

RENO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

This directive is for internal use only and does not enlarge this department's, governmental entity's and/or any of this department's employees' civil or criminal liability in any way. It is not to be construed as the creation of a particular standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to any complaint, demand for settlement, or any other form of grievance or litigation. Violations of this directive, if substantiated, can only form the basis for intra-departmental administrative sanctions.

Chief of Police: Jim Weston /s/		
Legal Advisor: Karen Fraley /s/		
Approving Deputy Chief:		
General Order No: E-252-04	Issued: Sept. 8, 2004	Supersedes: 1/210.000
General Order Title: Truthfulness in Duty		

POLICY

Integrity is the first and foremost of the department's values. It is imperative that the behaviors associated with integrity, particularly truthfulness, be demonstrated by all department members. It is truthfulness, the cornerstone of the department's partnership with the community that serves as the measure of the sincerity of the department's character and actions. It is also the basis for the bond of trust that is necessary between members of the department. During the past, the application of discipline in truthfulness cases had been mitigated when members acknowledged their untruthfulness as a part of the Internal Affairs process. When doing so, recommended discipline was normally less than termination. However, members with sustained untruthfulness violations are jeopardizing the ability of prosecutors to obtain convictions as well as damaging the integrity of the police department. The department does not have any position or assignments available for members to allow them to avoid court or administrative hearing testimony. Because of the long term damage to the credibility of members and their impaired ability to perform their duties as a result of sustained untruthfulness allegations, this policy is changing immediately.

Procedure

Responsibilities:

Members have the responsibility to be truthful in all matters related to the scope of their employment and the operations of the department. Failure to be truthful in any matter that impacts on the integrity of the department or its members is unacceptable behavior and will not be tolerated.

Investigations:

Members formally noticed of official investigations conducted by the department who are found to be untruthful during the investigations, or who are found to be untruthful in completing official department documents, or who are found to be untruthful in any matter material to the

performance of their duties will be subject to termination.

Documentation:

At the initiating of any internal affairs investigation wherein the member is a witness or principal, members will complete an Acknowledgment of Policy form affirming they understand the requirements of this order.

Definitions:

For the purpose of this general order, truthfulness involves conduct and/or statements involving:

- a. Dishonesty concerning a police report.
- b. Dishonesty in any official or unofficial police inquiry, investigation or proceeding.
- c. Dishonesty in any other type of administrative, judicial, quasi-judicial/administrative proceeding.
- d. Dishonesty in a matter where an oath is required or administered or the officer certifies the truth under penalty of perjury.