

DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER 06-06

OFFICE of the CHIEF OF POLICE
AMENDS/REPLACES: SOP 300.50.29

Date: June 12, 2006

OBEDIENCE TO ORDERS

I. PURPOSE.

As a paramilitary organization, the giving and receipt of orders is an integral part of departmental operations. Obedience to those orders is essential to organizational effectiveness and public safety. The following text provides guidelines in regard to operational and/or administrative orders.

II. PROCEDURE.

Employees shall promptly obey all lawful orders of a superior, whether by person, by phone, or broadcast via police radio. This will include those orders relayed from a superior by personnel of the same or lesser rank.

Those who may be given an otherwise proper order which is in conflict with a previous order, rule, regulation, or directive shall respectfully inform their superior of the conflicting order. If the superior officer does not alter or retract the order, same will stand. Under these circumstances, the responsibility for the conflict shall be upon the superior officer, not the subordinate. And while subordinate personnel shall be expected to obey the order, they shall be absolved of any charge of disobedience to the prior directive.

III. UNLAWFUL ORDERS.

Department personnel shall not obey any order which they know, or should know, is illegal or would require them to commit an illegal act. Obedience to orders in such instances will not absolve employees of disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal or criminal prosecution. If doubt exists as to the legality of an order, employees shall request the issuing authority to clarify the order, or elect to confer with a higher level command officer.

BY ORDER OF:

THOMAS J. BYRNE
Chief of Police

TJB:dld

CALEA Reference: 12.1.3