



TIVERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS

Subject: Unbiased Policing		General Order Number: 620.10
Section: 600- Community Relations and Services		Subsection: Bias Based Policing
Amends/Supersedes: 620.10 (11/20/2013), 620.10 (10/20/2019), 620.10 (11/20/2020)		
Effective Date: 11/20/2013	Revised Date: 01/21/2021	Review Date: As Needed
Per Order Of: Patrick W. Jones, Chief of Police		
RIPAC: 3.8		
Distribution: All Department Members		

NOTE: This written directive is for the internal governance of the Tiverton Police Department, and is not intended and should not be interpreted to establish a higher standard of care in any civil or criminal action than would otherwise be applicable under existing law.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to emphasize the Tiverton Police Department's commitment to unbiased, equitable treatment of all persons.

II. POLICY

Persons having contact with members of the Tiverton Police Department shall be treated in a fair, impartial, equitable, and objective manner, in accordance with law, and without consideration of their individual demographics as defined in this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

Biased Policing: Discrimination in the performance of law enforcement duties or delivery of police services, based on personal prejudices or partiality of department members toward classes of individuals or persons based on individual demographics.

Fair and Impartial Treatment: The belief that persons, irrespective of race or other distinctions, shall be treated in the same basic manner under the same or similar circumstances. This does not mean that all persons in the same or similar circumstances can or must be treated identically. Reasonable concessions and accommodations may be, and sometimes should be made, when dealing with individuals with physical or mental disabilities, injury, illness, or similar conditions, or when information about them necessitates different treatment.

Individual Demographics: For the purposes of this policy, personal characteristics, to include, but not limited to race, ethnic background, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, age, disability, cultural group, or political status.

Police Services: Sometimes referred to as community caretaking functions, these are actions and activities that may not directly include enforcement of the law but that contribute to the overall well-being and safety of the public. These include, but are not

limited to, such tasks as assistance at fire scenes, traffic accidents, and medical emergencies; lifesaving services; crime prevention; preventive patrol; traffic control; public information; education; and similar activities.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Fair and Impartial Treatment

1. Biased policing is prohibited both in enforcement of the law and the delivery of police services.
2. Department members shall take equivalent enforcement actions and provide equal services to all persons in the same or similar circumstances.
3. Department members shall not consider individual demographics when performing law enforcement duties or delivering police services except when such characteristics are part of a specific subject description.
4. Unless exigent circumstances exist, department members shall not engage in a law enforcement matter when it involves a family member, friend, relative, or other person with whom he or she has a personal relationship, such that the officer's objectivity may be, or may appear to be, compromised. In situations where the officer is personally involved, he or she will summon other sworn department members for assistance.

B. Compliance

1. Department members who witness or who are aware of instances of biased policing shall report the incident to a supervisor. Also, where appropriate, department members are encouraged to intervene at the time the biased policing incident occurs.
2. Depending on the nature and seriousness of the incident, supervisors may provide the involved officer(s) with informal, non-punitive intervention such as training and counseling.
3. All external complaints and internal complaints that cannot be resolved effectively and appropriately by supervisory personnel—or that are determined to be potentially serious in nature—shall be forwarded to the Deputy Chief of Police. *Refer to General Order 210.70 Employee Discipline.*
4. The Planning and Training Sergeant shall maintain data relating specifically to complaints of biased policing. Information shall be provided to the Chief of Police in a manner most suitable for administrative review, problem identification, and development of appropriate corrective actions.

C. RIGL 31-21.2-5

1. Sworn department members shall be familiar with and comply with R.I.G.L. 31-21.2-5 “Law Enforcement Practices”, which states:
(a) Unless reasonable suspicion or probable cause of criminal activity exists, no motor vehicle stopped for a traffic violation shall be detained beyond the time needed to address the violation. Nothing contained herein shall prohibit the detention of a motor

vehicle for a reasonable period of time for the arrival of a canine unit or subsequent criminal investigation, if there is reasonable suspicion or probable cause of criminal activity.

(b) No operator or owner-passenger of a motor vehicle shall be requested to consent to a search by a law enforcement officer of his or her motor vehicle which is stopped solely for a traffic violation, unless reasonable suspicion or probable cause of criminal activity exists.

(c) Any evidence obtained as a result of a search prohibited by subsection (a) or (b) shall be inadmissible in any judicial proceeding. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to preclude any search otherwise based upon any legally sufficient cause.

(d) Law enforcement agencies using video and/or audio surveillance cameras in their vehicles shall adopt written policies and procedures regarding the use of such cameras, which shall be public records.

(e) The policies and procedures established by this section shall be added to and prominently placed in, all relevant departmental policy and training manuals. Other appropriate training about the requirements of this chapter shall also be provided to all officers.

D. Traffic Stop Data Collection

1. Statewide Traffic Stop Data (Race Data) Collection- In an effort to comply with RIGL 31-21.2 “Comprehensive Racial Profiling Prevention Act of 2013”, the Department’s Records Management System (RMS) Traffic Stop Data Collection Module will compile race data.
2. Traffic Stop Data (Race Data) will be entered in the RMS for ALL motor vehicle stops

E. Training

1. All department members will receive basic and annual in-service training and, where deemed necessary, remedial training on subjects related to police ethics, cultural diversity, police-citizen interaction, standards of conduct, conducting motor vehicle stops, implicit bias, and related topics suitable for preventing incidents of biased policing. The Planning and Training Sergeant shall be responsible for creating, coordinating and maintaining records of this training.

F. Administrative Review

1. An annual administrative review of agency practices, including citizen concerns, shall be documented by the Deputy Chief.