

Personal Appearance Standards

1019.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

In order to project uniformity and neutrality toward the public and other members of the department, employees shall maintain their personal hygiene and appearance to project a professional image appropriate for this department and for their assignment. For this specific policy, uniformed personnel include sworn police officers, college service officers, SOIs, and RSVPs.

1019.2 GROOMING STANDARDS

Unless otherwise stated and because deviations from these standards could present officer safety issues, the following appearance standards shall apply to all employees, except those whose current assignment would deem them not appropriate, and where the Chief of Police has granted exception.

1019.2.1 HAIR

Hairstyles of all members shall be neat in appearance. For all uniformed male personnel, hair must not extend below the top edge of the uniform collar while assuming a normal stance.

For all uniformed female personnel, hair must be worn up and no longer than the horizontal level of the bottom of the shirt collar.

1019.2.2 MUSTACHES

A short and neatly trimmed mustache may be worn. Mustaches shall not extend below the corners of the mouth or beyond the natural hairline of the upper lip.

1019.2.3 SIDEBURNS

Sideburns shall not extend below the bottom of the outer ear opening (the top of the earlobes) and shall be trimmed and neat.

1019.2.4 FACIAL HAIR

Facial hair other than sideburns, mustaches and eyebrows shall not be worn, unless authorized by the Chief of Police or his or her designee.

1019.2.5 FINGERNAILS

Fingernails extending beyond the tip of the finger can pose a safety hazard to officers or others. For this reason, fingernails shall be trimmed so that no point of the nail extends beyond the tip of the finger.

1019.2.6 JEWELRY

For the purpose of this policy, jewelry refers to rings, earrings, necklaces, bracelets, wristwatches, and tie tacks or tie bars. Jewelry shall present a professional image and may not create a safety concern for the department member or others. Jewelry that depicts racial, sexual, discriminatory, gang-related, or obscene language is not allowed. While on duty, all members of the Department shall adhere to all sections of the specifications of this policy pertaining to the wearing of jewelry.

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- (a) Necklaces shall not be visible above the shirt collar.
- (b) Earrings shall be small and worn only in or on the earlobe. While on duty, all uniformed female personnel, may only wear one set of stud-type earrings, with only one earring per ear. Earrings may only be worn in earlobes. The earrings shall be plain and no more than 1/4 inch in diameter. The piercing and wearing of associated jewelry in all other visible parts of the body is prohibited. While on duty, all uniformed male personnel, sworn and civilian, shall not wear any visible type of jewelry designed for display through the act of body piercing. The wearing of earrings by all uniformed male personnel is expressly prohibited.
- (c) One ring or ring set may be worn on each hand of the department member. No rings should be of the type that would cut or pose an unreasonable safety risk to the member or others during a physical altercation, if the member is assigned to a position where that may occur.
- (d) One small bracelet, including a bracelet identifying a medical condition, may be worn on one arm.
- (e) Wristwatches shall be conservative and present a professional image.
- (f) Tie tacks or tie bars worn with civilian attire shall be conservative and present a professional image.

1019.3 TATTOOS

At no time while the member is on-duty or representing the Department in any official capacity shall any offensive tattoo or body art be visible. Examples of offensive tattoos include but are not limited to those that exhibit or advocate discrimination; those that exhibit gang, supremacist, or extremist group affiliation; and those that depict or promote drug use, sexually explicit acts, or other obscene material.

No tattoos, branding or scarification located above the collar bone shall be displayed or visible to the public.

Any limb covered by over 30% body art must be covered and not be visible to the public.

1019.4 BODY PIERCING OR ALTERATION

Body piercing or alteration to any area of the body visible in any authorized uniform or attire that is a deviation from normal anatomical features and which is not medically required is prohibited. Such body alteration includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Tongue splitting or piercing.
- (b) The complete or transdermal implantation of any material other than hair replacement.
- (c) Abnormal shaping of the ears, eyes, nose or teeth
- (d) Branding or scarification.
- (e) Ear gauges, lobe stretching or eyebrow, nose, septum or lip piercings are prohibited.

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1019.5 EXEMPTIONS

Members who seek cultural (e.g., culturally protected hairstyles) or other exemptions to this policy that are protected by law should generally be accommodated (Government Code § 12926). A member with an exemption may be ineligible for an assignment if the individual accommodation presents a security or safety risk. The Chief of Police should be advised any time a request for such an accommodation is denied or when a member with a cultural or other exemption is denied an assignment based on a safety or security risk.