

# CITY OF ANDERSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Anderson, South Carolina

<b>DIRECTIVE TYPE</b> General Order	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> March 28, 2012	<b>NUMBER</b> 1506.1
<b>SUBJECT</b> Body Armor	<b>REVISED</b> March 28, 2012	
<b>REFERENCE</b> SCPAC 16.5	<b>AMENDS/SUPERSEDES</b> 1506	
<b>DISTRIBUTION</b> All Personnel	<b>RE-EVALUATION DATE</b> Annual	<b>NO. PAGES</b> 3

### A. Purpose

It is the intent of this policy to establish guidelines and requirements for the proper use of Department issued body armor.

### B. Policy

To ensure officer safety, all sworn Uniform Patrol officers shall wear body armor at all times while on official duty. Other sworn officers, administrative officers and investigators will be required to wear body armor under certain circumstances as specified in this policy.

### C. Procedure

1. While on official duty, all members will have body armor immediately available at all times.
  - a. *Immediately available:* Either (a) wearing body armor or (b) having it in close proximity so that it can be put on at a moment's notice.
  - b. *Official duty:* On duty police employment compensated by the City of Anderson, Incorporated.
2. As stated in B (Policy) above, all sworn Uniform Patrol officers shall wear body armor at all times while on official duty.

3. Only Department issued body armor will be worn while on duty, unless otherwise approved in writing through the Chief of Police. Requests to wear body armor other than that issued will be sent to the Chief of Police via the proper Chain of Command.
4. Body armor will be a threat level equal to or greater than the threat afforded by the standard issued firearm.
5. Administrative officers and investigators may be issued an outer garment ballistic vest which will be worn in the following circumstances:
  - a. Crowd control situations;
  - b. Drug enforcement activities;
  - c. When ordered to do so by a supervisor;
  - d. Any high-risk assignment;
  - e. Any time an officer has received information that a situation may be potentially dangerous.
    - (1) NOTE: Under the above incidents, body armor may be worn in the standard carrier in place of the outer garment.
  - f. The outer garment vests will identify the person as a law enforcement officer.
6. The body armor will be worn underneath the duty shirt or in a Department approved carrier to be worn over the uniform shirt. Supervisors will ensure that the body armor fits properly.
7. Officers will report any damage or wear to the ballistic panels or cover of the body armor to their supervisor.
8. Officers will be responsible for properly maintaining their body armor according to manufacturer guidelines.
9. Upon issuance, each officer will be instructed on the proper wearing and caring of their body armor.
10. Supervisors will be responsible for ensuring that body armor is worn and maintained as required by this policy by conducting a periodic documented inspection of all body armor issued to their personnel.
  - a. This duty will include ensuring that a vest that has been struck by a bullet or significantly damaged in another fashion is taken out of service for an immediate inspection. A memo documenting the supervisor's inspection will be forwarded to the Patrol Services Captain to be maintained on file.

- b. Additionally, the Patrol Services Captain will conduct an annual inspection of all body armor issued to City of Anderson Police Department personnel.
- 11. The Patrol Services Captain will be responsible for evaluating the need for replacing current body armor due to technological advances.
- 12. Wearing body armor is optional for officers who are off work from official duty and in possession of their issued firearm(s). Under these circumstances, the choice of wearing of body armor shall be a discretionary decision of the officer, unless otherwise ordered by the supervisor in charge.

By order of:

  
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Martin D. Brown, Chief of Police

3-28-12  
Date