

GENERAL ORDER 1.1.2

Oath of Office / Code of Ethics

GENERAL ORDER CROSS-REFERENCE: 1.1.4, 26.1.1, 52.1.1

SUMMARY

Requires each officer to take an Oath of Office and to abide by the Criminal Justice Code of Ethics.

DISCUSSION

The integrity of any police department is dependent upon the integrity of each individual officer. It must be maintained in order for the department to function at the level that the citizenry and community require. The Springfield Police Department recognizes the value of integrity of its officers and requires each to take an Oath of Office, and to abide by the Criminal Justice Code of Ethics. Supervisors shall review ethics issues each year at the annual performance review process for individual employees.

POLICY

I

Each member of the Department having the authority to issue citations, including all police officers, hired by the Springfield Police Department shall, prior to assuming sworn duties, be officially sworn by a Springfield Municipal Court Judge. The Oath of Office shall be signed by the employee, Judge and Chief of Police, with the original maintained in the individual's personnel file, (Attachment A). It is expected that this shall be done within 3 days of appointment.

II

Each sworn member, upon receiving the Oath of Office, shall receive a copy of the Criminal Justice Code of Ethics adopted by the Springfield Police Department. All sworn members of this Department shall abide by the Code of Ethics in the performance of their duties, (Attachment B).

All Department employees shall receive and abide by the Code of Ethics adopted by the Springfield Police Department. (Attachment C).

III

Every member shall comply with State Ethics laws as prescribed in Oregon State Statutes and

Oregon Administrative Rules. Of particular significance is the Oregon Statute on Official Misconduct:

162.415 Official misconduct in the first degree.

(1) A public servant commits the crime of official misconduct in the first degree if with intent to obtain a benefit or to harm another:

(a) The public servant knowingly fails to perform a duty imposed upon the public servant by law or one clearly inherent in the nature of office; or

(b) The public servant knowingly performs an act constituting an unauthorized exercise in official duties.

(2) Official misconduct in the first degree is a Class A misdemeanor.

Richard L. Lewis
Chief of Police

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD

Police Department

City of Springfield)

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County of Lane) ss.

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State of Oregon)

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Oath of Office

I, _____, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Oregon, the Charter of the City of Springfield, and that I will enforce the laws, statutes and ordinances thereof; I solemnly swear that I will faithfully and diligently perform and discharge the duties of a Police Officer of the City of Springfield, Lane County, State of Oregon, to the best of my ability so help me God.

SUBSCRIBED and SWORN TO THIS _____ day of _____, 201__

Police Officer

Magistrate

Chief of Police

Law Enforcement 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 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, will 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 obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my Department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will that 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 fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary 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."

Springfield Police Department Code of Ethics

“As a public safety employee, I regard myself as a member of an important and honorable profession.

I will recognize the positive relationship between good physical and mental conditioning and the performance of my job.

I will perform my duty with efficiency to the best of my ability.

My conduct and my performance of my duties will be accomplished in an honest manner, contributory to my fellow workers, and observant of the laws of the city, state and country.

I will not, in the performance of my duty, work for unethical advantage or profit.

I will recognize at all times in my duty that I am a public safety employee, and that ultimately I am responsible to the public.

I will give the most efficient and impartial service of which I am capable at all times.

I understand the importance of courtesy and will maintain it as my reference point in all my duties.

I will regard my fellow coworkers with the same standards as I maintain myself.

I share a reciprocal affinity and obligation with my fellow coworkers, my administration, and my agency.

I will accept responsibility for my actions.

I will strive for those values which will reflect honor on my fellow coworkers, my agency and myself.”