

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION POLICE DEPARTMENT

1.1.3 - PRINCIPLES

The primary responsibilities of the Police Department are the:

- Protection of life and property;
- Prevention of crime and criminality;
- Detection, apprehension, and prosecution of criminals, and the return of recovered property;
- Enforcement of those laws, codes and regulations which are within the province of the police;
- Preservation of the quality of life and the provision of certain miscellaneous services to the public at large;
- Regulation of vehicular and other traffic, and the prevention of traffic crashes and congestion.

The efficient discharge of these responsibilities is achieved by:

- Grouping of functionally related tasks within appropriate divisions or units;
- Delegating clearly defined responsibility and commensurate authority in specific fields of activity;
- Providing singular command through a specified chain of command;
- Performing routine tasks, resolving differences, and making decisions at the lowest possible level of authority;
- Coordinating complementary functions of internal elements to prevent conflicts or wasteful and inefficient duplication of efforts;
- Proactive participation in the department's community oriented policing program.

FUNCTIONAL GROUPING OF DUTIES

Tasks or duties generally may be classified as line, administrative or staff, and auxiliary services.

Line functions are those that are operational and primarily employed to directly accomplish fundamental police objectives. They are classified and apportioned by purpose, process, clientele, time and geographic area. Line elements of the Department are the Patrol Unit, the Investigations Unit, the Juvenile Unit, the Special Operations Unit, and the Traffic Safety Unit.

The Patrol Unit, accountable for the discharge of all primary police responsibilities, is aided by specialized elements within the Department, such as Bicycle Patrol, Canine teams, and the Special Operations Unit. The Investigations and Juvenile Units work together to support the delivery of primary police objectives through the thorough investigation of criminal activity. The Traffic Safety Unit investigates matters that impact the public's vehicular and pedestrian safety.

Administrative or staff functions encompass the management and direction of the Department as an integrated force. Responsibilities include administration and organization, personnel management, budgetary preparation and oversight, public relations, training, planning and control over the conversion of personnel and material into efficient and professional police services.

Auxiliary Services aids and augments line elements in the accomplishment of their primarily police objectives. The management of information, communications, facilities and equipment are typical duties of this component of the Police Department.