



# City of Falls Church Police Department

General Orders Manual  
*[Revised 2022]*

Note: This General Order Manual is for internal use only and does not enlarge an officer's liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by the City of Falls Church Police Department and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

# Falls Church Police Department

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## CHIEF'S PREFACE

The purpose of this General Order Manual is to guide the employees of the Falls Church Police Department in carrying out their assigned responsibilities. This manual is our collective commitment as a Public Safety Agency to do our jobs in the most professional, ethical and legal manner.

This manual is critically important to our overall success as a Public Safety Agency. The contents of this manual reflect our official position on a range of issues relevant to our operations, mission and overall vision.

This document is essential to our organization and it is imperative that the manual be read, understood and accepted by our personnel within this organization. An up-to-date manual used as an essential component of our service equates to a high-performance organization.



Colonel Mary Gavin

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### **LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS**

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against abuse or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will 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 both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law 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, political beliefs, aspirations, 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 abuse 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 never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession . . . law enforcement.

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Falls Church Police Department is to promote public safety with the highest regard for the sanctity of life through integrity and respect for human rights, the Constitution of the United States, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and their laws.

We guide our mission through these core values:

- Protection of Life : We are guardians above all else. We safeguard and protect with the highest regard for the sanctity of life.
- Community Engagement : We are committed to proactively seek community input for their needs. We maintain the highest levels of public trust through our relationships and partnerships to address public safety and quality of life concerns.
- Respect : We acknowledge our authority is granted by the community. We value all individuals and their rights. We honor our obligations faithfully and without bias.
- Accountability & Integrity : We are responsible for the words, actions, and outcomes of ourselves and our colleagues. We have a duty to intervene and stop unnecessary actions that would violate civil rights. We adhere to the highest morals and ethics surrounding our own moral character through honesty and transparency.
- Fairness: We unequivocally reject racism and bigotry in all its forms, while advocating for justice and access to opportunity for all.
- Professionalism : We respond to the community promptly with efficiency and care. Our appearance, words, and demeanor contribute to the public's confidence in us. We serve with the public's best interests.
- Innovation: We aim to continually learn and improve with flexibility and agility. We encourage a diversity of perspectives while advocating for new and innovative approaches.

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