

CITY OF ANDERSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Anderson, South Carolina

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LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Primary Responsibilities of an Sworn Officer

A sworn officer acts as an official representative of government who is required and trusted to work within the law. The officer's powers and duties are conferred by statute. The fundamental duties of a sworn officer include (1) serving the public, (2) protecting the innocent, and (3) enforcing city, state, and federal laws. The priorities are (1) the protection of life, liberty, and property, (2) the preservation of peace, and (3) the prevention of crime.

Performance of the Duties of a Sworn Officer

A sworn officer shall perform all duties impartially, without favor or affection or ill will and without regard to status, sex, race, religion, political belief or aspiration. All citizens will be treated equally with courtesy, consideration and dignity.

A sworn officer will never allow personal feelings, animosities or friendships to influence official conduct. Laws will be enforced appropriately and courteously. In carrying out his or her responsibilities, the officer will strive to obtain maximum cooperation from the public. All officers are expected to conduct themselves in both appearance and behavior in such a manner as to inspire confidence and respect for the position of public trust they hold.

Discretion

A sworn officer will use responsibly the discretion vested in the position and exercise it within the law. The principle of reasonableness will guide the officer's determinations and the officer will consider all surrounding circumstances in determining whether any legal action shall be taken.

Consistent and wise use of discretion based on professional policing competence will do much to preserve

good relationships and retain the confidence of the public. There can be difficulty in choosing between conflicting courses of action. It is important to remember that a word of advice rather than an arrest--which may be correct in appropriate circumstances--can be a more effective means of achieving a desired end in some circumstances.

Use of Force

A sworn officer will never employ unnecessary force or violence and will use only such force in the discharge of duty as is reasonable in all circumstances.

Force should be used only with greatest restraint and only after discussion, negotiation and persuasion have been found to be inappropriate or ineffective. While the use of force is occasionally unavoidable, every police officer will refrain from applying the unnecessary infliction of pain or suffering and will never engage in cruel, degrading or inhuman treatment of any person.

Confidentiality

Whatever a sworn officer sees, hears, or learns of, which is of a confidential nature, will be kept secret unless the performance of duty or legal provision requires otherwise.

Members of the public have a right to security and privacy. No information obtained about them will be improperly divulged.

Integrity

A sworn officer will not engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will an officer condone such acts by other sworn officers.

The public demands that the integrity of sworn officers be above reproach. A sworn officer must, therefore, avoid any conduct that might compromise integrity and thus undercut the public's confidence in law enforcement. A sworn officer will refuse to accept any gifts, presents, subscriptions, favors, gratuities or promises that could be interpreted as seeking to cause the officer to refrain from performing official responsibilities honestly and within the law. A sworn officer must not receive private or special advantage from their official status. Respect from the public cannot be bought; it can only be earned and cultivated.

Cooperation with Other Officers and Agencies

Sworn officers will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

An officer or agency may be one among many organizations that may provide law enforcement services to a jurisdiction. It is imperative that a sworn officer assists colleagues fully and completely with respect and consideration at all times.

Personal/Professional Capabilities

A sworn officer will be responsible for his or her standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve their level of knowledge and competence.

Through study and experience, a sworn officer can acquire the high level of knowledge and competence that is essential for the efficient and effective performance of duty. The acquisition of knowledge is a never-ending process of personal and professional development that should be pursued constantly.

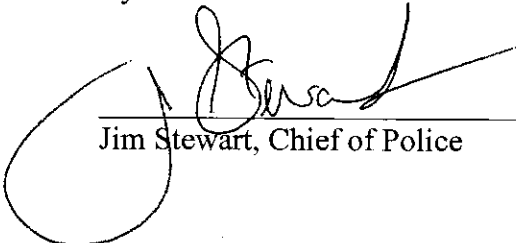
Private Life

A sworn officer will behave in a manner that does not bring personal discredit or discredit to the agency.

A sworn officer's character and conduct off duty must always be exemplary, thus maintaining a position of respect in the community in which the officer lives and serves. The officer's personal behavior must be beyond reproach.

All personnel are to sign the Law Enforcement Code of Conduct using APD 116 Law Enforcement Code of Conduct Form 2011.

By order of:



Jim Stewart, Chief of Police

4-18-17
Date