

MINNEOTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

NUMBER: M100-09 PAGES: 2

EFFECTIVE DATE: **December 28, 2023** *(This order supersedes all previous releases.)*

SUBJECT: IMPARTIAL POLICING

1.0 PURPOSE:

This policy is intended to reaffirm our 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 fairly and equitably to all.

2.0 POLICY:

2.1 POLICING IMPARTIALLY:

2.1.1 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 Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution and applicable court precedents pertaining to the Fourth Amendment. 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.

2.1.2 Except as provided in paragraph three (3), officers shall not consider race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, and religion in establishing either reasonable suspicion or probable cause.

2.1.3 Officers may take into account the descriptors in paragraph two (2) 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.

3.0 PREVENTING PERCEPTIONS OF BIASED POLICING – PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES:

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

3.1.1 Always be respectful and professional.

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- 3.1.2** 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.
- 3.1.3** Ensure that the detention is no longer than necessary to take appropriate action for the known or suspected offense.
- 3.1.4** Attempt to answer any relevant questions the citizen may have regarding the citizen/officer contact, including relevant referrals to other agencies when appropriate.
- 3.1.5** Provide your name and officer number when requested, preferably in writing or on a business card.
- 3.1.6** Explain and /or apologize if you determine that the reasonable suspicion was unfounded (e.g. after an investigatory stop).

4.0 SUPERVISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

- 4.1** The Chief of Police shall ensure that all personnel in their command are familiar with the content of this policy and are operating in compliance with it.