



NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS MANUAL

CHAPTER: 11.0

TITLE: ORGANIZATIONAL COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY

EFFECTIVE: 01/14/2018

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PURPOSE

The organizational structure of the Department is designed to create an efficient means to accomplish the mission and goals of the department and to provide for the best possible service to the public.

COMMAND PROTOCOL

1. The Superintendent exercises command over all personnel in the Department. During planned absences the Superintendent will designate the Chief Deputy Superintendent or a Deputy Superintendent to serve as the acting Superintendent.
2. Except when designated as above, the order of command authority, in the absence or unavailability of the Superintendent, is as follows:
 - (a) Field Operations Bureau Chief Deputy Superintendent
 - (b) Investigation and Support Bureau Deputy Superintendent
 - (c) Management Services Bureau Deputy Superintendent
 - (d) Public Integrity Bureau Deputy Superintendent
 - (e) Professional Standards & Accountability Bureau Deputy Superintendent

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

3. The Superintendent is the highest authority within the New Orleans Police Department. The Superintendent has responsibility for all administration, organization, supervision and discipline-related functions of the Department.
4. The Superintendent of Police is appointed by the Mayor. He/she is the appointing authority for the New Orleans Police Department. The Superintendent of Police is responsible for the daily management of the New Orleans Police Department. He/she is responsible for designating the Chief Deputy Superintendent and Deputy Superintendents to oversee the management of designated Bureaus within the department.
5. The Superintendent is responsible for administering and managing the New Orleans Police Department. There are five bureaus in the Police Department:
 - (a) Field Operations Bureau
 - (b) Investigation and Support Bureau
 - (c) Public Integrity Bureau

- (d) Management Services Bureau
- (e) Professional Standards & Accountability Bureau

6. The Superintendent's staff shall consist of the following:
- (a) Superintendent of Police
 - (b) Chief Deputy Superintendent
 - (c) Deputy Superintendents
 - (d) Any other member designated or assigned by the Superintendent of Police

HIERARCHY OF AUTHORITY

7. The Chief Deputy Superintendent and Deputy Superintendents function at a lesser degree of authority than the Superintendent and have responsibility for all performance factors associated with Bureau-level operations.
8. All other supervisors carry the authority and responsibility for the effective operation of department functions and are subordinate to the Superintendent, Chief Deputy Superintendent, and Deputy Superintendents. The hierarchy of authority for other supervisors is:
- (a) Major
 - (b) Captain
 - (c) Lieutenant
 - (d) Sergeant
9. Certain circumstances (e.g., disaster operations and special events) may require the assignment of other persons, including those from outside the Department, to perform functions within the hierarchy of authority of the NOPD. Such assignment will be established by directive or other departmental order, which will include the identity of the person, his/her authority and the duration, event and scope of such authority.

UNITY OF COMMAND

10. The principles of unity of command ensure efficient supervision and control within the Department. Generally, each employee shall be accountable to one supervisor at any time, for a given assignment or responsibility.
11. Except where specifically delegated authority may exist by policy or special assignment (e.g., Canine, SWAT, Homicide, PIB-FIT, etc.), a supervisor on the scene of an incident may assume command and temporarily direct any subordinate member if an operational necessity exists.

ORDERS

12. Members shall respond to and make a good faith and reasonable effort to comply with lawful orders of superior officers and other proper authority.

UNLAWFUL AND CONFLICTING ORDERS

13. No member is required to obey any order that outwardly appears to be in direct conflict with any federal law, state law or local ordinance. **Following an unlawful order is not a defense** and does not relieve the member from criminal or civil prosecution or administrative discipline.

14. If the legality of an order is in doubt, the affected member shall ask the issuing supervisor to clarify the order or shall confer with a higher authority. Responsibility for refusal to obey rests with the member, who shall subsequently be required to justify the refusal.
15. Unless it would jeopardize the safety of any individual, members who are presented with a lawful order that is in conflict with a previous lawful order, department policy or other directive, shall respectfully inform the issuing supervisor of the conflict.
16. The issuing supervisor is responsible for either resolving the conflict or clarifying that the lawful order is intended to countermand the previous lawful order or directive, in which case the member is obliged to comply.
17. Members who are compelled to follow a conflicting lawful order after having given the issuing supervisor the opportunity to correct the conflict are not held accountable for disobedience of the lawful order or directive that was initially issued.
18. The supervisor countermanding the original order shall notify, in writing, the person issuing the original order, indicating the action taken and the reason.