as necessary.

(c) Nails will be clipped as needed to prevent injury to the dog or those with whom the dog will make contact.

(d) The handler will feed the dog the supplied food on a routine schedule and provide fresh water at all times. Food and water bowls will be cleaned regularly.

(e) Medication for flea and parasite control will be given monthly on the same day.

(f) The handler will transport the dog to veterinarian appointments as required.

(g) The handler will remove animal feces from his/her yard daily.

(h) The dog should be treated as part of the family when off-duty, as it will be residing in the handler's home. While off-duty, the dog will wear a collar displaying the rabies tag and license if the dog is separated from the hander. It also should be noted that each dog will be micro-chipped. The contracted veterinarian will maintain the microchip number.

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(i) A crate will be provided to each handler to secure the dog inside the home when the handler is not home or when the dog is left alone.

(j) Therapy comfort canines are chosen carefully based on their temperament; therefore, it is imperative that the dog be protected from significant adverse interactions with aggressive dogs, other animals, or individuals that could harm the dog.

(k) The handler shall not expose the canine to any foreseeable or unreasonable risk of harm.

(l) The handler shall maintain all department equipment under his/her control in a clean and serviceable condition.

(m) Handlers shall permit the Therapy Comfort Canine Coordinator to conduct spontaneous on-site inspections of affected areas of their homes and their vehicles to verify that conditions and equipment conform to this policy.

(n) Any changes in the handler's living status that may affect the lodging or environment of the canine shall be reported to the Therapy Comfort Canine Coordinator as soon as possible.

(o) The canine should be permitted to socialize in the home with the handler's family under the handler's direct supervision.

(p) Under no circumstances will the canine be lodged at another location unless approved by the Therapy Comfort Canine Coordinator or Watch Commander.

(q) When off-duty, the handler shall not involve the canine in any official conduct unless approved in advance by the Therapy Comfort Canine Coordinator or Watch Commander.

(r) Whenever a canine handler is on vacation or traveling for an extended number of days, it may be necessary to relocate the canine temporarily. In those situations, the handler shall give reasonable notice to the Therapy Comfort Canine Coordinator to make appropriate arrangements.

1053.10 CANINE IN PUBLIC AREAS

The canine should be kept on a leash when in areas that allow access to the public. Exceptions to this rule would include specific law enforcement operations for which the canine is trained.

(a) A therapy comfort canine shall not be left unattended in any area to which the public may have access.

(b) If the therapy comfort canine needs to be secured in a vehicle, the vehicle shall be secured in such a manner as to prevent unauthorized access to the canine. The handler shall also ensure that the unattended vehicle remains inhabitable for the canine.

1053.11 HANDLER COMPENSATION

Participation in the therapy comfort canine program is voluntary. The Therapy comfort canine handler will not receive any special compensation for their participation. The Department will cover the costs associated with the feeding, grooming and supplies, required equipment, and

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veterinarian care for the therapy comfort canine. All other expenses will require approval of the Therapy Comfort Canine Coordinator for reimbursement.

1053.12 CANINE INJURY AND MEDICAL CARE

If a canine is injured, or there is an indication that the canine is not in good physical condition, the injury or condition will be reported to the Therapy Comfort Canine Coordinator or Watch Commander as soon as practicable and appropriately documented. All medical attention shall be rendered by the designated canine veterinarian, except during an emergency where treatment should be obtained from the nearest available veterinarian. All records of medical treatment shall be maintained in the handler's personnel file.

1053.13 TRAINING

The therapy comfort canine and handler are a team. They will be certified by the Ventura Police Department's designated training vendor to the standards deemed appropriate by the trainer to operate in the field as a therapy comfort canine team. The dog and handler must be proficient with basic canine obedience commands. After the initial certification, monthly training with the vendor will be mandatory. The handler will conduct ongoing weekly training.

All training records will be maintained by the handler and reviewed by the training coordinator and vendor regularly.

If the handler or canine fails to meet the minimum standards to maintain certification or perform therapy comfort canine duties, the department will remove the canine from service and either reassign the canine to another handler or permanently remove the canine from active service.

1053.14 RETIREMENT OF THERAPY COMFORT CANINE

If the contracted veterinarian determines a therapy comfort canine is no longer viable for health or age-related reasons, the handler will be given the option of accepting financial responsibility and liability for the continued care and maintenance of the dog. The handler will be required to sign a waiver of liability accepting responsibility for the canine.

(a) If the handler declines taking ownership of the dog, the dog will be offered to other members of the department.

