

Disciplinary Policy

340.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes standards of conduct that are consistent with the values and mission of this department and are expected of its members. The standards contained in this policy are not intended to be an exhaustive list of requirements and prohibitions but they do identify many of the important matters concerning member conduct. Members are also subject to provisions contained throughout this manual as well as any additional guidance on conduct that may be disseminated by the Department or the member's supervisors.

This policy applies to all employees (full- and part-time), reserve officers and volunteers.

340.2 DISCIPLINE POLICY

The continued employment of every employee of this department shall be based on conduct that reasonably conforms to the guidelines set forth herein. Failure of any employee to meet the guidelines set forth in this policy, whether on-duty or off-duty, may be cause for disciplinary action.

An employee's off-duty conduct shall be governed by this policy to the extent that it is related to act(s) that may materially affect or arise from the employee's ability to perform official duties or to the extent that it may be indicative of unfitness for his/her position.

340.3 CONDUCT WHICH MAY RESULT IN DISCIPLINE

The following list of causes for disciplinary action constitutes a portion of the disciplinary standards of this department. This list is not intended to cover every possible type of misconduct and does not preclude the recommendation of disciplinary action for specific action or inaction that is detrimental to efficient department service:

340.3.1 ATTENDANCE

- (a) Leaving job to which assigned during duty hours without reasonable excuse and proper permission and approval.
- (b) Unexcused or unauthorized absence or tardiness on scheduled day(s) of work.
- (c) Failure to report to work or to place of assignment at time specified and fully prepared to perform duties without reasonable excuse.
- (d) Failure to notify the Department within 24 hours of any change in residence address, home phone number, or marital status.

340.3.2 CONDUCT

- (a) Unauthorized or unlawful fighting, threatening or attempting to inflict unlawful bodily injury on another.
- (b) Initiating any civil action for recovery of any damages or injuries incurred in the course and scope of employment without first notifying the Police Chief of such action.

Mountain View Police Department

Policy Manual

Disciplinary Policy

- (c) Using department resources in association with any portion of an independent civil action. These resources include, but are not limited to, personnel, vehicles, equipment and non-subpoenaed records.
- (d) Engaging in horseplay resulting in injury or property damage or the reasonable possibility thereof.
- (e) Unauthorized possession of, loss of or damage to department property or the property of others, or endangering it through unreasonable carelessness or maliciousness.
- (f) Failure of any employee to promptly and fully report activities on their own part or the part of any other employee where such activities may result in criminal prosecution or discipline under this policy.
- (g) Failure of any employee to promptly and fully report activities that have resulted in official contact by any other law enforcement agency.
- (h) Using or disclosing one's status as an employee with the Department in any way that could reasonably be perceived as an attempt to gain influence or authority for non-department business or activity.
- (i) The use of any information, photograph, video or other recording obtained or accessed as a result of employment with the Department for personal or financial gain or without the express authorization of the Police Chief or a designee may result in discipline under this policy.
- (j) Seeking restraining orders against individuals encountered in the line of duty without the express permission of the Police Chief.
- (k) Discourteous, disrespectful or discriminatory treatment of any member of the public or any member of this department.
- (l) Unwelcome solicitation of a personal or sexual relationship while on-duty or through the use of one's official capacity.
- (m) Engaging in on-duty sexual relations including, but not limited to, sexual intercourse, excessive displays of public affection or other sexual contact.

340.3.3 DISCRIMINATION

- (a) Discriminate against any person because of age, race, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, marital status, physical or mental disability or medical condition.

