

GENERAL ORDER 11.2.1

Command Protocol/Unity of Command

GENERAL ORDER CROSS-REFERENCE: 11.1.1, 11.4.1, 83.2.1

SUMMARY

Describes the Department's command protocol and adherence to unity of command

DISCUSSION

None.

POLICY

I

In normal day-to-day operations, the command protocol, or chain of command, for the Department shall be: Chief of Police, Lieutenant, Sergeant/Supervisor, Officer/Other. Precise reporting relationships are further defined in the Department's organizational chart (as described in G.O. 11.1.1), and special orders assigning personnel to specific organizational units. The organizational chart reporting relationships supersede the general chain of command described above.

II

Any time the Chief of Police is scheduled to be absent or unavailable in excess of one full day, the Chief shall appoint a person to act in the capacity of the Chief.

In the event the Chief of Police is absent or unavailable, and no person has been appointed acting-in-capacity, the following is established as the order of command precedence:

- A) Patrol Division Lieutenant;
- B) Investigations Division Lieutenant;
- C) Jail Operations Lieutenant
- D) On-duty watch commander

III

Except in the event of a pre-established command protocol such as under G.O. 83.2.1, the watch commander on duty during an emergency, response to a major crime, or tactical operation shall remain in command unless specifically informed by a command officer of higher rank that he is assuming command or the supervisor is relieved by regularly scheduled relief.

IV

When at the scene of a major crime, the watch commander or command officer shall remain in command until the crime scene has been secured. As soon as practical, command shall be relinquished to the investigations sergeant, a command officer, or a designee.

V

Each Department member shall report to and be accountable to only one supervisor at a time. However, this does not relieve members from the responsibility to follow lawful directives issued by Department supervisors and command officers that members do not formally report to.

VI

Each organizational component shall be under the direct command of only one supervisor, manager or command officer at any given time.

Richard Lewis
Chief of Police