



GENERAL ORDER

MINOCQUA POLICE DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: **UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT**

SCOPE: All Department Personnel
DISTRIBUTION: General Orders Manual

REFERENCE: WI State Statute 103.14
Current Labor Contract
Town of Minocqua Employee Handbook

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 RESCINDS
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WILEAG 5TH EDITION
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INDEX AS: Appearance
Badges
Body Armor
Code of Conduct
Department Equipment
Grooming
Uniforms

PURPOSE: The purpose of this General Order is to set uniformity standards and proper wear of the Minocqua Police Department uniform plus grooming and appearance. This General Order also provides for authorization on the proper use of the uniform (clothing) allowance for the purchase and maintenance of uniforms and personal equipment.

Agreements between the Town of Minocqua and the labor union which represents uniformed personnel of the Department spell out current provisions where the officers are responsible to purchase and therefore own non-issued equipment and uniforms. The Town reserves the right to set standards of professional bearing and control purchases made with public funds.

This General Order consists of the following numbered sections:

- I. POLICY
- II. PROCEDURE

I. POLICY

- A. It is the policy of the Minocqua Police Department to establish the police uniform and prescribe the requirements for wearing the uniform and for the civilian dress of officers while on duty or off duty when acting in their capacity as a police officer or other member for the Department, including grooming and appearance. Civilian employee attire will be clothing which is approved by the Chief of Police as identified in this policy.

Note...this policy complies with WI State Statute 103.14 where an employer shall, at the time of hiring, notify each employee about any hairstyle, facial hair, or clothing requirement, also see 3.01: Recruitment/Selection.

II. PROCEDURE

A. UNIFORMS - Military Style Uniform

1. Officers will wear the military style uniform while on duty unless their assignment allows otherwise.
2. The uniform shall be kept clean and pressed and be worn complete with buttons, insignias, badge and nametag in place. The nametag will be worn by all uniformed personnel and will have the first name or initial and last name of the officers (no nicknames). The nametag will be worn above the right pocket, centered and even with the pocket or on the right side of the external vest carrier consistent with where the right pocket of the traditional uniform shirt would be located.
3. The full military style uniform will consist of a uniform shirt with Department issued police patches on both shoulders or an approved external vest carrier with undershirt with Department issued patches on both shoulders, and uniform trousers.
4. Long-sleeve uniform shirts may be worn with a uniform tie or open at the collar without a tie. Short-sleeve uniform shirts will be worn open at the collar without a tie. When the uniform shirt is worn open at the collar, all but the top button will be buttoned.
5. When any uniform shirt is worn open at the collar, officers may wear only authorized tee-shirts that are white, navy blue, gray or black in color. In addition, when wearing a long-sleeve uniform shirt, an approved mock or turtle neck, navy blue or black in color, with the collar folded once may be worn.
6. Uniform shirt sleeves will not be worn rolled up when in public view.
7. Authorized uniform trousers or shorts will be worn.
8. Black or Navy uniform sweaters authorized for use as an outer garment may be worn over the military style uniform.
9. No pins, flags, tie tacks, tie bars (other than the approved silver or gold tie bar) or other such paraphernalia will be worn with the military style uniform unless approved by the Chief of Police.
10. Members qualified as Field Training officers may wear the field training pin with the military style uniform. The pin will be worn centered and directly above the name tag.
11. Members of the SRT may wear the SRT pin with the military style uniform. The pin will be worn centered and directly above the nametag, or centered directly above the field training pin, if worn.
12. Officers who have received certain awards (Valor, Meritorious Conduct, Blue Star, and Lifesaving) may wear the approved award pin with the military uniform.

If only one award pin is worn, the pin will be worn centered above the highest other pin (nametag, Field Training or SRT). If two award pins are worn, the pins will be worn side-by-side, above the name tag or Field Training pin (if worn), but below the SRT pin (if worn). Award pins shall be aligned no more than three abreast and then stacked and shall be in order of precedence from left to right and top to bottom.
13. Years of Service pins may be worn centered above the nametag.

14. Approved footwear worn with the military style uniform will be black and must be kept clean and polished prior to reporting for work. When visible, socks shall be black in color, except when a medical waiver is granted and approved by the Chief of Police.
15. Wearing of the uniform hat is optional, unless a commanding or supervisory officer requires that a hat be worn for a particular assignment. An approved uniform, MPD baseball cap, or stocking cap may also be worn.
16. As appropriate, officers shall wear an authorized outer jacket with the military style uniform complete with properly placed agency shoulder patches, name tag and issued coat badge. Chevrons and bars should be worn on the epaulets, not the collar. The outer jacket shall have silver or black buttons designating officers or gold buttons designating command staff.
17. When a uniformed officer directs traffic or is working on any roadway such as investigating a traffic incident, the safety vest or high visibility side of the Spring/Fall jacket will be worn, whether in an on-duty or special employment status. A raincoat, with the high visibility side out may be worn instead of the traffic vest.
18. Only equipment which is authorized or approved by the Department may be worn on or with the military style uniform. The following supplemental equipment is required while wearing the military style uniform.
 - a) A black belt with plain black, gold (command staff) or silver (officers) closure.
 - b) Authorized weaponry as per Policy.
 - c) Authorized leather or nylon goods.
 - d) Any equipment as may be required by the officer's supervisor.

