LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER: 1040
TOPIC: CHAIN OF COMMAND
ISSUED BY: TERESA EWINS CHIEF OF POLICE
DATE: 1-1-2022
SUPERSEDES: G.O. 1040, 2020
REFERENCE:

I. POLICY

The chain of command outlined in this General Order will help to clarify authority and supervisory duties in the execution of department operations. The chain of command provides an avenue to staff for questions, direction, or clarification of work-related issues should they arise.

II. PROCEDURE (12.1.2)

A. Chain of command of commissioned ranks is as follows:

1. Chief of police
2. Assistant chief of police
3. Captain/Manager
4. Sergeant/Supervisor
5. Officer/Members

B. Members of the Lincoln Police Department are dedicated to community policing, creating strong relationships between department personnel, city partners and the community and preserving life and property. All commissioned members are tasked with the enforcement of federal, state and local laws/ordinances.

1. The chief of police is responsible for the overall management of the department. Leads police function and ensures the efficient operation of the police department. This position reports to the mayor.
2. Assistant chiefs are responsible for the operations of their individual divisions. While directing, supporting, and supervising members of their command, they are to ensure that department policies and procedures are followed. Assistant chiefs report directly to the chief of police.
3. Captains and managers are responsible for leading the daily operations for their team/unit, overseeing personnel in the performance of their duties, and the adherence to department policy and procedures. While providing supervision, leadership, mentoring and guidance to all members in their command. Captains and managers report directly to the assistant chief of their division.
4. Sergeants and supervisors are responsible for the supervision of members within a specific team or unit. Supervision of members includes those assigned to other teams/units when they are working within your purview. Coordination and communication between the teams/units is encouraged. Sergeants and supervisors lead the daily operations for their team/unit, oversee personnel in the performance of their duties, and the adherence to department policy and procedures. While providing supervision, leadership, mentorship and guidance to all members they supervise. Sergeants and supervisors report directly to the captain or manager of their team/unit.
   a. Sergeants are expected to respond to calls for service that rise to the level of on-scene supervision or as requested, perform case management with report review and assigning follow-up as needed.

5. Officers are responsible for the daily general police services to include calls for service, investigations, proactive activities, and community engagement. Officers shall adhere to department policy and procedures. While acting as a role model and partner to our community members and peers within the organization. Officers report directly to a sergeant or commanding officer.
6. Members are responsible for providing police related services to the public. Members shall adhere to all department policy and procedures. While acting as a role model and partner to our community members and peers within the organization. Members report directly to a supervisor or manager/command officer.

C. The chief, or any other command officer, may designate a member to fulfill their duties during an absence. If a specific designation has not
been made, the duties rest with the senior
member of the preceding rank. (12.1.2)

D. Supervisory officers of the same rank will defer
to the senior ranking officer for direction. In a
situation where a supervisor is not present, the
officer with the greatest seniority is considered
the ranking officer.

E. Within every rank level of the department,
supervisory members have the authority
necessary to carry out their duties and
responsibilities and are accountable for the use
of such authority. In addition, each member is
accountable for the use of delegated authority.
(11.3.1)

F. Supervisory personnel are responsible for the
overall performance of members under their
immediate control.

G. Any supervising officer has the authority to
delegate responsibility, make necessary
assignments, issue orders, and enforce
department policies regardless of the member's
area of assignment.

H. Managers have authority in their area of
responsibility to delegate responsibility, make
necessary assignments, issue orders and
enforce department policies.

I. Members are required to obey any lawful order
issued by a supervisor, including any order
relayed from a supervisor by a member of the
same or lesser rank. This applies to the member
even if they are not normally under the
supervisor's direct command. (12.1.3)

J. If a member receives an order that conflicts with
a previous order, they will inform the supervisor
about the previous order. The supervisor is
responsible for determining if the first or second
order will prevail. (12.1.3)

K. At no time is a member to obey an order from a
supervisor that they know to be unlawful.
(12.1.3)

L. Members are accountable to only one supervisor
at a given time. (11.3.2)

M. Command officers have responsibility for
commanding major incidents and exceptional
situations involving a large number of street
personnel. If additional personnel resources are
needed from other department units, the initial
command officer maintains control of the incident
unless otherwise relieved or assigned by a
superior

N. Staff are directed to seek out members of their
chain of command with questions, requests for
direction, or clarification of work-related issues
when or if they arise.