

Policy Manual

103.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The manual of the Fitchburg Police Department is hereby established and shall be referred to as the Policy Manual or the manual. The manual is a statement of the current policies, rules and guidelines of this department. All members are to conform to the provisions of this manual.

All prior and existing manuals, orders and regulations that are in conflict with this manual are rescinded, except to the extent that portions of existing manuals, procedures, orders and other regulations that have not been included herein shall remain in effect, provided that they do not conflict with the provisions of this manual.

103.2 POLICY

Except where otherwise expressly stated, the provisions of this manual shall be considered as guidelines. It is recognized that the work of law enforcement is not always predictable and circumstances may arise which warrant departure from these guidelines. It is the intent of this manual to be viewed from an objective standard, taking into consideration the sound discretion entrusted to members of this department under the circumstances reasonably available at the time of any incident.

103.2.1 DISCLAIMER

The provisions contained in the Policy Manual are not intended to create an employment contract nor any employment rights or entitlements. The policies contained within this manual are for the internal use of the Fitchburg Police Department and shall not be construed to create a higher standard or duty of care for civil or criminal liability against the City, its officials or members. Violations of any provision of any policy contained within this manual shall only form the basis for department administrative action, training or corrective action. The Fitchburg Police Department reserves the right to revise any policy content, in whole or in part.

103.2.2 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS

Nothing in this manual should be construed to conflict with the provisions of any collective bargaining agreement with any recognized bargaining unit.

The Chief of Police should make available for managers and supervisors copies of current collective bargaining agreements for all recognized collective bargaining units.

103.3 AUTHORITY

The Chief of Police shall be considered the ultimate authority for the content and adoption of the provisions of this manual and shall ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws. The Chief of Police or the authorized designee is authorized to issue General Orders, which shall modify those provisions of the manual to which they pertain. General Orders shall remain in effect until such time as they may be permanently incorporated into the manual.

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103.4 DEFINITIONS

The following words and terms shall have these assigned meanings throughout the Policy Manual, unless it is apparent from the content that they have a different meaning:

Adult - Any person 18 years of age or older except that for purposes of investigating or prosecuting a person who is alleged to have violated any state or federal criminal law or any civil law or municipal ordinance, "adult" means a person who has attained 17 years of age (Wis. Stat. § 938.02(1)).

Child/Juvenile - Any person, without further qualification, who is less than 18 years of age. Any person who has attained 17 years of age, and for purposes of investigating or prosecuting, is alleged to have violated state or federal criminal law or any civil law or municipal ordinance is not a juvenile (Wis. Stat. § 938.02(10m)).

City - The City of Fitchburg.

CFR - Code of Federal Regulations.

Non-sworn - Employees and volunteers who are not sworn peace officers.

Department/FPD - The Fitchburg Police Department.

Employee/personnel - Any person employed by the Department.

LESB - The Wisconsin Law Enforcement Standards Board.

Manual - The Fitchburg Police Department Policy Manual.

May - Indicates a permissive, discretionary or conditional action.

Member - Any person employed or appointed by the Fitchburg Police Department, including:

- Full-time or part-time employees
- Sworn peace officers
- Reserve, auxiliary officers
- Non-sworn employees
- Volunteers

Officer - Those employees, regardless of rank, who are sworn peace officers of the Fitchburg Police Department.

On-duty - A member's status during the period when he/she is actually engaged in the performance of his/her assigned duties.

Order - A written or verbal instruction issued by a superior.

Peace officer - Any person employed by the state or any political subdivision of the state, for the purpose of detecting and preventing crime and enforcing laws or ordinances and who is authorized to make arrests for violations of the laws or ordinances that the person is employed to enforce. The term includes sworn full-time and part-time officers who perform the duties of a peace officer.

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Rank - The title of the classification held by an officer.

Shall or will - Indicates a mandatory action.

Should - Indicates a generally required or expected action, absent a rational basis for failing to conform.

Section Commander - This indicates the commander of a major section of the police department (i.e. Administration, Patrol, Support Services). Typically, the lieutenant position or higher are the section commanders.

Supervisor - A person in a position of authority that may include responsibility for hiring, transfer, suspension, promotion, discharge, assignment, reward or discipline of other department members, directing the work of other members or having the authority to adjust grievances. The supervisory exercise of authority may not be merely routine or clerical in nature but requires the use of independent judgment.

The term "supervisor" may also include any person (e.g., officer-in-charge, lead or senior worker) given responsibility for the direction of the work of others without regard to a formal job title, rank or compensation.

When there is only one department member on-duty, that person may also be the supervisor, except when circumstances reasonably require the notification or involvement of the member's off-duty supervisor or an on-call supervisor.

TIME - The Wisconsin Transaction Information for the Management of Enforcement system.

USC - United States Code.

WisDOC - The Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

WisDOJ - The Wisconsin Department of Justice.

WisDOJ TSB - The Wisconsin Department of Justice Training and Standards Bureau.

WisDOT - The Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

WILENET - The Wisconsin Law Enforcement Network.

103.5 ISSUING THE POLICY MANUAL

An electronic version of the Policy Manual will be made available to all members on the department network for viewing and printing. No changes shall be made to the manual without authorization from the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

Each member shall acknowledge that he/she has been provided access to, and has had the opportunity to review the Policy Manual and General Orders. Members shall seek clarification as needed from an appropriate supervisor for any provisions that they do not fully understand.

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103.6 PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE POLICY MANUAL

The Chief of Police will ensure that the Policy Manual is reviewed, at a minimum, every three years, and updated as necessary.

103.7 REVISIONS TO POLICIES

All revisions to the Policy Manual will be provided to each member on or before the date the policy becomes effective. Each member will be required to acknowledge that he/she has reviewed the revisions and shall seek clarification from an appropriate supervisor as needed.

Members are responsible for keeping abreast of all Policy Manual revisions.

Each Section Commander will ensure that members under his/her command are aware of any Policy Manual revision.

All department members suggesting revision of the contents of the Policy Manual shall forward their written suggestions to their Section Commanders, who will consider the recommendations and forward them to the command staff as appropriate.