

COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Subject: CODE OF ETHICS

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I. Purpose

To establish a written code of ethical conduct that will serve as a model for all personnel (sworn and civilian) of the Covington Police Department. Certain aspects of the Code of Ethics listed below refer specifically to law enforcement officers, but overall, the Code addresses the conduct of all employees.

II. Statement of Policy

It shall be the policy of the Covington Police Department to adopt the "Law Enforcement Code of Ethics" published by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Furthermore, all personnel of this department shall be required to abide by this code of ethics, especially, when situations arise which are not directly addressed by any SOP. All personnel shall receive ethics training on a biennial basis.

III. Code of Ethics

As a Law Enforcement Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and to respect the constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

I know that I, alone, am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession – law enforcement.

This SOP supersedes any SOP previously issued.

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

Stacey L. Cotton
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Chief of Police