(b) If no one in the department accepts the dog, it will be placed for public adoption with concurrence from the training vendor. All issued equipment will be returned to the Therapy Comfort Canine Coordinator.

1053.15 SEPARATION OF A THERAPY COMFORT CANINE HANDLER

Therapy comfort canines are property of the Ventura Police Department. As a voluntary collateral program, the therapy comfort canine handler serves at the pleasure of the Police Chief and may be removed from the assignment at any time.

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If the assigned handler separates from employment with the Ventura Police Department during the service life of the canine, the canine will be reassigned to an appropriate employee based upon the established selection process.

All equipment purchased through department funds will be returned to the Therapy comfort canine Coordinator.

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Mental Health Check-In

1054.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Annual Mental Health Check-ins are part of the department's overall employee wellness program.This policy serves the well-being of the employee. Police Department employees encounter traumatic scenes and events on a regular and continual basis. Department employees receive ongoing training to maintain and update their professional skills. In addition to professional competency, the department believes it is critical to care for employees' emotional and mental welfare. The following employee classifications are required to attend an annual mental health counseling/debrief session with the Counseling Team International:

- All non-probationary sworn positions/ranks
- Non-probationary Public Safety Dispatchers, Senior Public Safety Dispatchers, and Dispatcher Training Coordinators
- Non-probationary Crime Scene Investigations Technicians

1054.2 CONFIDENTIALITY

“Check-ins” are mandatory and confidential. The Ventura Police Department recognizes the communication between an employee and the mental health professional to be privileged communication and thus confidential.

Department representatives shall not inquire, compel, or order the mental health professional or the employee to discuss any of the content of the session between them.

The annual “check-in” shall not be a Fitness for Duty evaluation covered under Ventura PD policy section 1032.6.

1054.3 EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITY

The employee is responsible for scheduling and attending one “check-in” session. Upon completion, proof of attendance shall be submitted to Professional Standards.

The Professional Standards Sergeant can assist with scheduling upon request from an employee.

Any follow-up appointments are scheduled between the employee and the Mental Health Professional and are not divulged to the Ventura Police Department.

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Trauma Support Team

1055.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The following is the purpose of the Trauma Support Team:

(a) To provide comfort and support for the physical and emotional health needs of employees' involved in a traumatic event.

(b) To facilitate the understanding and expression of feelings and/or perceptional distortions experienced during a traumatic event.

(c) To extinguish and/or prevent symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

1055.2 CONFIDENTIALITY

The Ventura Police Department recognizes as privileged communication the dialogue during a debriefing between members of the Trauma Support Team while acting as a Trauma Support Team member and those employees affected by a traumatic event.Trauma Support Team members shall not be compelled by order of the Chief to divulge or discuss any dialogue between a team member and affected employee that took place as part of an authorized Traumatic Incident debrief.

1055.3 SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Trauma Support Team shall provide immediate and ongoing assistance under the following conditions:

When an employee experiences a traumatic event, on or off duty, and the employee requests the services of the Trauma Support Team. The team’s scope of responsibility includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Critical events involving police personnel.

(b) Infant / child deaths.

(c) Traumatic traffic collisions.

(d) Suicides and difficult scenes.

(e) Great bodily harm to officers.

(f) Natural disasters.

(g) Catastrophic events.

(h) Educating spouse or involved officer to resources available to them.

(i) When a supervisor and/or on scene personnel recognizes that an employee has been

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involved in a traumatic event, on or off duty, that results in emotional shock to the degree that substantial and/or lasting emotional damage may occur.

1055.4 TEAM COMPOSITION

The Trauma Support Team is comprised of sworn and civilian police personnel. These officers and civilians have Department approved specialized on going training in assisting fellow officers and their families in dealing with the immediate adverse psychological and physical reactions to traumatic events.

1055.4.1 ACTIVATION

Under the conditions defined herein, under scope of responsibility, the on duty Watch Commander shall activate the Trauma Support Team in the following manner:

The Watch Commander shall contact the Trauma Support Team supervisor and the team supervisor shall notify the appropriate members of the team to provide support services. All notified team members should respond to the location designated by the team supervisor. In the event the supervisor of the Trauma Support Team is unavailable, the Watch Commander shall contact the necessary number of team members to provide the services. In the event transportation of involved employee and/or families' is needed, Trauma Support Team shall use departmental vehicles as necessary to transport involved parties.

