



Seattle Police Department

Policies & Procedures

<i>Employee Conduct</i>	Effective Date:
5.140 – Unbiased Policing	8/4/2011

I. Policy

- A. Purpose: The policies in this manual section are intended to reaffirm the commitment of the Seattle Police Department to unbiased policing and to reinforce procedures that serve to assure the public that we are providing service and enforcing laws in an equitable way.
- B. Justifiable Searches & Seizures: Investigative detentions, traffic stops, arrests, searches, and property seizures by officers will be based on a standard of reasonable suspicion or probable cause. Officers must be able to articulate specific facts and circumstances that support reasonable suspicion or probable cause for investigative detentions, traffic stops, arrests, nonconsensual searches, and property seizures.
- C. Use of Race or Ethnicity: Use of race or ethnicity shall conform to the following:
 - 1. Acceptable Use: Officers may take into account the reported race or ethnicity of a specific suspect or suspects based on trustworthy, locally relevant information that links a person or persons of a particular race or ethnicity to a particular unlawful incident, as long as it is not the sole basis for establishing the reason for their actions.
 - 2. Unacceptable Use: Except as provided above in C1, race or ethnicity shall not be motivating factors in making law enforcement decisions including establishing reasonable suspicion or probable cause; nor shall it be considered in deciding to initiate even those nonconsensual encounters that do not amount to legal detentions or to request consent to search
- D. Motorcycles: In accordance with RCW 43.101 as related to “Motorcycle Profiling”, use of the fact that a person rides a motorcycle or wears motorcycle related paraphernalia will conform to the following:
 - 1. Acceptable Use: In accordance with RCW 43.101, officers may take into account the reported fact that a suspect rides a motorcycle or wears motorcycle related paraphernalia based on trustworthy, locally relevant information that links a person or persons who ride motorcycles or wear motorcycle related paraphernalia to a particular unlawful incident, as long as it is not the sole basis for establishing the reason for their actions.
 - 2. Unacceptable Use: Except as provided above in D1, the fact that someone rides a motorcycle or wears motorcycle paraphernalia shall not be motivating factors in making law enforcement decisions including establishing reasonable suspicion or probable cause; nor shall it be considered in deciding to initiate even those nonconsensual encounters that do not amount to legal detentions or to request consent to search.
- E. Supervisors Responsibility: Supervisors shall ensure that all personnel in their command are familiar with the content of this policy and are operating in compliance with it.
- F. Annual Report: At least annually, the Director of the Office of Professional Accountability shall prepare a report for the Chief of Police describing and analyzing the status of the Department’s effort to prevent biased policing.
- G. Corrective Action Required: Sustained complaints of biased policing shall result in corrective actions.

H. Recurrent Training: The Department's ongoing training curriculum shall include regular biased policing updates.