

CHAPTER: 2 DATE ISSUED: 12/05/2020 DATE APPROVED:TBA

SECTION: 12 BIAS-BASED POLICING

I. PURPOSE:

This policy provides guidance to department members that affirm the Ocean Beach Village Police Department's commitment to policing that is fair and objective.

Nothing in this policy prohibits the use of specified characteristics in law enforcement activities designed to strengthen the department's relationship with its diverse communities (e.g., cultural and ethnicity awareness training, youth programs, community group outreach and partnerships).

II. POLICY:

The Ocean Beach Village Police Department is committed to providing law enforcement services to the community with due regard for the racial, cultural or other differences of those served. It is the policy of this department to provide law enforcement services and to enforce the law equally, fairly, objectively and without discrimination toward any individual or group.

III. DEFINITIONS:

Bias-based policing - An inappropriate reliance on actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, age, cultural group, disability, or affiliation with any non-criminal group (protected characteristics) as the basis for providing differing law enforcement service or enforcement.

IV. RULES AND REGULATIONS:

A. **Bias-Based Policing Prohibited**

1. However, nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit an officer from considering protected characteristics in combination with credible, timely and distinct information in connecting a person or people of a specific characteristic to a specific unlawful incident, or to a specific unlawful incidents, specific criminal patterns or specific schemes.

B. **Department Members**

1. Every member of this department shall perform his/her duties in a fair and objective manner and is responsible for promptly reporting any suspected or

known instances of bias-based policing to a supervisor. Members should, when reasonable to do so, intervene to prevent any biased-based actions by another.

C. Reason for Contact

1. Officers contacting a person shall be prepared to articulate sufficient reason for the contact, independent of the protected characteristics of the individual. To the extent that written documentation would otherwise be completed (e.g. incident report, arrest report) the involved officer should include those fact given rise to the contact, as applicable.

Except for required data-collection forms or methods, nothing in this policy shall require any officer to document a contact that would not otherwise require reporting.

D. Supervisors Responsibilities

1. Supervisors should monitor those individuals under their command for compliance with this policy and shall handle any alleged or observed violations in accordance with the Civilian Complaints Policy Chapter 5 Section 2.
 - a) Supervisors should discuss any issues with the involved officer or members in a timely manner.
 - i. Supervisors should document these discussions, in the prescribed manner
 - b) Supervisors should periodically review Audio/Video recordings, field reports, arrest reports, and any other data resources used to document contact between officers and the public to ensure compliance with this policy.
 - i. Supervisors should document these periodic reviews.
 - ii. Recordings or data that capture a potential instance of biased-based policing should be appropriately retained for administration investigation purposes.
 - c) Supervisors shall initiate investigations of any actual or alleged violations of this policy.
 - d) Supervisors should take prompt and reasonable steps to address any retaliatory action taken against a member of this department who discloses information concerning biased-based policing.

E. Administration

1. The Chief of Police should review the efforts of the department to provide fair and objective policing and submit an annual report, including public concerns and complaints to the Police Commissioner. The annual report should not contain any identifying information about any specific complaint, member of the public or officer. It should be reviewed by the Police Commissioner to identify any changes in training or operations that should be made to improve service.
2. Supervisors should review the annual report and discuss the results with those they are assigned to supervise.

F. Training

1. Training on fair and objective policing and review of this policy should be conducted as directed by the Training Sergeant.
2. Implicit-biased training will be conducted at the Suffolk County Police Academy as directed by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice (DCJS) and Municipal Police Training Council (MPTC). All training records will be kept in the departments training folder as kept by the Training Sergeant.

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