340.3.4 INTOXICANTS

- (a) Reporting for work or being at work following the use of intoxicants where such use may impair the employee's ability to perform assigned duties or where there is an immediate suspicion of ineffectiveness during public contact resulting from the use of intoxicants

Mountain View Police Department

Policy Manual

Disciplinary Policy

- (b) Unauthorized possession or use of, or attempting to bring intoxicants to the work site, except as authorized in the performance of an official assignment. An employee who is authorized to consume intoxicants is not permitted to do so to such a degree that it may impair on-duty performance
- (c) Reporting for work or being at work following the use of a "controlled substance" or any drug (whether legally prescribed or otherwise) where such use may impair the employee's ability to perform assigned duties
- (d) Unauthorized possession, use of, or attempting to bring controlled substance or other illegal drug to any work site

340.3.5 PERFORMANCE

- (a) Unauthorized sleeping during on-duty time or assignments.
- (b) Careless workmanship resulting in spoilage or waste of materials or work of an unacceptable nature as applicable to the nature of the work assigned.
- (c) Unsatisfactory work performance including, but not limited to, failure, incompetence, inefficiency or delay in performing and/or carrying out proper orders, work assignments or instructions of supervisors without a reasonable and bona fide excuse.
- (d) Concealing, attempting to conceal, removing or destroying defective or incompetent work.
- (e) Disobedience or insubordination to constituted authorities, including refusal or deliberate failure to carry out or follow lawful directives and orders from any supervisor or person in a position of authority.
- (f) The wrongful or unlawful exercise of authority on the part of any employee for malicious purpose, personal gain, willful deceit or any other improper purpose.
- (g) Disparaging remarks or conduct concerning duly constituted authority to the extent that such conduct disrupts the efficiency of the Department or subverts the good order, efficiency and discipline of the Department or which would tend to discredit any member thereof.
- (h) Knowingly making false, misleading or malicious statements that are reasonably calculated to harm or destroy the reputation, authority or official standing of the Department or members thereof.
- (i) The falsification of any work-related records, the making of misleading entries or statements with the intent to deceive, or the willful and unauthorized destruction and/or mutilation of any department record, book, paper or document.
- (j) Wrongfully loaning, selling, giving away or appropriating any department property for the personal use of the employee or any unauthorized person.
- (k) The unauthorized use of any badge, uniform, identification card or other department equipment or property for personal gain or any other improper purpose.

Mountain View Police Department

Policy Manual

Disciplinary Policy

- (l) The receipt or acceptance of a reward, fee or gift from any person for service incident to the performance of the employee's duties (lawful subpoena fees and authorized work permits excepted).
- (m) Any knowing or negligent violation of the provisions of the department manual, operating procedures or other written directive of an authorized supervisor. The Department shall make this manual available to all employees. Employees shall familiarize themselves with this manual and be responsible for compliance with each of the policies contained herein.
- (n) Work-related dishonesty, including attempted or actual theft of department property, services or the property of others, or the unauthorized removal or possession of department property or the property of another person.
- (o) Criminal, dishonest, infamous or disgraceful conduct adversely affecting the employee/ employer relationship, whether on- or off-duty.
- (p) Failure to disclose or misrepresenting material facts, or the making of any false or misleading statement on any application, examination form, or other official document, report or form or during the course of any work-related investigation.
- (q) Failure to take reasonable action while on-duty and when required by law, statute, resolution or approved department practices or procedures.
- (r) Associating with or joining a criminal gang, organized crime and/or criminal syndicate when a department member knew or reasonably should have known of the criminal nature of the organization. This includes any organization involved in a definable criminal activity or enterprise, except as specifically directed and authorized by the Department.
- (s) Offer or acceptance of a bribe or gratuity.
- (t) Misappropriation or misuse of public funds.
- (u) Exceeding lawful peace officer powers by unreasonable, unlawful or excessive conduct.
- (v) Unlawful gambling or unlawful betting at any time or any place. Legal gambling or betting under any of the following conditions: while on department premises; at any work site; while on-duty or while in uniform; or while using any department equipment or system. Gambling activity undertaken as part of an officer's official duties and with the express knowledge and permission of a direct supervisor is exempt from this prohibition.
- (w) Substantiated, active, continuing association on a personal rather than official basis with a person or persons who engage in or are continuing to engage in serious violations of state or federal laws, where the employee has or reasonably should have knowledge of such criminal activities, except where specifically directed and authorized by the Department.
- (x) Solicitations, speeches or distribution of campaign literature for or against any political candidate or position while on-duty, on department property or while in any way representing him/herself as a member of this agency, except as expressly authorized by the Police Chief.