1055.4.2 TEAM SUPERVISORS

The Trauma Support Team Coordinator will be one of the Sergeants on the team. The Team Coordinator will be responsible for the following:

• Supervision and administrative duties of the Trauma Support Team.

• Updating the Trauma Support Team Commander of any call outs or utilization of Trauma Support Team members.

• Updating the Watch Commander on the activities of the Trauma Support Team.

• Coordinating training for all team members.

The Trauma Support Team Sergeants assume the responsibility for all team functions.

These responsibilities will include, but are not limited to:

• Contacting the department psychologist and advising him/her of the circumstances of the incident.

• Liaison with involved investigative personnel.

• Assessing the need for additional team members.

• Advising the team coordinator of the circumstances of the activation, employees involved, support team members being used, and status of the debriefed personnel.

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• Liaison with the Watch Commander on the activities of the Trauma Support Team.

1055.5 TRAINING

All Trauma Support Team members must attend all required training classes unless otherwise excused. No services will be performed until team members are certified by the department psychologist. Absence from training must be approved by a Trauma Support Team supervisor.

1055.6 ADMONITION

"As members of the Trauma Support Team, We are going to debrief you at the direction of Dr.Blum, a Clinical Psychologist. We have spoken with Dr. Blum about this incident and he has directed us to debrief you for the purpose of diagnosing any symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress. The information you tell us will remain confidential and we will only share it with Dr. Blum and other Trauma Support Team members as necessary. We are required by law to divulge any information regarding child abuse, elder abuse, criminal activity, or significant threats to harm yourself or another person. We will inform Dr. Blum of the results of this debriefing. This will be an oral debriefing and it will not be recorded and we will not take notes."

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Saluting Protocol

1057.1 PURPOSE

Being a Para-Military organization, Ventura Police Department members will follow the below described protocols when it comes to rendering a salute. A salute is the act of respect shown by a Department member towards the United States National Flag (Colors), or paying respect to a fallen member of this Department or another outside agency, and is performed while the sworn Department member is wearing a Class "A" uniform with the Department's Soft Cover or Campaign Cover.

Academy recruit saluting procedures will be dictated by academy staff and may vary from this policy.

1057.2 PROCEDURE

(a) When a salute is rendered:

1. Anytime a Department cover (Soft Cover or Campaign Cover) is being worn and a member is involved in any of the below listed activities:

   (a) Anytime respect is being paid to the National Color outdoors.

   (b) When the United States National Anthem is played.

   (c) When the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag is being recited outdoors.

   (d) When paying respect to a fallen member of this Department or other Law Enforcement Officer.

2. Soft covers or campaign covers are normally only worn outdoors, unless special circumstances dictate otherwise.

(b) When a salute is NOT rendered:

1. When a Department cover is NOT worn, usually inside a building; however, there may be special circumstances that dictate otherwise.

(c) In the event a salute cannot be rendered, or does not follow proper protocol, the Department member will stand at a position of attention and place their right hand over their heart during the event/activity.

(d) Salute Commands:

1. A salute will be rendered from a POSITION OF ATTENTION, and upon the Department hearing the command "UNIFORM PERSONNEL...PRESENT ARMS." The preparatory command "UNIFORM PERSONNEL" may vary slightly depending upon the situation; however, the command of execution "PRESENT ARMS" will always remain the same. To return a salute, the Department member will hear the command "UNIFORM PERSONNEL...ORDERARMS." Once again, the preparatory command may vary; however, the command of execution "ORDER ARMS" will always remain the same. The Department member will

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remain in the POSITION OF ATTENTION upon returning the salute, until given an additional command, i.e. "PARADE REST, DISMISSED, etc."

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Employee Speech, Expression and Social Networking

1058.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy is intended to address issues associated with employee use of social networking sites and to provide guidelines for the regulation and balancing of employee speech and expression with the needs of the Department.

Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit or infringe upon any communication, speech or expression that is protected or privileged under law. This includes speech and expression protected under state or federal constitutions as well as labor or other applicable laws. For example, this policy does not limit an employee from speaking as a private citizen, including acting as an authorized member of a recognized bargaining unit or officer associations, about matters of public concern, such as misconduct or corruption.

Employees are encouraged to consult with their supervisor regarding any questions arising from the application or potential application of this policy.

1058.1.1 APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all forms of communication including but not limited to film, video, print media, public or private speech, use of all internet services, including the World Wide Web, e-mail, file transfer, remote computer access, news services, social networking, social media, instant messaging, blogs, forums, video, and other file-sharing sites.

