



CHARLESTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

4901 Old Post Road, Charlestown, Rhode Island 02813

ORDER	EFFECTIVE DATE	NUMBER	ISSUING DATE
GENERAL	JANUARY 20, 2014	130.09	JANUARY 15, 2014
SUBJECT TITLE		SUBJECT AREA	
CODE OF ETHICS		INTERNAL DEPARTMENT CONTROLS	
RIPAC REFERENCE		PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DATES	
2.2		NEW	
DISTRIBUTION	REVIEW DATE		PAGES
ALL	AS NECESSARY		3

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Charlestown Police Department to encourage all personnel to strive towards the highest personal and professional ideals. To aid in accomplishing this goal, the department shall adopt Codes of Ethics.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this written directive is to identify the Codes of Ethics for all personnel of this department to follow.

III. PROCEDURE

Dedication to the law, discretion in enforcing the law, and a high degree of public trust puts employees of the department in a position of extreme importance in our society. The following Codes of Ethics are adopted as a general standard of conduct for all employees of the Charlestown Police Department to abide by.

A. **Law Enforcement Code of Ethics:**

"As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve humankind; 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 persons to liberty, equality, and justice."

"I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courage 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 which is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of 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 police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself to my chosen profession--law enforcement."

B. Civilian Code of Ethics:

As an employee of the Charlestown Police Department 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.

I will be truthful at all times. 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 town, state, and country.

I will adhere to the confidentiality of the law enforcement profession.

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 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 employees with equality, dignity, and respect.

I share a reciprocal affinity and obligation with my fellow employees, 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 employees, my agency and myself in the pursuit of excellence.

C. Training:

1. Ethics training will be conducted for all personnel, at a minimum, biennially.
2. Sworn and civilian employees should receive instruction that concerns their position dilemmas, temptations, responsibilities and duties.

By Order of:



Michael J. Paliotta
Chief of Police