B. BICYCLE UNIFORM

Officers may wear the bicycle uniform only when assigned to ride Departmental bicycles for the duration of their shift. The bicycle uniform will not be worn in lieu of the military style uniform. The bicycle uniform will consist of:

1. Approved MPD golf shirt, long or short sleeve, bearing the MPD logo on the chest and the words "Minocqua Police" on the back.
2. Approved athletic shorts, pants, shoes and black or navy blue socks.
3. Protective helmet.
4. Full duty belt or external vest carrier which provides the officer the means to carry duty gear, including weaponry as required by policy.

C. FORMAL UNIFORM

Officers will wear the formal uniform to all court appearances (including probation and parole revocation hearings), to special assignments or appearances with a high degree of public exposure, or any other time as directed by a supervisor. The formal uniform will consist of the military style uniform under the following restrictions:

1. Athletic or tennis shoes will not be worn.

D. HONOR GUARD UNIFORM

The honor guard uniform will be designated by policy and will be worn in accordance with that policy.

E. BODY ARMOR

Body armor by contract is purchased by the Department. Officers are responsible to insure that body armor is functional and does not interfere with performance of their duties.

If the Department has assisted in the purchasing of all or part of the officer's body armor and the officer's primary assignment is uniform field work, the body armor shall be worn. Exceptions will be at the discretion of the Chief of Police.

F. BADGES

1. All members of the Department who are required to wear the military style uniform will have their assigned badge displayed on the outermost garment worn and shall carry their Departmental identification card. Only Department authorized badges may be worn on the military style uniform.
2. Members who are armed on-duty or off-duty and dressed in civilian attire shall wear the badge where it is clearly visible in front of their weapon and shall carry their Departmental identification card with them.

G. NON-UNIFORMED PERSONNEL DRESS

1. Non-uniformed members of the Department should recognize that their appearance and dress reflect upon the Department in a manner similar to that of uniformed employees. Clothing will be neat and clean and in line with contemporary casual business attire.

Inappropriate items include, but are not limited to: sweat pants, bib overalls, exercise leggings, tank tops, any tops with bare shoulders unless worn with another blouse, top or jacket, novelty or undergarment tee-shirt, novelty or team sweatshirts, athletic or cutoff shorts, athletic shoes unless solid black in color, sandals or any open toe shoe. The exception to this policy is officers assigned to special detail for undercover purposes.

2. Headgear will be appropriate for the circumstances and surroundings of the particular work environment the person is engaged in at that time.
 - a) The minimum standard for court will be contemporary business attire. The minimum standard for a male officer would be dress shoes, pants, shirt with tie and a sport coat, and for female officers, it would be dress shoes, blouse, pants or skirt, dress or suit.

H. MISCELLANEOUS ASSIGNMENTS

1. In-Service Dress: Officers will dress with clothing that is appropriate for the activities of the in-service.
2. Special Duty Job: Officers working "special duty" jobs in uniforms will adhere to the "military-style uniform" policy and all other appearance policies.
3. Specialized Assignment Dress: The Department has a number of specialized assignments (training, safety education, etc.) that have unique uniform clothing items which identifies them as Minocqua Police Officers. Officers shall wear clothing items that are appropriate for the assignment and within the parameters of the Minocqua Police Department policies.

I. UNIFORM (CLOTHING) ACCOUNT

1. The existing agreement between the Town of Minocqua and the labor union which represents uniformed personnel of the Minocqua Police Department spell out current provisions and

financial amounts.

2. Sworn personnel of the Department receive annual funding for approved uniform and/or equipment purchases. This money is issued to the sworn personnel through means of a check with the employee receiving 50% of the annual clothing allowance no later than January 15th and the remaining 50% no later than July 15th. In the event sworn personnel receives payment and leaves employment of the Department, the sworn personnel shall repay the Department on a prorated basis.
3. The clothing allowance is meant to offset or pay for authorized uniform and equipment items related to the duties of the police officers. Authorized and mandatory uniform items to be purchased and maintained with the uniform clothing account are listed in Addendum B – Uniform and Equipment Items of the collective bargaining agreement.
4. Uniform Allowance funds may be used for authorized articles which need replacement due to normal wear in addition to those items needed to maintain an adequate inventory of clothing and equipment.
5. Body armor is eligible for replacement after five years and shall be paid for as agreed upon in the collective bargaining agreement.
6. The Chief of Police and/or Lieutenant are authorized to purchase a dress uniform. Each member of the Command Staff is required to have one dress uniform available.
7. Officers authorized to use bicycles during their tours of duty are permitted to purchase approved uniform attire for this purpose from their uniform allowance.