1058.2 POLICY

Public employees occupy a trusted position in the community, and thus, their statements have the potential to contravene the policies and performance of this department. Due to the nature of the work and influence associated with the law enforcement profession, it is necessary that employees of this department be subject to certain reasonable limitations on their speech and expression. To achieve its mission and efficiently provide service to the public, the Ventura Police Department will carefully balance the individual employee’s rights against the Department’s needs and interests when exercising a reasonable degree of control over its employees’ speech and expression.

1058.3 SAFETY

Employees should consider carefully the implications of their speech or any other form of expression when using the internet. Speech and expression that may negatively affect the safety of the Ventura Police Department employees, such as posting personal information in a public forum, can result in compromising an employee’s home address or family ties. Employees should therefore not disseminate or post any information on any forum or medium that could reasonably be anticipated to compromise the safety of any employee, an employee's family, or associates. Examples of the type of information that could reasonably be expected to compromise safety include:

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- Disclosing a photograph and name or address of an officer who is working undercover.
- Disclosing the address of a fellow officer.
- Otherwise disclosing where another officer can be located off-duty.

1058.4 PROHIBITED SPEECH, EXPRESSION AND CONDUCT

To meet the department's safety, performance and public-trust needs, the following are prohibited unless the speech is otherwise protected (for example, an employee speaking as a private citizen, including acting as an authorized member of a recognized bargaining unit or officer associations, on a matter of public concern):

(a) Speech or expression made pursuant to an official duty that tends to compromise or damage the mission, function, reputation or professionalism of the Ventura Police Department or its employees.

(b) Speech or expression that, while not made pursuant to an official duty, is significantly linked to, or related to, the Ventura Police Department and tends to compromise or damage the mission, function, reputation or professionalism of the Ventura Police Department or its employees. Examples may include:

1. Statements that indicate disregard for the law or the state or U.S. Constitution.
2. Expression that demonstrates support for criminal activity.
3. Participating in sexually explicit photographs or videos for compensation or distribution.

(c) Speech or expression that could reasonably be foreseen as having a negative impact on the credibility of the employee as a witness. For example, posting statements or expressions to a website that glorify or endorse dishonesty, unlawful discrimination or illegal behavior.

(d) Speech or expression of any form that could reasonably be foreseen as having a negative impact on the safety of the employees of the Department. For example, a statement on a blog that provides specific details as to how and when prisoner transportations are made could reasonably be foreseen as potentially jeopardizing employees by informing criminals of details that could facilitate an escape or attempted escape.

(e) Speech or expression that is contrary to the canons of the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics as adopted by the Ventura Police Department.

(f) Use or disclosure, through whatever means, of any information, photograph, video or other recording obtained or accessible as a result of employment with the Department for financial or personal gain, or any disclosure of such materials without the express authorization of the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

(g) Posting, transmitting or disseminating any photographs, video or audio recordings, likenesses or images of department logos, emblems, uniforms, badges, patches, marked vehicles, equipment or other material that specifically identifies the Ventura Police Department on any personal or social networking or other website or web page, for financial or personal gain, without the express authorization of the Chief of Police.

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(h) Accessing websites for non-authorized purposes, or use of any personal communication device, game device or media device, whether personally or department-owned, for personal purposes while on-duty, except in the following circumstances:

1. When brief personal communication may be warranted by the circumstances (e.g., inform family of extended hours).
2. During authorized breaks such usage should be limited as much as practicable to areas out of sight and sound of the public and shall not be disruptive to the work environment.

Employees must take reasonable and prompt action to remove any content, including content posted by others, that is in violation of this policy from any web page or website maintained by the employee (e.g., social or personal website).

1058.4.1 UNAUTHORIZED ENDORSEMENTS AND ADVERTISEMENTS

While employees are not restricted from engaging in the following activities as private citizens or as authorized members of a recognized bargaining unit or officer associations, employees may not represent the Ventura Police Department or identify themselves in any way that could be reasonably perceived as representing the Ventura Police Department in order to do any of the following, unless specifically authorized by the Chief of Police (Government Code § 3206; Government Code § 3302):

(a) Endorse, support, oppose or contradict any political campaign or initiative.

(b) Endorse, support, oppose or contradict any social issue, cause or religion.

(c) Endorse, support or oppose any product, service, company or other commercial entity.

(d) Appear in any commercial, social or nonprofit publication or any motion picture, film, video, public broadcast or on any website.

