

**METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT – CITY OF ST. LOUIS  
OFFICE OF THE POLICE COMMISSIONER  
SPECIAL ORDER**

**Date Issued:** December 15, 2022      **Order No.:** SO 1-07  
**Effective Date:** December 15, 2022      **Expiration:** Indefinite  
**Reference:**  
**CALEA Standards:** 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 12.2.1  
**Cancelled Publications:** SO 1-07, issued March 9, 2016  
**Subject:** MISSION, VALUES, CODES OF ETHICS, AND OATH OF OFFICE  
**To:** ALL BUREAUS, DISTRICTS AND DIVISIONS

PURPOSE: To establish the mission statement, values, ethics, and oath of office for the Department.

By Order of:



Michael Sack  
Lieutenant Colonel  
Interim Police Commissioner

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**Subject:** MISSION, VALUES, CODES OF ETHICS, AND OATH OF OFFICE  
**To:** ALL BUREAUS, DISTRICTS AND DIVISIONS

PURPOSE: To establish the mission statement, values, ethics, and oath of office for the Department.

A. MISSION STATEMENT (12.2.1.a)

The mission of the St. Louis Police Department is to protect, serve, and assist citizens when conditions arise that may affect the well-being of the individual or the community. Cooperating with others in the community, officers will work to prevent and detect crime, protect life and property, and achieve a peaceful society, free from the fear of crime and disorder. Members of the Department will strive continually for excellence and maintain the peace through service, integrity, leadership, and fair treatment to all.

B. STATEMENT ON THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE (12.2.1.a)

1. The primary responsibility of this Department and each of its members is to protect the lives of the citizens we are sworn to serve. It is also the duty of each member of the Department to honor the established principles of democracy upon which this country was founded. Among these principles is the most profound reverence for human life, the value of which far exceeds that of any property. It is essential that every action of this Department and of each of its members be consistent with that responsibility.
2. In recognition of the commitment by this Department to preserve human life, and because of the public trust empowering sworn police officers to lawfully exercise force – even deadly force, when required – in carrying out that commitment, it is hereby declared to be the policy of this Department that (1) the use of deadly force will never be condoned as a routine response; and (2) police officers will exercise the highest degree of care in the application of such force.

C. LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS (1.1.2)

All commissioned employees will abide by the law enforcement code of ethics:

1. 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 or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality, and justice.

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2. 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 both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself to my chosen profession . . . law enforcement.

### D. CIVILIAN CODE OF ETHICS (1.1.2)

All civilian employees will abide by the civilian code of ethics:

As an employee of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, I regard myself as a member of an important and honorable profession.

1. I will strive to keep myself in the best physical and mental condition at all times.
2. I will perform my duties with efficiency and to the best of my ability.
3. I will be truthful at all times. My conduct and performance of duties will be accomplished in an honest manner and in compliance with all laws local, State, and Federal.
4. I will keep secret, unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty, whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity.
5. I will not, in the performance of my duties, work for unethical advantage or personal profit.
6. I will recognize at all times that I am public safety employee and that, ultimately, I am responsible to the public.
7. I will strive to give the most efficient and impartial service of which I am capable at all times.
8. I will be courteous in all my contacts at all times.

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9. I will always regard my fellow employees with equality, dignity, and respect.
10. I will be loyal to my fellow employees, my supervisors, and my agency.
11. I will always accept responsibility for my actions.
12. I will always strive to perform my duties and conduct myself in a manner that will reflect honor on me, my fellow employees, and my agency.

**E. LAW ENFORCEMENT OATH OF OFFICE (1.1.1)**

1. The Police Commissioner, or another person designated by the Police Commissioner, has power to administer the Oath of Office to officers at the time of graduation from the Police Academy.
2. The Oath of Office shall be recited as follows:
  - a. I solemnly swear that I am a citizen of the United States and the State of Missouri.
  - b. That I will faithfully support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Missouri.
  - c. That I will, to the best of my skill and ability, diligently and faithfully, without partiality or prejudice, discharge my duties as a police officer according to the laws of the State of Missouri and Ordinances of the City of St. Louis.
  - d. That I will strictly obey all lawful rules and orders of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, the Police Commissioner, or any Officer placed by them over me.
  - e. That I will not cease to perform my duties as a Police Officer until discharged, or until my resignation is accepted by the Police Commissioner.
  - f. So help me God.

MS/ash  
482-22-00107