J. REPLACEMENT OF LOST, STOLEN OR DAMAGED EQUIPMENT

1. If an item of Department issued property is lost or damaged, the affected employee will forward a memo to the Lieutenant detailing the circumstances of the loss. The Lieutenant will review the circumstances and advise the Chief to replace the item.
2. If the Lieutenant determines that the article was lost or damaged due to employee negligence or willfulness, the employee may be subject to disciplinary action. Conduct constituting criminal damage to property may be prosecuted.
3. The Town shall replace each employee's uniform articles damaged as a result of the performance of his/her duty.
4. All worn out or lost uniform and equipment items that are on the approved list of expenditures shall be paid for out of the employee's uniform allowance.
5. Personal watches damaged in the course of on-duty work and not through employee negligence, will be repaired or replaced to maximum cost of \$50.00.
6. The Department recommends the wearing of safety glasses, but other prescription glasses will be repaired or replaced at a reasonable cost for frames and lenses, if lost or damaged while taking police action. Employees are discouraged from wearing special designer type frames on duty.

Officers wearing special frames or lenses (e.g., designer frames, polarized, ultraviolet or scratch-resistant lenses, etc.) will be responsible for the additional cost beyond standard frames.

The Department will pay for the replacement of specialized lenses if the employee shows that an optometrist has prescribed the lenses due to a specific health need or eye sensitivity of the employee.

7. Contact lenses will be replaced if lost or damaged as a result of taking a law enforcement action.
8. Damaged or lost jewelry, such as beads, earrings, rings, bracelets, etc. will be the responsibility of the employee and the Department will make no repair or replacement.
9. Work-related equipment not issued by the Department will remain the responsibility of the employee and no repair or replacement will be made at Department expense.

K. UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT DISPOSITION UPON TERMINATION

1. Employees who terminate their employment with the Department will be responsible for turning in all uniforms and equipment.
2. Employees who terminate their employment with the Department shall turn in all Department owned property no later than twenty four hours of termination. Failure of a terminated employee to return Department property in serviceable condition shall result in the Department determining the replacement cost of the property and the Department pursuing any legal means to recover the property or their value in replacement costs.

L. PERSONAL APPEARANCE

1. All employees of the Department are visible representatives of the Town and the Department. Therefore, during duty hours or while performing duties or tasks on behalf of the Department clothing and grooming should be neat and clean. This General Order shall apply to both uniformed and non-uniformed employees unless otherwise specified.

M. PERSONAL HYGIENE

1. It is the responsibility of all employees to ensure that their body and clothing is kept clean to prevent offensive odor.

N. TATTOOS AND BRANDING

1. Visible tattoos on the ears, head, face or neck area are prohibited.
2. Officers with tattoos/ branding may be required to keep them covered if they are unsightly or offensive.

O. FINGERNAILS

1. Fingernails will be no longer than one-half inch from fingertip.
2. Fingernail color will be in good taste and subdued in appearance.

P. HAIR

1. Hair will be neatly trimmed, clean and styled.
2. All styles must not detract from the employee's appearance as a professional. Extreme haircuts such as tracks, designs, decorations, sculptures cut into the hair, cornrows and Mohawks are prohibited.
3. Extreme or unnatural hair colors are prohibited.
4. If wigs and hair pieces are worn, they must conform to the established grooming standards.

Q. HAIR LENGTH

1. Uniform officers' hair will not extend more than two inches beyond the bottom of the shirt collar

at the center of the back, and will not interfere with the wearing of a uniform hat/cap.

2. The length and/or bulk of an employee's hair shall not be such that it presents an unprofessional, unkempt, or neglected appearance.

R. HAIR ACCESSORIES

1. Hair accessories that may be worn include bobby pins, hair bands, and hair clips.
2. Hair bands worn by uniformed officers must be of a solid color of white, black or navy blue.
3. Hair clips worn by uniformed officers must be a plain shape and in the color of white, black or navy blue, or natural hair color.
4. Decorative or fashion hair accessories not mentioned above are prohibited by uniformed officers.

S. SIDEBURNS

1. Sideburns will be neatly trimmed and tapered in the same manner as the haircut. They will be evenly trimmed on each side of the face.

T. MUSTACHES AND BEARDS

1. Officers may wear beards, Vandyke goatees, mustaches or other arrangements that when maintained in a neat, clean manner, present a groomed appearance.
2. Facial hair shall not exceed one- and one-half inches in length.

U. JEWELRY

1. Officers may wear one stud/post earring in each earlobe, but the earrings cannot be larger than 5mm.
2. Uniform officers shall not wear any visible necklace, unless authorized by the Department (i.e., ID chain).
3. Officers may wear one wrist watch.
4. Uniform officers shall not wear bracelets unless it is a medical bracelet.
5. Officers may wear two rings, but cannot have a height of over one-half inch from the top of the finger.

V. BODY PIERCING

1. The wearing of body piercing jewelry, other than allowed earrings, is prohibited in body areas that are visible to the public unless approved by the Chief.

David J. Jaeger

David J. Jaeger
Chief of Police

This General Order cancels and supersedes any and all written directives relative to the subject matter contained herein.

Initial 02/03/2017