Additionally, when it can reasonably be construed that an employee, acting in his/her individual capacity or through an outside group or organization (e.g., bargaining group or officer associations), is affiliated with this department, the employee shall give a specific disclaiming statement that any such speech or expression is not representative of the Ventura Police Department.

Employees retain their right to vote as they choose, to support candidates of their choice and to express their opinions as private citizens, including as authorized members of a recognized bargaining unit or officer associations, on political subjects and candidates at all times while off-duty.

However, employees may not use their official authority or influence to interfere with or affect the result of an election or a nomination for office. Employees are also prohibited from directly or indirectly using their official authority to coerce, command or advise another employee to pay, lend or contribute anything of value to a party, committee, organization, agency or person for political purposes (5 USC § 1502).

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1058.5 PRIVACY EXPECTATION

Employees forfeit any expectation of privacy with regard to e-mails, texts, or anything published or maintained through file-sharing software or any internet site (e.g., Facebook) that is accessed, transmitted, received, or reviewed on any department technology system (see the Information Technology Use Policy for additional guidance).

The Department shall not require an employee to disclose a personal user name or password for accessing personal social media or to open a personal social website; however, the Department may request access when it is reasonably believed to be relevant to the investigation of allegations of work-related misconduct (Labor Code § 980).

1058.6 CONSIDERATIONS

In determining whether to grant authorization of any speech or conduct that is prohibited under this policy, the factors that the Chief of Police or authorized designee should consider include:

(a) Whether the speech or conduct would negatively affect the efficiency of delivering public services.

(b) Whether the speech or conduct would be contrary to the good order of the Department or the efficiency or morale of its members.

(c) Whether the speech or conduct would reflect unfavorably upon the Department.

(d) Whether the speech or conduct would negatively affect the member's appearance of impartiality in the performance of his/her duties.

(e) Whether similar speech or conduct has been previously authorized.

(f) Whether the speech or conduct may be protected and outweighs any interest of the Department.

1058.7 TRAINING

Subject to available resources, the Department should provide training regarding employee speech and the use of social networking to all members of the Department.

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Attachments

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Ventura PD Military Equipment List 2022-update 05052022.pdf

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MILITARY EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT **DARIN SCHINDLER, POLICE CHIEF**

(1) *Unmanned, remotely piloted, powered aerial or ground vehicles:*

a. Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)

- Drone: Remotely piloted aerial vehicle capable of providing live and recorded video images captured from aerial positions to aid in investigations, including missing persons, search and rescue, vehicle collisions, natural disaster management, crime scene evidence collection, public safety, high-risk apprehension of suspects and life-saving missions.
- Use authorized by a Sergeant
- Assigned operators must be licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration
- Quantity: 6

b. Robotex Avatar II.

- Robot: A remotely controlled, unmanned machine that operates on the ground used to safely gain visual/audio data, deliver negotiation phone, open doors, disrupt packages, clear buildings, etc.
- Use authorized by a Sergeant
- Robot operators are trained per the instructions included with the robot
- Quantity: 1

(2) *High mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWV), commonly referred to as Humvees, two and one-half-ton trucks, five-ton trucks, or wheeled vehicles that have a breaching or entry apparatus attached:*

LENCO Bearcat armored rescue vehicle (ARV)

- Armored vehicle: Allows for rescue of down personnel and citizens. It can stop various projectiles, which provides greater safety beyond the protection of body armor.
- Use of an armored vehicle may be authorized by a Sergeant.
- All driver/operators shall be trained in vehicle operations.
- Quantity: 1

(3) *Command and control vehicles that are either built or modified to facilitate the operational control and direction of public safety units:*

Police and Fire Command Post

- 2003 Farber Specialty Vehicle that provides for shelter, access to computers and communications equipment for large/extended events.
- Use may be authorized by a Sergeant.
- All driver/operators shall be trained in vehicle operations.
- Quantity: 1

(4) *Specialized firearms and ammunition of less than .50 caliber, including assault weapons as defined in Sections 30510 and 30515 of the Penal Code, with the exception of standard issue service weapons and ammunition of less than .50 caliber that are issued to officers, agents, or employees of a law enforcement agency or a state agency:*

a. Remington .308 caliber rifle
- Sniper rifle: Accurate at distance
- Utilized only by trained SWAT personnel
- Quantity: up to 4

b. Accuracy International .308 caliber rifle
- Sniper rifle: Accurate at distance
- Utilized only by trained SWAT personnel
- Quantity: up to 4

