

Police Uniform Regulations

1024.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The uniform policy of the Louisville Police Department is established to ensure that uniformed officers, special assignment personnel and civilian employees will be readily identifiable to the public through the proper use and wearing of Department uniforms. Employees should also refer to the following associated policies:

- Firearms Policy
- Department-Owned and Personal Property Policy
- Body Armor Policy
- Personal Appearance Standards Policy

The Louisville Police Department uniform specifications and procedures are maintained and periodically updated by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee and should be consulted regarding authorized equipment and uniform specifications.

1024.2 WEARING AND CONDITION OF UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

Police employees wear the uniform to be identified as the law enforcement authority in society. The uniform also serves an equally important purpose, which is to identify the wearer as a source of assistance in an emergency, crisis or other time of need.

- a. Uniforms and equipment shall be maintained in a serviceable condition and shall be ready at all times for immediate use. Uniforms shall be neat, clean and appear professionally pressed.
- b. All peace officers of this department shall possess and maintain at all times a serviceable uniform and the necessary equipment to perform uniformed field duty.
- c. Personnel shall wear only the uniform specified for their rank and assignment.
- d. Employees shall not loan any portion of the uniform to others.
- e. Employees shall not permit the uniform to be reproduced or duplicated.
- f. The uniform is to be worn in compliance with the specifications set forth in the Department's uniform specifications and procedures, which are maintained separately from this policy.
- g. All supervisors will perform periodic inspections of their personnel to ensure conformance to the Louisville Police Department uniform specifications and procedures.
- h. Civilian attire shall not be worn in combination with any distinguishable part of the uniform.
- i. Uniforms are only to be worn while on-duty, while in transit to or from work, for court or at other official Department functions or events.
- j. If the uniform is worn in transit when driving other than a marked vehicle, an outer garment should be worn over the uniform shirt so as not to bring attention to the employee while off-duty.

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- k. Employees are not to purchase or drink alcoholic beverages while wearing any part of the Department uniform, including the uniform pants.
- l. Visible jewelry, other than those items listed below, shall not be worn with the uniform, unless specifically authorized by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.
 - 1. Wrist watch
 - 2. Wedding rings, class ring or other ring of tasteful design; a maximum of one ring/set may be worn on each hand.
 - 3. Medical alert bracelet
 - 4. One, stud-style earring per ear for women.

1024.2.1 DEPARTMENT-ISSUED IDENTIFICATION

The Department issues each employee an official Department identification card bearing the employee's name, identifying information and photo likeness. All employees shall be in possession of their department-issued identification card at all times while on-duty or when carrying a concealed weapon.

- a. Whenever on-duty or acting in an official capacity representing the Department, employees shall display their department-issued identification in a courteous manner to any person upon request and as soon as practicable.
- b. Officers working specialized assignments may be excused from the requirements regarding the possession and display of identification when directed by their Division Commander.

1024.3 UNIFORM CLASSES

The various uniform specification classes are those identified in this policy.

1024.3.1 CLASS A UNIFORM

The Class A uniform is to be worn on special occasions, such as funerals, graduations, promotions, ceremonies or as directed. The Class A uniform is required for all certified officers. The Class A uniform includes the standard issue uniform with the following:

- a. Long sleeve shirt with tie and tie bar
- b. Black, polished shoes with a rounded toe
- c. 4-pocket pants
- d. Uniform hat

1024.3.2 CLASS B UNIFORM

All officers will possess and maintain a serviceable Class B uniform at all times.

The Class B uniform will consist of the same garments and equipment as the Class A uniform with the following exceptions:

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- a. The long or short-sleeve shirt may be worn with the collar open. No tie is required.
- b. A navy blue or black crew neck undershirt must be worn with the uniform.
- c. All shirt buttons must remain buttoned except for the last button at the neck.
- d. Black, polished shoes with a rounded toe.

1024.3.3 CLASS C UNIFORM

The Class C uniform may be established to allow field personnel cooler clothing during the summer months or for special duty assignments. The Chief of Police will establish the regulations and conditions for wearing the Class C uniform and its specifications.

1024.3.4 SPECIALIZED UNIT UNIFORMS

The Chief of Police may authorize special uniforms to be worn by officers in specialized units, such as SRO, Detectives, Administrative Corporals, and other specialized assignments. Officers in specialized units will be allowed to wear a "softened" uniform, which includes clothing that conforms to the standards normally worn by office personnel in private business firms within the community unless otherwise directed by the supervisor.

1024.3.5 FOUL WEATHER GEAR

The uniform and equipment specifications manual lists the authorized uniform jacket and rain gear.

