

Grievance Procedure

1003.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

It is the policy of this department that all grievances be handled quickly and fairly without discrimination against employees who file a grievance whether or not there is a basis for the grievance. Our Department's philosophy is to promote a free verbal communication between employees and supervisors.

1003.1.1 GRIEVANCE DEFINED

A grievance is any difference of opinion concerning terms or conditions of employment or the dispute involving the interpretation or application of any of the following documents by the person(s) affected:

- The employee bargaining agreement (Memorandum of Understanding)
- This Policy Manual
- City rules & regulations covering personnel practices or working conditions

Grievances may be brought by an individual affected employee or by a group representative.

Specifically outside the category of grievance are complaints related to alleged acts of sexual, racial, ethnic or other forms of unlawful harassment, as well as complaints related to allegations of discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, ethnic background and other lawfully protected status or activity are subject to the complaint options set forth in Policy Manual § 328, and personnel complaints consisting of any allegation of misconduct or improper job performance against any department employee that, if true, would constitute a violation of department policy, federal, state or local law set forth in Policy Manual §1020.

1003.2 PROCEDURE

Except as otherwise required under a collective bargaining agreement, if an employee believes that he or she has a grievance as defined above, then that employee shall observe the following procedure:

- (a) Attempt to resolve the issue through informal discussion with immediate supervisor.
- (b) If after a reasonable amount of time, generally seven days, the grievance cannot be settled by the immediate supervisor, the employee may request an interview with the Division Commander of the affected division or bureau.
- (c) If a successful resolution is not found with the Division Commander, the employee may request a meeting with the Chief of Police.
- (d) If the employee and the Chief of Police are unable to arrive at a mutual solution, then the employee shall proceed as follows:
 1. Submit in writing a written statement of the grievance and deliver one copy to the Chief of Police and another copy to the immediate supervisor and include the following information:

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- (a) The basis for the grievance (i.e., what are the facts of the case?).
- (b) Allegation of the specific wrongful act and the harm done.
- (c) The specific policies, rules or regulations that were violated.
- (d) What remedy or goal is being sought by this grievance.
- (e) The employee shall receive a copy of the acknowledgment signed by the supervisor including the date and time of receipt.
- (f) The Chief of Police will receive the grievance in writing. The Chief of Police and the City Manager will review and analyze the facts or allegations and respond to the employee within 14 calendar days. The response will be in writing, and will affirm or deny the allegations. The response shall include any remedies if appropriate. The decision of the City Manager is considered final.

1003.3 EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATION

Employees are entitled to have representation during the grievance process. The representative may be selected by the employee from the appropriate employee bargaining group.

1003.4 GRIEVANCE RECORDS

At the conclusion of the grievance process, all documents pertaining to the process shall be forwarded to Support Services for inclusion into a secure file for all written grievances. A second copy of the written grievance will be maintained by the City Manager's office to monitor the grievance process.

1003.5 GRIEVANCE AUDITS

The Professional Standards Unit shall perform an annual analysis of all grievances filed during the previous calendar year to evaluate whether or not any policy/procedure changes or training may be appropriate to avoid future filings or grievances. The Professional Standards Unit shall record these findings in a confidential and generic memorandum to the Chief of Police without including any identifying information from any individual grievance. If the audit identifies any recommended changes or content that may warrant a critical revision to this policy manual, the Professional Standards Unit should promptly notify the Chief of Police.

1003.6 REVISIONS

Revised: March 6, 2019