



Lunenburg Police Department

Policy Number: 4.10	Subject: Unbiased Policing
Issue Date: 1/21/2021 Revision Date(s): 2/3/2022 Effective Date: 1/21/2021	Massachusetts Police Accreditation Standards Referenced: 1.2.9
Issuing Authority: <i>Chief Thomas L. Gammel</i>	

I. POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to emphasize the Lunenburg Police Department's commitment to unbiased, equitable treatment of all persons and to prohibit all biased based profiling. Persons having contact with members of the Lunenburg 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.

II. SPECIAL TERMS

- A. Biased Policing: Discrimination in the performance of law enforcement duties or delivery of police services, based on personal prejudices or partiality of officers toward classes of individuals or persons based on individual demographics.
- B. 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.
- C. 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, political group or any other identifiable group.

D. 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/field control contacts; public information; education; asset seizure and forfeiture efforts and similar activities.

E. Racial and Gender Profiling Chapter 228 of the Acts of 2000 includes the following definition: the practice of detaining or stopping a suspect based on a broad set of criteria which cast suspicion on an entire class of people without any individualized suspicion of the particular person being stopped.

F. Suspect Specific Incident: An incident in which an officer is lawfully attempting to detain, apprehend, or otherwise be on the lookout for one or more specific suspects who have been identified or described in part by national or ethnic origin, gender or race.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Fair and Impartial Treatment [1.2.9]

1. Biased policing is prohibited both in enforcement of the law and the delivery of police services.
2. Officers shall take equivalent enforcement actions and provide equal services to all persons in the same or similar circumstances.
3. Officers 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, officers 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 officers for assistance.

B. Compliance

1. Officers who witness or who are aware of instances of biased policing shall report the incident to a supervisor. Also, where appropriate, officers 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 Lieutenant (Internal Affairs) other designated authority for investigation.

4. The Lieutenant or his designee shall maintain data relating specifically to complaints of biased policing. Information shall be provided to the Chief of Police or designated authority in a manner most suitable for administrative review, problem identification, and development of appropriate corrective actions.
5. Administrative documented annual review shall be conducted regarding policies, procedures as well as review of citizen complaints to ensure compliance with this policy and identify patterns and trends. Revisions should be made where necessary and remedial training shall be conducted when appropriate as well as any other corrective measures deemed necessary. **[1.2.9]**

C. Training

All employees will receive basic and periodic 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. **[1.2.9]**