Mountain View Police Department

Policy Manual

Disciplinary Policy

- (y) Engaging in political activities during assigned working hours except as expressly authorized by the Police Chief.
- (z) Violating any misdemeanor or felony statute.
- (aa) Any other on-duty or off-duty conduct which any employee knows or reasonably should know is unbecoming a member of the Department or which is contrary to good order, efficiency or morale, or which tends to reflect unfavorably upon the Department or its members.
- (ab) Any failure or refusal of an employee to properly perform the function and duties of an assigned position.
- (ac) Failure to maintain required and current licenses (e.g. driver's license) and certifications (e.g., first aid).
- (ad) Giving false or misleading statements, or misrepresenting or omitting material information to a supervisor, or other person in a position of authority, in connection with any investigation or in the reporting of any department-related business.

340.3.6 SAFETY

- (a) Failure to observe posted rules, signs and written or oral safety instructions while on duty and/or within department facilities or to use required protective clothing or equipment.
- (b) Knowingly failing to report any on-the-job or work-related accident or injury within 24 hours.
- (c) Substantiated employee record of unsafe or improper driving habits or actions in the course of employment.
- (d) Failure to maintain good physical condition sufficient to adequately and safely perform law enforcement duties.
- (e) Any personal action contributing to involvement in a preventable traffic collision, or other unsafe or improper driving habits or actions in the course of employment.
- (f) Violating departmental safety standards or safe working practices.

340.3.7 SECURITY

- (a) Unauthorized, intentional release of designated confidential information, materials, data, forms or reports

340.3.8 SUPERVISION RESPONSIBILITY

- (a) Failure of a supervisor to take appropriate action to ensure that employees adhere to the policies and procedures of this department and the actions of all personnel comply with all laws
- (b) Failure of a supervisor to timely report known misconduct of an employee to his or her immediate supervisor or to document such misconduct appropriately or as required by policy

Mountain View Police Department

Policy Manual

Disciplinary Policy

- (c) The unequal or disparate exercise of authority on the part of a supervisor toward any employee for malicious or other improper purpose

340.4 INVESTIGATION OF DISCIPLINARY ALLEGATIONS

Regardless of the source of an allegation of misconduct, all such matters will be investigated in accordance with Personnel Complaint Procedure Policy Manual § 1020. Pursuant to Government Code §§ 3304(d) and 3508.1, the investigation should be completed within one year of the discovery of the allegation unless such investigation falls within one of the exceptions delineated within those provisions.

340.5 POST INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES

340.5.1 DIVISION COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon receipt of any completed personnel investigation, the Division Head of the involved employee shall review the entire investigative file, the employee's personnel file and any other relevant materials.

The Division Head may make recommendations regarding the disposition of any allegations and the amount of discipline, if any, to be imposed.

- (a) Prior to forwarding recommendations to the Chief of Police, the Division Head may return the entire investigation to the assigned detective or supervisor for further investigation or action
- (b) When forwarding any written recommendation to the Chief of Police, the Division Head shall include all relevant materials supporting the recommendation. Actual copies of an employee's existing personnel file need not be provided and may be incorporated by reference

340.5.2 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Upon receipt of any written recommendation for disciplinary action, the Police Chief shall review the recommendation and all accompanying materials.

The Police Chief may modify any recommendation and/or may return the file to the Captain for further investigation or action.

Once the Police Chief is satisfied that no further investigation or action is required by staff, the Police Chief shall determine the amount of discipline, if any, to be recommended.

In the event disciplinary action is recommended, the Police Chief shall provide the employee with written (*Skelly*) notice of the following information within one year of the date of the discovery of the alleged misconduct (absent an exception set forth in Government Code § 3304(d) or Government Code § 3508.1):

- (a) Specific charges set forth in separate counts, describing the conduct underlying each count.
- (b) A separate recommendation of proposed discipline for each charge.

Mountain View Police Department

Policy Manual

Disciplinary Policy

- (c) A statement that the employee has been provided with or given access to all of the materials considered by the Police Chief in recommending the proposed discipline.
- (d) An opportunity to respond orally or in writing to the Police Chief within five days of receiving the *Skelly* notice.
 - 1. Upon a showing of good cause by the employee, the Police Chief may grant a reasonable extension of time for the employee to respond.
 - 2. If the employee elects to respond orally, the presentation shall be recorded by the Department. Upon request, the employee shall be provided with a copy of the recording.

