



LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER: 1040
TOPIC: CHAIN OF COMMAND
ISSUED BY: TERESA EWINS CHIEF OF POLICE
DATE: 1-1-2023
SUPERSEDES: G.O. 1040, 2022
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. Lieutenant
5. Sergeant/Supervisor
6. 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. Lieutenants are responsible for administrative and supervisory police work and assisting in the direction of department personnel. They are also responsible for planning, providing leadership and monitoring the conduct and proficiency of employees. Lieutenants report directly to the captain of their team/unit.
5. 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.

6. 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.
 7. 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. (12.1.2)
 - 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.