

**Title: 2.04 Personal Decorum**

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**PURPOSE:**

To describe standards for the members in dealing with the public.

**STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES:**

1. In dealing with the public, courtesy and avoidance of unnecessary demonstration of authority will be the guiding principles. Force will only be used when necessary to protect life or property or when the officer's safety is in jeopardy. As a general rule, be firm but polite.

2. Officers in contact with the public will conduct themselves with dignity. Abusive language will not be used. Sarcasm, curtness or non-concern with the problems of the citizenry will not be evidenced in the behavior of any officer.

3. In conducting themselves as professionals, officers will always remember that their behavior is a reflection not only upon themselves but on the Police Department generally. Personal discipline will be consciously cultivated.

4. Every member of the Department must remember that as with any public official, their private behavior reflects on their public image and that their private behavior in public situations may be judged by the citizenry more strictly than is the case with other public officials.

5. No officer will expect special deference from others because he/she is a police officer. This is true both on and off duty.

**Authority:**



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