



## Lunenburg Police Department Rules & Regulations

<b>Policy Number:</b> <b>3.00</b>	<b>Subject:</b> <b>Introduction</b>
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<b>Issuing Authority:</b>  <i>Chief Thomas L. Gammel</i>	

### 3.00 – INTRODUCTION

Law enforcement professionals have a unique role in today's society. The power and authority granted to the police are substantial. No other group has the right to enter citizen's homes or places of employment to search and make arrests. Only the police may stop a motor vehicle, detain persons on the street, and engage in interrogations. The use of deadly force alone makes law enforcement officers unique.

As with any granting of authority, there comes an accompanying responsibility. For police professionals it involves, at a minimum, the adherence to law and the fair and impartial exercise of such authority. Officers learn from their earlier days in the basic academy that they have discretion in when and how they exercise their lawful authority. They are taught that the ethical performance of their duties is essential to ensure both departmental integrity and essential public support and confidence.

Many expectations of police conduct "go without saying." Certainly officers must obey the law, exercise their responsibilities within constitutional guidelines, and obey lawful orders. However, the establishing of a manual of rules and regulations is a time-tested tradition in police departments. It is only fair that officers have some way of knowing in advance what is expected and what conduct is prohibited. Many forms of conduct that are "unbecoming a police officer" are known from common sense or learned during training or on the job. However, when this is not the case, or where a particular action is either required or prohibited, it is helpful to spell it out in a manual such as this.

Law enforcement is, at the same time, one of the most demanding, yet one of the most rewarding, professions. The role of a police officer in a democratic society is an ever changing one. The training an individual receives at the police academy is but a first step in an ongoing process of education and

training which will span an officer's career. This department is committed to making in-service and specialized training available to its officers, consistent with statutory mandates and subject to municipal appropriation. Officers are encouraged to pursue degree programs in law enforcement as well. This Manual of Rules and Regulations, along with the Department's Policies and Procedures Manual, periodic general or special orders and memoranda, and applicable job descriptions, should assist police officers in remaining aware of what is expected of them.

The quasi-military nature of a police agency is one of its time-tested traditions. A rank structure and a chain of command have proven an essential component, especially in an organization involved in dangerous and even life-threatening activities. The need for camaraderie and team work is evident to the experienced law enforcement professional. Our distinctive appearance, including a uniform and grooming standards, help foster *esprit de corps* and security among members of the department, as well as recognition and confidence among members of the public.

The standard of conduct expected of law enforcement officers is often higher than that demanded of other municipal employees. We recognize this in accepting appointment to our chosen profession. When the needs of public confidence require, we are held to a high ethical standard which dictates the avoidance of even the appearance of impropriety. Likewise, we acknowledge the need for reasonable restrictions on our off duty conduct, especially where it reflects on our profession or the department.

The department is aware of its labor relations obligations. It is prepared to bargain with the appropriate bargaining representative(s) over any rules that involve or impact upon mandatory subjects of bargaining.

This Manual will generally serve as the basis for departmental discipline. It does not attempt to, nor could any such document, cover every possible situation. It attempts to outline the minimal level of conduct expected of each officer. Familiarity with its contents is required. On a more positive note, however, officers are encouraged to use this Manual as part of their overall training experience. They should endorse the ethical standards and commit themselves to a code of conduct befitting members of our noble profession.

An effort has been made to make the manual gender neutral. Where appropriate, the masculine will include both genders and the singular and plural are interchangeable.

Whenever this Manual refers to such things as permission or approval of the Chief, this will refer to his or her designee when, from time to time, the Chief authorizes others to act on his or her behalf in appropriate circumstances. Use of the term Commanding Officer or superior officer may occasionally be used interchangeably. The Law Enforcement Code of Ethics is a time-honored tradition among members of our profession. Its inclusion in this Manual is meant to remind officers of the lofty goals and worthwhile objectives which are consistent with our professional calling.

It is one sign of a true *profession* that it has a code of conduct concerning voluntarily adopted ethical standards. Ours is no exception. This department, and indeed our community, expects officers to adhere to this code of conduct [1.1.2].

### **3.01 - LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS<sup>3</sup> [1.1.2]**

*As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence and disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality, and justice.*

*I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; 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 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, animosities, or friendships to influence my 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 the police service.*

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

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<sup>3</sup> See 15.0 - REVISIONS