



Sworn Officer Duties

.01 Policy

It is the policy of the Bladensburg Police Department to delineate an officer's duties and responsibilities for those situations where sworn personnel are required to act in an official capacity or are performing official duties.

.02 Terms

.03 Governing Legislation and Reference

Governing Legislation: N/A

Forms: N/A

.04 Procedure

Sworn Officer Responsibilities

Sworn department members are responsible for the enforcement of all federal and state laws, and Town of Bladensburg ordinances. Sworn department members will, within the scope of their authority, make reasonable inquiries, conduct impartial investigations, and arrest on probable cause.

Sworn department members are entrusted to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Maryland, preserve the peace, prevent crime, protect life and property, and to detect and apprehend violators of the law.

All officers are responsible for taking prompt and proper police action concerning any violations that come to their attention.

Sworn members shall not arrest any person or search any premises or person except with an arrest warrant, search warrant, or where such arrest or search is authorized without a warrant under the laws of the State of Maryland or the United States.

Compliance with Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and Oath of Office

Sworn members are required to abide by the standards of the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

and Oath of Office that are incorporated within this manual.

Standards for Police Action While Off-duty

Off-duty officers shall act in an official capacity if they observe any incident that requires immediate police action, or if such action will safeguard life, property or prevent the escape of a felon or violent criminal. If off-duty officers observe, or have their attention called to an incident that requires police action not meeting this standard, they shall request an on-duty officer respond to their location as soon as practical. Off-duty officers shall stand-by until properly relieved by the on-duty officer.

Failure to have a firearm will not relieve an officer of the responsibility to take action in any police matter coming to their attention at any time. However, an officer is not required to carry a firearm while off-duty. As such, an officer shall not be subject to disciplinary action in the event they choose not to carry a firearm while off-duty and decline to engage a subject and take police action in certain circumstances.

Off-duty officers are subject to "recall to duty" in the event of a significant or critical incident. Off-duty officers shall contact the on-duty supervisor to determine if they need to return to on-duty status.

Use of Discretion by Officers

Reasonable and appropriate police action varies with each situation. Different facts or circumstances may justify an investigation, a detention, a search, an arrest, no police action, or other disposition. Thus, in the absence of specific orders, sworn members must continually exercise discretionary judgment in order to ensure that the safety and security of the public is properly protected. Sworn members shall exercise discretionary judgment, in a reasonable manner, and remain within the limits of their authority as defined by law, judicial interpretation and Departmental directives.

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HISTORY: Adopted January 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 written in a cursive style with large, looping letters.

Charles L. Owens
Chief of Police