c. Sig Sauer .223 caliber rifle
- Patrol rifle: More powerful than pistol but less powerful than standard rifle. Allows for better precision when needed to address a threat with more accuracy and from a greater distance than a handgun, such as an encounter an armed or barricaded suspect.
- POST rifle certification required for use
- Quantity: up to 75

d. Colt .223 caliber rifle
- Patrol rifle: More powerful than pistol but less powerful than standard rifle. Allows for better precision when needed to address a threat with more accuracy and from a greater distance than a handgun, such as an encounter an armed or barricaded suspect.
- POST rifle certification required for use
- Quantity: up to 75

e. American Spirit Arms AR-15:
- Patrol rifle: More powerful than pistol but less powerful than standard rifle. Allows for better precision when needed to address a threat with more accuracy and from a greater distance than a handgun, such as an encounter an armed or barricaded suspect.
- POST rifle certification required for use
- Quantity: up to 75

f. H & K MP-5:
- 9mm submachine gun
- Used by trained SWAT personnel for high-risk situations
- SWAT training and certification required for use

- Quantity: 17

g. Ammunition for specialized firearms:
   - .308: up to 3,000 rounds
   - .223/.556: up to 95,000 rounds

(5) "Flashbang" grenades and explosive breaching tools, "tear gas," and "pepper balls," excluding standard, service-issued handheld pepper spray:

a. Combined Tactical Systems (CTS) Flashbang
   - Sound/light distraction device: Single use
   - Ideal for distracting dangerous suspects during hostage rescues, room entry, or other high-risk arrest situations.
   - Use Authorized by a SWAT Sergeant or Commander
   - Only deployed by SWAT operators who have been trained in the proper use
   - Quantity: up to 50

b. Defense Technology CS and OC cannister
   - Tear Gas: Single use
   - Less lethal tool used to compel violent/armed and barricaded suspects from structures and vehicles when the circumstances are too hazardous for officers to enter. May also be used to compel large, violent, and riotous crowds to disperse from an outdoor area.
   - Use Authorized by a SWAT Sergeant or Commander
   - Only deployed by SWAT operators who have been trained in the proper use
   - Quantity: up to 20

c. Combined Tactical Systems smoke cannister
   - Smoke distraction device: Single use.
   - Emits smoke as a distraction and can be used indoors or outdoors.
   - Use Authorized by a SWAT Sergeant or Commander
   - Only deployed by SWAT operators who have been trained in the proper use
   - Quantity: up to 20

d. Defense Technology 40MM BP Liquid CS Rounds
   - Tear Gas projectiles: A less lethal 40mm projectile that is used to penetrate barriers (windows, hollow core doors, wallboard) and upon impact the nose cone ruptures and release a small amount of 2-chlorobenzalmalononitrile (CS).
   - Only deployed by SWAT operators who have been trained in the proper use
   - Quantity: up to 20

e. TAC-SA semi-automatic Pepper ball launcher
   - Less lethal tool used from a distance to deploy pepper ball rounds to compel potentially violent suspects to cease dangerous actions and

comply with arrest. May also be used to compel specific individuals in a large, violent, and riotous crowd to disperse from an outdoor area.
- Only deployed by SWAT operators who have been trained in the proper use
- Quantity: up to 2

f. Pava OC Pepper ball rounds
- The projectile is designed for direct impact and contains PAVA pepper powder.
- Quantity: up to 2,000

(6) The following projectile launch platforms and their associated munitions: 40mm projectile launchers, "bean bag," rubber bullet, and specialty impact munition (SIM) weapons:

a. Lewis Machine and Tool 40 mm single-round launcher
- Less lethal tool used from a distance to deploy 40mm rounds to compel potentially violent suspects to cease dangerous actions and comply with arrest. May also be used to compel specific individuals in a large, violent, and riotous crowd to disperse from an outdoor area.
- Officers using the 40mm launcher are trained by POST certified less lethal instructors.
- Quantity: 3

b. Lewis Machine and Tool 40 mm four-round launcher
- Less lethal tool used from a distance to deploy 40mm rounds to compel potentially violent suspects to cease dangerous actions and comply with arrest. May also be used to compel specific individuals in a large, violent, and riotous crowd to disperse from an outdoor area.
- Officers using the 40mm launcher are trained by POST certified less lethal instructors
- Quantity: 6

c. 40mm Less Lethal Sponge Rounds
- A less lethal 40mm lightweight plastic and foam projectile capable of being fired from a single or multi-round 40mm launcher
- Officers using the 40mm launcher are trained by POST certified less lethal instructors
- Quantity: up to 150

d. Winchester 870 bean bag platform
- Bean bag shotgun: Less lethal tool used from a distance to deploy bean bag round to compel potentially violent suspects to cease dangerous actions and comply with arrest. May also be used to compel specific individuals in a large, violent, and riotous crowd to disperse from an outdoor area.
- Officers using the bean bag shotgun are trained by POST certified less lethal instructors
- Quantity: 37

e. Bean bag rounds
    - The round is a less lethal 12-gauge shotgun round made of a ballistic fiber bag filled with approximately 40 grams of lead shot that travels at a velocity of 270 to 290 feet per second.
    - Quantity: up to 500

