

# WINTER HAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

## GENERAL ORDER 1.1

### OATH AND CODE OF ETHICS

**ACCREDITATION STANDARDS: CALEA – 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 12.2.1; CFA – 7.01**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: MARCH 14, 1995**

**RESCINDS: G.O. 1.1 April 30, 2014 and all applicable Amended/Temporary Orders prior to January 5, 2018**

**LAST REVISED DATE: January 5, 2018**

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This General Order contains the following numbered sections:

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#### **POLICY**

It shall be the policy of the Winter Haven Police Department to comply with federal, state and local laws and ordinances and to preserve and protect the constitutional rights of the community. It shall further be the policy of the Department that all members abide by the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics as set forth in this order.

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this General Order is to ensure that department members are aware of the actions and attitudes expected of them and to provide the public with a general standard by which they can measure the performance of the Department.

#### **SCOPE**

This order shall apply to all Department members.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Florida State Statute 876.05(1) mandates that police officers and other public employees take and subscribe to an Oath of Office prior to appointment and before undertaking the duties of office.

It is equally important that police officers observe the principles as set forth in the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics.

## **PROCEDURE**

### **I. Public Employees Oath**

- A.** The Oath of Office for public employees mandated by F.S. 876.05(1). The Oath shall be administered by a representative of the City of Winter Haven during the member's employment orientation. The following oath must be executed by each member. (CALEA 1.1.2)

"I, (name of member), a citizen of the State of Florida and of the United States of America, and being employed by or an officer of The City of Winter Haven and a recipient of public funds as such employee or officer, do hereby solemnly swear to affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Florida."

- B.** The Oath shall be sworn to and subscribed to by all department members, and filed in the City of Winter Haven Human Resources office, prior to the approval of any salary, expenses or compensation. (CALEA 1.1.2)

### **II. Ceremonial Oath of Office (CALEA 1.1.1)**

- A.** For department ceremonial purposes, the Chief of Police or designee may administer the following Oath of Office to each Police Officer:

"I do solemnly swear that I will support, protect and defend the constitution and government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the constitution of the state; and that I will faithfully perform the duties of a Winter Haven Police Officer of which I am now about to enter, so help me God."

- B.** This Ceremonial Oath shall be sworn to and subscribed to by all Police Officers. Upon execution, it shall then be entered in the personnel record of the individual Police Officer.

### **III. Law Enforcement Code of Ethics (CFA 7.01)**

Members of the Winter Haven Police Department shall abide by the following Code of Ethics:

AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against the oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice.

I WILL keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life. I will be exemplary in observing the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided in me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I WILL never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I RECOGNIZE the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession, law enforcement.

**IV. Vision and Mission Statements (CALEA 12.2.1a)**

- A. *Vision Statement:* To be a professional and trusted agency engaged in a positive partnership with our community.
- B. *Mission Statement:* To work in partnership with our community to prevent crime and enhance safety and the quality of life in our City.

**V. Core Values (CALEA 12.2.1a)**

- A. *Integrity* – as individuals and as an agency
- B. *Respect* – for those we protect and those with whom we serve
- C. *Honor* – in service, pride and dedication
- D. *Commitment* – to our community, our Department and our profession
- E. *Professionalism* – in all we do

**VI. Training**

- A. All members shall receive ethics training annually. (CALEA 1.1.2)

**VII. Definitions – None**

APPROVED   

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Charles E. Bird  
CHIEF OF POLICE