



CHAPTER 4: COMMAND	POLICY # 4.3 COMMAND PROTOCOL
<i>This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee's civil liability in any way. The policy should not be construed as creating a higher duty of care, in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party civil claims against employees. A violation of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department for non-judicial administrative action in accordance with the laws governing employee discipline.</i>	
Date Implemented: 11/01/2019	Review Date:

POLICY

Members of the Police Department shall recognize and utilize established command protocol in situations involving personnel of different organizational components of the Police Department that are engaged in a single operation.

PROCEDURE

Chain of Command

The chain of command is the clear line of authority from the Chief of Police to every member of the organization. The chain of command facilitates effective decision making and organizational communication. Members shall utilize, recognize and respect the chain of command as designated in the Order of Rank in all official actions. In certain instances, the chain of command may be bypassed. In doing so, a member must be prepared to justify the departure from normal procedure.

Order of Rank

- Chief of Police
- Lieutenant (Assistant Chief of Police)
- Police Officers

Unity of Command

Each member is accountable to only one supervisor at any given time. It is recognized that, there may be times when a commanding officer must give a lawful command to a member who is outside of their normal chain of command. In these cases, the order shall be obeyed.

Section Command

Each organizational component of the department shall have a supervisor responsible for the activities of the respective component and shall be accountable through the chain of command.

Incident Command Protocol

Unless a specific policy or higher-ranking authority dictates otherwise, the officer-in-charge has command responsibility for field operations. In the absence of a supervisor, the first officer at the scene of an incident shall assume command until relieved.

The officer in charge of any non-planned assignment shall be the first officer to arrive on the scene. He shall remain in charge unless relieved by a ranking officer who will specifically advise the officer that they are being relieved. When two officers of equal rank arrive simultaneously at a scene and a conflict exists as to who is in charge, the officer in charge shall be the one with the most seniority.

Span of Control/ Supervisory Accountability

To achieve effective direction, coordination and control, a limit must be placed on the number of personnel who report directly to the Chief of Police and all other command and supervisory personnel. The nature of the assignment shall serve as criteria to determine the proper supervisory/ subordinate ratio.