



# OATH OF OFFICE & CODE OF ETHICS

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Contents:

- I. Ethics/Code of Conduct
- II. Public Ethics Law
- III. Law Enforcement Officers Code of Ethics
- IV. Oath of Office
- V. Training
- VI. Proponent Unit
- VII. Cancellation

## **I. ETHICS/CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Anne Arundel County Police Department exists because the community, through government, empowers the police department to do a job on its' behalf. The police department and its' employees are tasked to function effectively, partly through personal endeavors and commitment to the profession, but primarily because the community has faith and confidence in our ability to accomplish the task of enforcing the laws of the land and responding to community concerns in an honest and impartial manner.

The citizens of Anne Arundel County are entitled to expect:

- A police department that is beyond reproach in matters of integrity.
- Impartial and courteous services.
- Open and honest communication that encourages trust.
- Responsible and accountable management of police department resources.

The policy of the department is to ensure that all employees maintain an exemplary standard of personal integrity and ethical conduct in their relationship with other employees and the community.

## **II. PUBLIC ETHICS LAW**

All personnel, sworn and civilian are responsible for understanding and complying with the Public Ethics Law, Article 7 of the Anne Arundel County Code. This law contains minimum standards of conduct to ensure that there are no conflicts between an employee's official duties and the employee's personal interests.

Employees may call, write or visit the Anne Arundel County Ethics Commission office for advice about an ethical issue at any time.

The Public Ethics Law can be found at <http://www.aacounty.org/CountyCode/>

## **III. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS CODE OF ETHICS**

The Law Enforcement Code of Ethics that follows is adopted as the standard of conduct for sworn officers of the Anne Arundel County Police Department.

“As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind, to safeguard lives and property, and 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 people 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 for 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 is confided to 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 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 the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself to my chosen profession – law enforcement.”

#### **IV. OATH OF OFFICE**

All personnel, prior to assuming sworn status, will take *the below* oath of office to uphold the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Maryland, and to enforce the laws of the State of Maryland and Anne Arundel County. The oath of office will be administered by the Chief of Police. All sworn officers will abide by the oath of office while employed by this department as a law enforcement officer.

*“I, (name), do swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland and support the Constitution and laws thereof, and that I will, to the best of my skill and judgment, diligently and faithfully, without partiality or prejudice, execute the Office of Police Officer, in and for Anne Arundel County, according to the Constitution of this State.”*

#### **V. TRAINING**

Ethics training will be conducted for all personnel at least biennially. This training may consist of classroom, shift briefing or training bulletins, or any combination of these methods.

**VI. PROPONENT UNIT:** Office of the Chief.

**VII. CANCELLATION:** This written directive cancels Index Code 102, dated 09-25-15.