1024.4 INSIGNIA AND PATCHES

- a. The authorized shoulder patch supplied by the Department shall be machine stitched to the sleeves of all uniform shirts and jackets, 3/4 of an inch below the shoulder seam of the shirt, and be bisected by the crease in the sleeve.
- b. Service stripes and other indicators for length of service may be worn on long-sleeve shirts and jackets. They are to be machine stitched onto the uniform. The bottom of the service stripe shall be sewn 1 1/2 inches above the cuff seam with the rear of the service stripes sewn on the dress of the sleeve. The stripes are to be worn on the left sleeve only.
- c. The regulation nameplate, or an authorized sewn-on cloth nameplate, shall be worn at all times while in uniform. The nameplate shall display the employee's first initial and last name. If the employee desires other than the legal first name, the employee must receive approval from the Chief of Police. The nameplate shall be worn and placed above the right pocket located in the middle, bisected by the pressed shirt seam, with equal distance from both sides of the nameplate to the outer edge of the pocket.
- d. When a jacket is worn, the nameplate or an authorized sewn-on cloth nameplate shall be affixed to the jacket in the same manner as the uniform.
- e. Assignment insignias, (e.g., SWAT, FTO or similar) may be worn as designated by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.
- f. An American flag pin may be worn, centered above the nameplate.
- g. The department-issued badge, or an authorized sewn-on cloth replica, must be worn and be visible at all times while in uniform. Commissioned non-uniformed personnel will wear or carry their badge

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in a manner that the badge is in reasonable proximity to their firearm and able to be displayed whenever appropriate.

- h. The designated insignia indicating the employee's rank must be worn at all times while in uniform. The Chief of Police or the authorized designee may authorize exceptions.

1024.4.1 MOURNING BADGE BAND

Uniformed employees may wear a black mourning band across the uniform badge whenever a law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty. The following mourning periods will be observed:

- a. An officer of this department - From the time of death until midnight on the 14th day after the death.
- b. A peace officer from this state - From the time of death until midnight on the day of the funeral.
- c. Funeral attendee - While attending the funeral of a fallen peace officer.
- d. National Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15) - From midnight through the following midnight.
- e. As directed by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

1024.5 CIVILIAN ATTIRE

There are assignments within the Department that do not require wearing a uniform because recognition and authority are not essential to their function. There are also assignments in which wearing civilian attire is necessary.

- a. All employees shall wear clothing that fits properly, is clean and free of stains and not damaged or excessively worn.
- b. All male administrative, investigative and support personnel who elect to wear civilian clothing to work shall wear polo or dress shirts with a collar, slacks or suits that are moderate in style.
- c. All female administrative, investigative and support personnel who elect to wear civilian clothes to work shall wear dresses, slacks, shirts, blouses or suits that are moderate in style.
- d. The following items shall not be worn on-duty:
 - 1. T-shirt alone
 - 2. Open-toed sandals or thongs
 - 3. Swimsuit, tube tops or halter tops
 - 4. Spandex type pants or see-through clothing
 - 5. Distasteful printed slogans, buttons or pins
 - 6. Shorts
 - 7. Sweatshirts, sweatpants or similar exercise clothing
 - 8. Jeans
- e. Variations from this order are allowed at the discretion of the Chief of Police or the authorized designee when the employee's assignment or current task is not conducive to wearing such clothing.

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- f. No item of civilian attire may be worn on-duty that would adversely affect the reputation of the Louisville Police Department or the morale of the employees.

1024.6 POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, ENDORSEMENTS, ADVERTISEMENTS OR OTHER APPEARANCES IN UNIFORM

Unless specifically authorized by the Chief of Police, Louisville Police Department employees may not wear any part of the uniform, be photographed wearing any part of the uniform, utilize a department badge, patch or other official insignia, or cause to be posted, published or displayed, the image of another employee, or identify him/herself as an employee of the Louisville Police Department to do any of the following:

- a. Endorse, support, oppose or contradict any political campaign or initiative
- b. Endorse, support, oppose or contradict any social issue, cause or religion
- c. Endorse, support or oppose, any product, service, company or other commercial entity
- d. Appear in any commercial, social or nonprofit publication, or any motion picture, film, video, public broadcast, photo, any website or any other visual depiction

1024.7 OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT - MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT

- a. Any of the items listed in the uniform and equipment specifications manual as optional shall be purchased at the expense of the employee.
- b. Maintenance of optional items shall be the financial responsibility of the purchasing employee (e.g., repairs due to normal wear and tear).
- c. Replacement of items listed in this order as optional shall be done as follows:
 - 1. When the item is no longer functional because of normal wear and tear, the employee bears the full cost of replacement.
 - 2. When the item is no longer functional because of damage in the course of the employee's duties, it may be replaced following the procedures for the replacement of damaged personal property outlined in the Department-Owned and Personal Property Policy.

1024.8 UNAUTHORIZED UNIFORMS, EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES

Louisville Police Department employees may not wear any uniform item, accessory or attachment unless specifically authorized in the uniform and equipment specifications manual or by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

Louisville Police Department employees may not use or carry any tool or other piece of equipment unless specifically authorized in the uniform and equipment specifications manual or by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

City of Louisville Police Department Policy Manual

Law Enforcement Policy

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