

# POLICE DEPARTMENT HANOVER PARK, ILLINOIS



DIRECTIVE: 104-A

REFERENCE STANDARDS: 1.2.1 1.2.2 1.2.7

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SUBJECT: Officer Authority and Responsibility

PURPOSE: In Illinois, the question of the authority and responsibility of police officers is one that must be considered in light of the following factors: Whether the officer is on-duty or off-duty, and whether the incident takes place within the jurisdiction of the Village.

Officers are expected to exercise a certain degree of discretion in their enforcement activities due to the limited resources available to the police.

Department members, whether on-duty or off-duty, are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with statutory authority and the guidelines of this manual and in such a manner as would reflect favorably upon themselves and on the department.

## I. ON-DUTY AUTHORITY

- A. While on duty, inside the village corporate limits, officers have the full authority granted peace officers by Illinois statute. (1.2.1)
- B. While on duty, outside village corporate limits, an officer's authority is limited to actions directly related to his official duty as a police officer of the Village of Hanover Park.

## II. ON -DUTY RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. On-duty officers, within the village corporate limits, after consideration of the situation at hand, are expected to take all steps necessary and consistent with their assignment:
  - 1. To protect life and property; and
  - 2. To enforce the ordinances of the Village of Hanover Park, laws of the State of Illinois, and the laws of the United States of America.
- B. In the event on-duty officers, outside village limits, become involved in police situations, consideration of the statutory limitations of the officer must prevail.

1. If an incident arises in which the officer believes his own or another 's personal safety is jeopardized, he should make every effort practicable to cause the appropriate action to be effected by the responsible law enforcement agency.
2. Action beyond notifying the appropriate agency should be taken only after careful consideration of the situation.

### III. OFF-DUTY AUTHORITY

- A. While off-duty, but within the village corporate limits, officers have the same peace officer authority as when they are on duty.
- B. Off-duty officers, who are outside the village corporate limits, are advised to consider their authority to make arrests to be the same as that of a private citizen.

### IV. OFF-DUTY RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Whether inside or outside the village corporate limits, off-duty officers who observe a situation which requires police attention should give first consideration to causing the appropriate action to be effected by:
  1. On-duty personnel when inside village limits; or
  2. The responsible law enforcement agency when outside village limits.
- B. Police action by off-duty officers is discouraged. An officer who is off duty should only act as a police officer after carefully considering the situation.

### V. DISCRETION (1.2.7)

- A. General guidelines
  1. Officers shall only use discretion and authority in compliance with law and in furtherance of department goals and objectives.
- B. Specific responsibilities
  1. Officers should severely limit their exercise of discretion when acting in response to criminal violations.
  2. Enforcement action or inaction by officers must not be based on an individual's physical characteristics of race, color, sex, age, disability, national origin or ancestry.

3. Enforcement action or contact shall not be extended unnecessarily for the purpose of delaying the release or inhibiting the free movement of any person.

VI. LEGAL AUTHORITY TO CARRY WEAPONS (1.2.2)

- A. Sworn police officers who by virtue of their position are vested by law to maintain public order and make arrests for violations of the Illinois Criminal Code of 1961 and the Ordinances of the Village of Hanover Park.
  1. Guidelines established in DIR #206-P shall be adhered to concerning to the type of firearms and ammunition used.
  2. Exceptions to the above shall only be with the written approval of the Chief of Police.