



CRYSTAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

Department Policy Manual

TITLE: Impartial Policing
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to reaffirm the Crystal Police Department's commitment to impartial/unbiased policing and to reinforce procedures that serve to assure the public that we are providing service and enforcing laws in a fair and equitable manner to all.

POLICY

Investigative detentions, pedestrian and vehicle stops, arrests, searches and property seizures by officers will be based on a standard of reasonable suspicion or probable cause in accordance with the 4th Amendment of the United States Constitution. Officers must be able to articulate specific facts, circumstances and conclusions that support reasonable suspicion or probable cause for investigative detentions, pedestrian and vehicle stops, arrests, nonconsensual searches and property seizures.

Except as provided in this policy, officers shall not consider race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or religion in establishing either reasonable suspicion or probable cause.

Except as provided in this policy, even if reasonable suspicion or probable cause is established, officers shall not consider race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or religion when making decisions regarding any law enforcement procedure. These procedures include, but are not limited to, whether or not to;

- Make a custodial arrest, issue a citation or give a warning;
- Make a traffic stop, tow a vehicle, and/or conduct a search of a person or vehicle;
- Do a vehicle registration check and/or run a party for warrants;
- Require bail or release on personal recognizance;
- Execute property seizures.

Officers may consider the descriptors of a specific suspect(s) based on information that links specific, suspected, unlawful or suspicious activity to a particular individual or group of individuals. This information may be used in the same manner officers use specific information regarding age, height, weight, etc. about specific suspects.

In an effort to prevent the perception of biased law enforcement, officers shall utilize the following guidelines:

- Be respectful and professional.
- Introduce or identify yourself to the citizen and state the reason for the contact as soon as practical, unless providing this information will compromise officer or public safety.

- Ensure that the detention is no longer than necessary to take appropriate action for the known or suspected offense. Attempt to answer any relevant questions the citizen may have regarding the citizen/officer contact, including relevant referrals to other agencies when appropriate.
- Provide your name, badge number and department name when requested, preferably in writing or on a business card.
- Explain and/or apologize if you determine that, although reasonable at the time of an investigatory stop, the results of the investigation showed suspicion to be unfounded.

Supervisors shall ensure that all personnel in their command are familiar with the content of this policy and are operating in compliance with it.

Members of the Crystal Police Department shall report any suspected or known instances of bias-based policing to a supervisor. When reasonable to do so, members should intervene to prevent any bias-based actions by another member.

Alleged violations of this policy must be reported to POST in accordance with the requirements of Minn. Stat. 626.8457.