

Garrettsville Police Department

Policy Manual

CHIEF'S PREFACE

The success of the Garrettsville Police Department is signified on our ability to serve the community. Effective service requires the trust, faith and confidence of the community. Every member of the department holds a special position of public trust. We must never defy that public confidence. At the focus of every action we take must be a desire to do what is right.

As a member of the Garrettsville Police Department, you are most likely going to be the first aspect of government which is seen by citizens and visitors. This is not a situation to take lightly, because it means that you are directly given an immense amount of public trust. As easy as this power is given to you, it can be quickly taken away with an intentional or unintentional act. While the public may excuse a mistake, they do expect us to correct ourselves and maintain a profession clear of any dishonor.

The Garrettsville Police Department shall have written policy outlining its law enforcement authority, and the need for public approval and acceptance of that authority. This policy will designate what is reasonable and lawful, in accordance with established law. This policy will also address the need for accountability to the community it serves. We will support the constitution of the United States and the State of Ohio and this policy manual will guide us in making those decisions.

The expanding role and intricacy of law enforcement in society makes it impossible to strictly outline a member's action in every situation. While it is necessary that discipline may be required in correcting behavior that is contrary to policy, those policies are to be viewed as guidelines for members to follow. A member's actions should be judged in accordance with the unique differences of each situation and the knowledge of that situation that the members have at the time. Contempt without credible and valid reasons may subject the member to discipline. Exceptions to this are actions which members are required to perform by law.

As the Chief of Police, I am most proud of our department and every member of our agency. Each and every day our members act with professionalism and dedication that often times goes unnoticed. I am confident that together, we can continue to work towards making our agency and community collectively better tomorrow, than it is today.

Timothy G. Christopher

Chief of Police