



## Recognition of Casual Clothes Personnel

### .01 Policy

The safety of all law enforcement personnel is of paramount importance to law enforcement. The quick and effective recognition of casual clothes personnel utilizing consistent procedures is an important component of ensuring that safety. Therefore, it is the desire of the Department that all members train to, and adhere to this policy.

### Background

The policy is designed to reduce the hazards inherent in confrontational situations between uniform and casual clothes law enforcement personnel. It is not intended to supersede the procedures in the deployment of casual clothes or undercover personnel. These procedures are designed for both on and off duty personnel.

### .02 Terms

Member: a sworn employee of any law enforcement agency or the Military District of Washington.

### .03 Governing Legislation and Reference

Governing Legislation: N/A

Forms: N/A

Reference: N/A

### .04 Procedure

#### A Member Identification

- It is very important that members in casual clothes be properly identified when required to exercise overt responsibilities. It is of great benefit that citizens, offenders, and fellow law enforcement personnel be able to identify casual clothes members in their true capacity in order to reduce the likelihood of false reports, crime scene confusion and misidentification as criminals .
- Members in casual clothes will, when present at crime scenes, call for service, or whenever it is necessary to be prominently identified, conspicuously display their badge. Additionally, a police arm band or raid jacket displaying their agency's badge and/or patch may be worn. (Ball caps are not a recommended form of

alternative identification)

- Notification to communications should be made to alert responding members of the presence of casual clothes personnel.
- Members working casual clothes assignments, but not undercover, shall carry their badge and credentials with them at all times.
- Members who are off duty and carrying a firearm shall carry their badge and credentials with them at all times.

#### B . Challenging Member

- Members will use extreme caution when confronting suspected casual clothes personnel. A position of advantage (cover) should be attained prior to issuing a challenge.
- Members will state in a loud and clear voice "Police— Don't Move." This challenge should be used in all situations for simplicity and uniformity.
- Members will proceed with caution until the subject's identity has been confirmed.
- Members receiving the tentative recognition signal described below from a subject they have under their control will regard the signal only as an indication that they may be dealing with a law enforcement agency member.
- Members will exercise sound judgment in determining whether to protect the role of a casual clothes member by treating him or her as a suspect in the presence of others.
- Once the recognition signal is received and the situation is controlled and stabilized, the challenging member should then request further identification from the challenged person and then proceed accordingly.

#### C. Challenged Member

- Upon being challenged, members will remain motionless unless given a positive directive otherwise .

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- Members will obey the commands of the challenging member, whether or not he or she is in uniform. This may entail submission to arrest.
- Members will not attempt to produce identification unless and until so instructed.
- If circumstances permit, members may verbally announce their identity and state the location of their badge and credentials.
- Members should ask the challenger to repeat any directions or questions that are unclear and should never argue with the challenger.
- Challenged members will follow all instructions received until recognition is acknowledged.
- Members will utilize the recognition signal described below when directed by a fellow member to raise his or her hands.

### D. Tentative Recognition Signal

- When directed by a uniformed member to raise their hands over their heads, members in casual clothes will immediately comply by straightening their arms over their heads, crossing them at the wrists with the palms forward and the fingers widespread.
- When challenged by a member who is not in uniform, the challenged member should use his or her own judgment as to whether the tentative recognition signal should be used.

### E. Notifications

- When interaction with another law enforcement agency utilizing casual clothes personnel is likely and the operation will not be compromised, notification of the activity should be made to the affected agencies.

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HISTORY: Adopted April 1, 2016

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

Authority:



Charles L. Owens  
Chief of Police