

# **MEDINA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **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; 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 police department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided in me in my official capacity will 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 RECOGNIZED** 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**

# MEDINA POLICE DEPARTMENT

## OPERATING PHILOSOPHIES

The Medina Police Officers must be fully aware of the ethical responsibilities of their position. The officers must strive constantly to live up to the highest possible standard of professional policing.

The City of Medina and its police department believe that it is important that its police officers have clear advice and counsel available to assist them in performing their duties consistent with these standards, and have adopted the following ethical mandates as guidelines to meet these ends.

**PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEDINA POLICE OFFICERS:** A Medina Police Officer acts as an official representative of the City who is required and trusted to work within the law. The officer's powers and duties are conferred by statute. The fundamental duties of a Medina Police Officer include serving the community; safeguarding lives and property; protecting the innocent; keeping the peace; and ensuring the rights of all to liberty, equality, and justice.

**PERFORMANCE OF DUTY:** The Medina Police Officer shall perform all duties impartially, without favor or affection or ill will and without regard to status, sex, race, religion, political belief or aspiration. All citizens will be treated equally with courtesy, consideration, and dignity.

Officer will never allow personal feelings, animosities, or friendships to influence official conduct. Laws will be enforced appropriately and courteously and, in carrying out their responsibilities, officers will strive to obtain maximum cooperation from the public. They will conduct themselves in appearance and deportment in such manner as to inspire confidence and respect for the position of public trust they hold.

**DISCRETION:** The Medina Police Officer will use responsibly the discretion vested in the position and exercise it within the law. The principle of reasonableness will guide the officer's determinations and the officer will consider all surrounding circumstances in determining whether any legal action shall be taken.

Consistent and wise use of discretion, based on professional policing competence, will do much to preserve good relationships and retain the confidence of the public. There can be difficulty in choosing between conflicting courses of action. It is important to remember that a timely word of advice rather than arrest – which may be correct in appropriate circumstances – can be a more effective means of achieving a desired end.

**USE OF FORCE:** The Medina Police Officer will never employ unnecessary force or violence and will use only such force in the discharge of duty as is reasonable in all circumstances.

Force should be used only with the greatest restraint and only if discussion, negotiation, and persuasion have been found to be inappropriate or ineffective. While the use of force is occasionally unavoidable, each officer will refrain from applying the unnecessary infliction of pain or suffering and will never engage in cruel, degrading or inhuman treatment of any person.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** Whatever a Medina Police Officer sees, hears, or learns of, which is of a confidential nature, will be kept secret unless the performance of duty or legal provision requires otherwise.

Members of the public have a right to security and privacy, and information obtained about them must not be improperly divulged.

**INTEGRITY:** A Medina Police Officer will not engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will an officer condone such acts by other police officers.

The public demands and has the right to expect that the integrity of Medina Police Officers be above reproach. Medina Police Officers must, therefore, avoid any conduct that might compromise integrity and thus undercut the public confidence in the Medina Police Department. Officers will refuse to accept any gifts, presents, subscriptions, favors, gratuities, or promises that could be interpreted as seeking to cause the officer to refrain from performing official responsibilities honestly and within the law. Police officers must never receive private or special advantage from their official status. Respect from the public cannot be bought; it can only be earned and cultivated.

**PERSONAL / PROFESSION CAPABILITIES:** Medina Police Officers will be responsible for their own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve their level of knowledge and competence.

Through study and experience, a Medina Police Officer can acquire the high level of knowledge and competence that is essential for the efficient and effective performance of duty. The acquisition of knowledge is a never-ending process of personal and professional development that should be pursued constantly.

**PRIVATE LIFE:** The Medina Police Officers will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to the City, its police department, or themselves.

The Medina Police Officer's character and conduct off-duty must always be exemplary, thus maintaining a position of respect in the community he or she serves. The officer's personal behavior must be beyond reproach.