

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Administration / Policy B-3</b>	Effective Date: 01-29-14 Rescinds: 01-30-07
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Community Trust / Law Enforcement Role and Authority	
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	To build community trust.	
<b>SCOPE:</b>	This directive applies to all personnel.	
<b>REFERENCE:</b>	UT System Police Oath of Office; Texas Code of Criminal Procedure; Law Enforcement Code of Ethics; Standards of Conduct Memorandum dated 9-27-99; UTPD Mission Statement; Code of Conduct Sec. 4.1.9; UT System Ethics - A Brief Practical Guide; Regent's Rules Chapter III – Sec. 4; 1997-98 Appropriations Act – Political Aid, Legislative Influence, & Standards of Conduct:	
<b>CALEA:</b>	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 12.2.1	

**A. Responsibilities:**

1. The University of Texas at Austin Police Department believes integrity and professionalism are the foundations for trust in the community. All employees of this department occupy a position of utmost public trust and confidence. We have been afforded enormous responsibilities and the authority to effectively discharge these responsibilities. Exceeding our authority, abusing our powers, taking personal advantage of our position, or failing to discharge our duties influence this public trust and can erode our credibility as public servants. It is the policy of this department that all employees conduct themselves in an ethical manner and comply with all applicable laws, policies, rules, and regulations. Responsibility for ethical conduct and compliance is a personal responsibility and every employee will be held accountable for their conduct.
2. The University law enforcement employee bears the heavy responsibility of maintaining, in their own conduct, the honor and integrity of all government institutions. Employees should guard against placing themselves in a position that could be interpreted by the community as gaining special privilege. Any event or action that could lead to the erosion of public trust by any employee of this department should be avoided.
3. Civilian employees, non-commissioned officers, commissioned officers, and supervisors are charged with conforming to this policy and failure to do so could be cause for administrative review.

**B. Authority to Enforce All Laws:**

1. By statute, University of Texas at Austin police officers are authorized to enforce the laws of the State.
  - a. Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 2.12 - Who Are Police Officers.  
“The following are police officers: (8) officers commissioned under Section 37.081, Education Code, or Subchapter E, Chapter 51.203, Education Code:”
  - b. Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 2.13 - Duties and Powers.  
“It is the duty of every peace officer to preserve the peace within the officer’s jurisdiction. To effect this purpose, the officer shall use all lawful means. The officer shall in every case authorized by the provisions of this code, interfere without warrant to prevent or suppress crime; execute all lawful process issued to the officer by any magistrate or court; give notice to some magistrate of all offenses committed within the officer’s jurisdiction, where the officer has good reason to believe there has been a violation of the penal law; and arrest offenders without warrant in every case where the officer is authorized by law, in order that they may be taken before the proper magistrate or court and be tried.”

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Policy B-3**

C. Oath of Office:

1. Upon graduation from the University of Texas System Police Academy and before assuming sworn status, each commissioned officer will be required to take and subsequently abide by an oath of office. Commissioned officers will swear or affirm that they will faithfully execute the duties of the office of peace officer for the University of Texas at Austin Police Department and will to the best of their ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this state.

D. Ethics Policy:

1. All employees will abide by the UT System Ethics Policy listed in the brochure (Ethics and the University of Texas System – A Brief Practical Guide).
2. Additionally, all sworn employees will be given, and abide by, the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics published by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

E. UTPD Vision, Mission, Values, and Motto:

The University Police Department expects each employee in the department to conduct daily activities that support the department's Vision, Mission, Values, and Motto.

1. Vision:

To be respected and trusted by all segments of UT Austin's diverse community

2. Mission Statement: To keep you, and our UT community safe.

3. Values: "I CARE":

- a. Integrity – The cornerstone of police work, public trust is lost without it
- b. Courage – To make the right professional decision
- c. Accountability – To the community, department, and superiors
- d. Respect – Of the whole community, the department, and most importantly...self
- e. Ethics – In terms of professional actions and decision making

4. Motto:

Protecting those who will change the world

F. Community Involvement

The foundation for community trust starts when a department includes the community in the many different aspects of policing. All employees are expected to fulfill the duties of a crime prevention officer and community resource officer in an effort to foster Community Policing ideals, and assist the community in working with The University Police Department to make the environment safe and secure in order to enrich the quality of life on campus.

1. Since patrol officers are usually the first point of contact with the community, they will perform as Community Resource Officers (CRO) the majority of the time. Responsibilities will include:
  - a. Assist the Crime Prevention Unit with programs and presentations under the direction of the Shift Commander.
  - b. Develop relationships with the community members of their patrol district and community organizations in their district, so that feedback and community input can be transmitted to UTPD.
  - c. Officers will work with the community to attempt to solve the problems and issues raised through the developed relationships. Officers will complete Community Policing Modules on the Global Reporting that will include the problem definition, strategies, and actions taken.
  - d. Issues that can't be easily corrected or involve multiple departments or agencies, shall be passed up the chain of command to the CRO Coordinator and the Chief of Police.
2. The CRO Coordinator will prepare a report on a quarterly basis that utilizes information from the Community Policing Modules.
  - a. Its purpose is to inform the Chief of Police of:
    1. A description of current concerns voiced by the community;
    2. A description of potential problems that have a bearing on law enforcement activities within the community;

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Policy B-3**

3. A statement of recommended actions that address previously identified concerns and problems; and
  4. A statement of progress made toward addressing previously identified concerns and problems.
- b. The report will be completed in the first two weeks of the month following the end of the quarter.

APPROVED:

---

Chief of Police

Date

## Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

"As a Law Enforcement Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; 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 men 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 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 as long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession ... law enforcement."

## Policy Changes

01-29-14

Section E: updated Vision, Mission, Values, and Motto.