Statutes and Legal Requirements.pdf

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Statutes and Legal Requirements

Items listed in this section include sections from the California Penal Code (CPC), Welfare and Institutions Code (WI) and Government Code (GC).

Definitions

CPC 422.55 - Provides general definition of hate crimes in California.

CPC 422.56- Provides definitions of terms included in hate crimes statutes.

GC 12926- Disability-related definitions applicable to some hate crime statutes.

Felonies

Hate Crimes

CPC 422.7 - Commission of a crime for the purpose of interfering with another's exercise of civil rights.

Related Crimes

CPC 190.2(a)(16) - Homicide penalties related to certain hate crime related acts.

CPC 190.03(a) - Homicide penalties related to certain hate crime related acts.

CPC 288(b)(2) - Sexual assault of dependent person by caretaker

CPC 368(b) - Dependent adult abuse generally - may apply as disability-related hate crime.

CPC 594.3 - Vandalism of places of worship.

CPC 11412 - Causing or attempting to cause other to refrain from exercising religion by threat.

CPC 11413 - Arson or destructive device at place of worship.

Misdemeanors

Hate Crimes

CPC 422.6 - Use of force, threats, or destruction of property to interfere with another's exercise of civil rights.

CPC 422.77 - Violation of civil order (Bane Act) protecting the exercise of civil rights

Related Crimes

CPC 302 - Disorderly conduct during an assemblage of people gathered for religious worship at a tax-exempt place of worship.

CPC 538(c) - Unauthorized insertion of advertisements in newspapers and redistribution to the public.

CPC 640.2 - Placing handbill, notice of advertisement on a consumer product or product packaged without authorization.

CPC 11411 - Terrorism of owner or occupant of real property. Placement or display of sign, symbol, or other physical impression without authorization, engagement in pattern of conduct, or burning or desecration of religious symbols.

Enhancements

CPC 190.2(a)(16) - Special circumstances imposing the Death Penalty or Life Without Possibility of Parole, if the victim was intentionally killed because of sexual orientation, gender, or disability.

CPC 190.3 - Special circumstances imposing LWOP if the victim was intentionally killed because of sexual orientation, gender, or disability.

CPC 422.75 - Penalty for felony committed because of victim's race, color, religion, nationality, country or origin, ancestry, disability, or sexual orientation shall be enhanced one, two, or three years in prison, if the person acts alone; and two, three, or four years if the person commits the act with another.

CPC 1170.8 - Enhancement for robbery or assault at a place of worship.

CPC 1170.85(b) - Felony assault or battery enhancement due to age or disability.

Reporting

CPC 13023- Requirement for law enforcement agencies to report hate crime data to DOJ.

WI 15630 – Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Mandated Reporting (may apply in disability-related hate crimes).

Training and Policy Requirements

CPC 422.87 - Hate crimes policy adoption and update requirements (AB 1985, Effective January 1, 2019).

CPC 13519.6 - Defines hate crime training requirements for peace officers.

CPC 13519.41 - Training requirements on sexual orientation and gender identity-related hate crimes for peace officers and dispatchers (AB 2504, Effective January 1, 2019).

Miscellaneous Provisions

CPC 422.78 - Responsibility for prosecution of stay away order violations.

CPC 422.86 - Public policy regarding hate crimes.

CPC 422.89 - Legislative intent regarding violations of civil rights and hate crimes

CPC 422.92 - Hate crimes victims brochure requirement for law enforcement agencies.

CPC 422.93 - Protection of victims and witnesses from being reported to immigration authorities.

GC 6254 - Victim confidentiality.

Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training Hate Crimes Model Policy 2019.pdf

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Hate Crime Checklist.pdf

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HATE CRIME CHECKLIST

VICTIM

Victim Type:

☐ **Individual**
Legal name (Last, First): _____
Other Names used (AKA): _____

☐ **School, business or organization**
Name: _____
Type: _____
(e.g., non-profit, private, public school)
Address: _____

☐ **Faith-based organization**
Name: _____
Faith: _____
Address: _____

Target of Crime (Check all that apply):

☐ Person ☐ Private property ☐ Public property

☐ Other _____

Nature of Crime (Check all that apply):

☐ Bodily injury ☐ Threat of violence

☐ Property damage

☐ Other crime: _____

Property damage - estimated value _____

BIAS

Type of Bias
(Check all characteristics that apply):

☐ Disability
☐ Gender
☐ Gender identity/expression
☐ Sexual orientation
☐ Race
☐ Ethnicity
☐ Nationality
☐ Religion
☐ Significant day of offense
(e.g., 9/11, holy days)
☐ Other: _____

Specify disability (be specific):

_____

_____

Actual or Perceived Bias – Victim's Statement:

☐ Actual bias [Victim actually has the indicated characteristic(s)].

☐ Perceived bias [Suspect believed victim had the indicated characteristic(s)].

If perceived, explain the circumstances in narrative portion of Report.

Reason for Bias:

Do you feel you were targeted based on one of these characteristics?
☐ Yes ☐ No *Explain in narrative portion of Report.*

Do you know what motivated the suspect to commit this crime?
☐ Yes ☐ No *Explain in narrative portion of Report.*

Do you feel you were targeted because you associated yourself with an individual or a group?
☐ Yes ☐ No *Explain in narrative portion of Report.*

Are there indicators the suspect is affiliated with a Hate Group (i.e., literature/tattoos)?
☐ Yes ☐ No *Describe in narrative portion of Report.*

Are there Indicators the suspect is affiliated with a criminal street gang?
☐ Yes ☐ No *Describe in narrative portion of Report.*

Bias Indicators (Check all that apply):

☐ Hate speech ☐ Acts/gestures ☐ Property damage ☐ Symbol used
☐ Written/electronic communication ☐ Graffiti/spray paint ☐ Other: _____

Describe with exact detail in narrative portion of Report.

HISTORY

Relationship Between Suspect & Victim:

Suspect known to victim? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Nature of relationship: _____
Length of relationship: _____
If Yes, describe in narrative portion of Report

☐ Prior reported incidents with suspect? Total # _____
☐ Prior unreported incidents with suspect? Total # _____
Restraining orders? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If Yes, describe in narrative portion of Report
Type of order: _____ Order/Case# _____

WEAPONS

Weapon(s) used during incident? ☐ Yes ☐ No Type: _____
Weapon(s) booked as evidence? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Automated Firearms System (AFS) Inquiry attached to Report? ☐ Yes ☐ No

HATE CRIME CHECKLIST

EVIDENCE

Witnesses present during incident? ☐ Yes ☐ No Statements taken? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Evidence collected? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Photos taken? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Total # of photos: _____ D#: _____

Taken by: _____ Serial #: _____

Recordings: ☐ Video ☐ Audio ☐ Booked

Suspect identified: ☐ Field ID ☐ By photo ☐ Known to victim

OBSERVATIONS

VICTIM	SUSPECT
☐ Tattoos	☐ Tattoos
☐ Shaking	☐ Shaking
☐ Unresponsive	☐ Unresponsive
☐ Crying	☐ Crying
☐ Scared	☐ Scared
☐ Angry	☐ Angry
☐ Fearful	☐ Fearful
☐ Calm	☐ Calm
☐ Agitated	☐ Agitated
☐ Nervous	☐ Nervous
☐ Threatening	☐ Threatening
☐ Apologetic	☐ Apologetic
☐ Other observations: _____	☐ Other observations: _____

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS (Explain all boxes marked "Yes" in narrative portion of report):

Has suspect ever threatened you? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Has suspect ever harmed you? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Does suspect possess or have access to a firearm? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you afraid for your safety? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have any other information that may be helpful? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Resources offered at scene: ☐ Yes ☐ No Type: _____

MEDICAL

Victim	Suspect	
☐	☐	Declined medical treatment
☐	☐	Will seek own medical treatment
☐	☐	Received medical treatment

Authorization to Release Medical Information, Form 05.03.00, signed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Paramedics at scene? ☐ Yes ☐ No Unit # _____

Name(s)/ID #: _____

Hospital: _____

Jail Dispensary: _____

Physician/Doctor: _____

Patient #: _____

Officer (Name/Rank)	Date
Officer (Name/Rank)	Date
Supervisor Approving (Name/Rank)	Date

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