
	<b>LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT</b> <b>Ardmore, Pennsylvania</b>	
	<b>Policy 3.3.1</b>	
Subject:		Distribution:
<b>Oath of Office</b>		<b>All Sworn Personnel</b>
Date of Issue:	Expiration Date:	Rescinds:
<b>06-01-2014</b>	<b>Until Amended or Rescinded</b>	<b>General Order: 08-31</b>
References:		
<b>CALEA: 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 12.2.1a.; PLEAC: 1.1.1, 1.4.3a</b>		
By Authority of:		
		<b>Superintendent of Police</b>

## PURPOSE

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania mandates that Police Officers take and subscribe to the Oath of Office, prior to appointment, and before undertaking the duties of a Police Officer. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all Police Department personnel are aware of the actions and conduct expected of them and to provide members of the public with a general standard by which they can measure the performance of the Lower Merion Township Police Department.

## POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Lower Merion Township Police Department to comply with State, Federal and Local laws, and to preserve and protect the constitutional rights of the community. It shall further be the policy of the Department that all sworn personnel will abide by the Lower Merion Police Department Oath of Office, Police Officer Code of Ethics, Mission Statement and Core Values.

## PROCEDURE

- A. Oath of Office** – All police personnel, prior to performing their sworn duties, shall take, and subsequently abide by the Lower Merion Township Police Department Oath of Office. **(PLEAC 1.1.1) (CALEA 1.1.1)**

*I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States, the laws and Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the ordinances of the Township of Lower Merion and that I will discharge the duties of Police Officer with fidelity.*

*And, I do further swear (or affirm) that I am not knowingly a member, with specific intent to further the aims of any organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States, or of this Commonwealth, by force or violence, or*

*other unconstitutional means, or seeking by force of violence to deny other persons their rights under the Constitution of the United States or of this Commonwealth.*

*And I do further swear (or affirm) that I will not knowingly become a member with the specific intent to further the aims of such organization during the period that I am an employee of the Township of Lower Merion.*

*And I do further swear (or affirm) that I will uphold, obey and enforce the law without consideration to a persons' race, color, sex, religious, creed, sexual orientation, age, natural origin, ancestry, handicap or disability.*

**B. Code of Ethics** - All sworn personnel are required to abide by the Lower Merion Township Police Department Code of Ethics: **(CALEA 1.1.2)**

*My first duty as an officer of the Township of Lower Merion Police Department is to serve the people of Lower Merion Township.*

*As a law enforcement officer my duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception; the weak against oppression or intimidation; 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 of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed, in both my personal and official lives. I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of the 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 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 police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession, law enforcement.*

**C. Mission Statement and Core Values** – All sworn personnel are required to abide by the Lower Merion Township Police Department Mission Statement and Core Values. **(PLEAC 1.4.3a) (CALEA 12.2.1a)**

*It is our mission to improve the quality of life by providing the highest level of professional police service through a partnership with the community. We are*

*committed to creating a safe, crime free environment by enforcing the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the U.S. Constitution. We will accomplish this by practicing our core values of integrity, professionalism and respect.*

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE:**

**We have INTEGRITY.** We commit ourselves to the highest moral and ethical standards. We maintain the public trust through the performance of our duty without favor or prejudice. We conduct ourselves in our professional and personal lives in a manner beyond reproach. The honor among ourselves serves as an example to all.

**We are PROFESSIONALS.** We commit ourselves to excellence by providing the highest quality service to the community. We maintain a well trained, disciplined and innovative work force dedicated to continuous improvement.

**We show RESPECT.** We commit ourselves to uniting the public and the police by treating each other in an unbiased, dignified and compassionate manner. We value the diversity of our community by providing timely, impartial and courteous service to all.

**RESPONSIBILITY**

It is the responsibility of all supervisory personnel to ensure that all personnel under their immediate supervision comply with this policy.

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