340.6 EMPLOYEE RESPONSE

The pre-discipline process is intended to provide the accused employee with an opportunity to present a written or oral response to the Police Chief after having had an opportunity to review the supporting materials and prior to imposition of any recommended discipline. The employee shall consider the following:

- (a) This *Skelly* response is not intended to be an adversarial or formal hearing.
- (b) Although the employee may be represented by an uninvolved representative or legal counsel, the *Skelly* response is not designed to accommodate the presentation of testimony or witnesses.
- (c) The employee may suggest that further investigation could be conducted or the employee may offer any additional information or mitigating factors for the Police Chief to consider.
- (d) In the event that the Police Chief elects to cause further investigation to be conducted, the employee shall be provided with the results of such subsequent investigation prior to the imposition of any discipline.
- (e) The employee may thereafter have the opportunity to further respond orally or in writing to the Police Chief on the limited issues of information raised in any subsequent materials.
- (f) Once the employee has completed his/her *Skelly* response or, if the employee has elected to waive any such response, the Police Chief shall consider all information received in regard to the recommended discipline. Once the Police Chief determines that discipline will be imposed, a timely written decision shall be provided to the employee within 30 days, imposing, modifying or rejecting the recommended discipline. In the event of a termination, the final notice of discipline shall also inform the employee of the reason for termination and the process to receive all remaining fringe and retirement benefits.
- (g) Once the Police Chief has issued a written decision, the discipline shall become effective.

340.7 RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS PRIOR TO DISCIPLINE

In the event that an employee tenders a written retirement or resignation prior to the imposition of discipline, it shall be noted in the file.

Mountain View Police Department

Policy Manual

Disciplinary Policy

The tender of a retirement or resignation by itself shall not serve as grounds for the termination of pending discipline, however, may result in a "no finding" disposition to the investigation.

340.8 POST SKELLY PROCEDURE

In situations resulting in the imposition of a suspension, punitive transfer, demotion, termination of a non-probationary employee, the employee shall have the right to an evidentiary appeal of the Police Chief's imposition of discipline pursuant to the operative Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or collective bargaining agreement and personnel rules.

During any post-Skelly administrative appeal, evidence that an officer has been placed on a *Brady* list or is otherwise subject to *Brady* restrictions may not be introduced unless the underlying allegations of misconduct have been independently established. Thereafter, such *Brady* evidence shall be limited to determining the appropriateness of penalty. (Government Code § 3305.5).

340.9 DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES

In the event that a probationary employee is terminated solely for unsatisfactory performance or the failure to meet department standards, the employee shall have no right to appeal and the following shall be considered:

- (a) Termination of a probationary employee for such failure to pass probation shall be so reflected in the employee's personnel file
- (b) In the event that a probationary employee is disciplined or terminated for misconduct, the employee shall only be entitled to appeal the decision in the same manner as set forth in the Skelly procedure as set forth above. This appeal process may be held prior to or within a reasonable time after the imposition of discipline
- (c) At all times during any investigation of allegations of misconduct involving a probationary officer, such officer shall be afforded all procedural rights set forth in Government Code § 3303 and applicable Department policies
- (d) A probationary employee's appeal of disciplinary action shall be limited to an opportunity for the employee to attempt to establish that the underlying allegations should not be sustained. Nothing in this policy or procedure, however, should be construed to establish any sort of property interest in or right to the employee's continuation of employment
- (e) The burden of proof for any probationary employee's appeal of disciplinary action shall rest with the employee and will require proof by a preponderance of the evidence
- (f) In the event that a probationary employee meets his or her burden of proof in such a disciplinary appeal, the Department shall remove all reference to the underlying allegations of misconduct from the employee's personnel file
- (g) In the event that a probationary employee fails to meet his or her burden of proof in such a disciplinary appeal, the employee may file an appeal consistent with the City's Personnel Rules and Regulations or applicable Memorandum of Understanding.