



## Authority and Responsibility of Chief of Police

### .01 Policy

It is the policy of the Bladensburg Police Department to operate under the leadership of the Chief of Police who is responsible for all department operations. The Chief of Police reports directly to the Town Administrator.

### .02 Terms

### .03 Governing Legislation and Reference

Governing Legislation: N/A

Forms: N/A

### .04 Procedure

The Chief is appointed by the Mayor with consent of the Town Council and is directly responsible to the Town Administrator for the efficient conduct and operation of the department.

During periods of extended absence (e.g., vacation or town business trips), the Chief of Police may designate a commander to serve as the "Acting" Chief of Police.

The Chief is responsible for:

- the administration, efficiency, and general conduct of the department;
- the discipline, training, welfare, efficiency, and morale of the department;
- all department facilities and resources;
- for preparing and administering an annual budget and any other fiscal requirements of the department; and,
- for planning, organizing, directing, and coordinating all department functions, as well as maintaining proper external relations with governmental agencies and with the public.

The Chief has the responsibility for the assignment and reassignment of all members and for the efficiency, general conduct, and appearance of such members. In this capacity, the Chief has the authority to determine and enforce rules and regulations for the operation of the department.

To assist the Chief in discharging these duties and responsibilities, the Chief may appoint staff to

assist in the exercise of command and may appoint subordinates to supervise the department's bureaus, divisions, sections, and units.

All orders issued by the Chief to subordinate officers will be governed by the chain of command.

The Chief has authority over all units of the department and all of its members, consistent with the laws and the constitution of the State of Maryland and the ordinances of the Town of Bladensburg.

The authority of the Chief includes creating, implementing, and administering department policy, procedure, and rules and regulations governing the conduct and activities of all department personnel.

The Chief may assign or transfer any member of the department when such action is decided by the Chief to be in the best interest of the department.

The Chief may authorize personnel to deviate from the provisions of the department's General Orders Manual or standard operating procedures when such deviation is determined to be in the public interest.

The Chief may, in accordance with personnel procedures or applicable law, reprimand, suspend, demote, or dismiss any member for violating any provisions of the General Orders Manual or standard operating procedures, the Town Personnel Policy or Operating Procedure, and any State, Federal, or local law or ordinances.

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HISTORY: Adopted July 1, 2014

This General Order supersedes all other orders and memoranda in conflict therewith.

Authority:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles L. Owens". The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops and is positioned above the printed name.

Charles L. Owens  
Chief of Police