



DES PLAINES POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

Jim Prandini, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: VOLUNTEERS

NUMBER: 7.04

SECTION: 7 – PERSONNEL MATTERS

EFFECTIVE: March 10, 2006

AMENDED:

RESCINDS:

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PURPOSE: This policy establishes this Department's position on the utility and management of its volunteer program and provides guidance on its management and administration.

POLICY: Volunteers can be an important part of any organization and are proven to be a valuable asset to law enforcement agencies. Volunteers help to increase police responsiveness, service delivery, and information input, and they provide new program opportunities. In addition, volunteers can bring new skills and expertise to the job and prompt new enthusiasm. It is the policy of this police department to use qualified volunteers for specified tasks and duties that can create efficiencies for the department and improve services to the community. Volunteers are intended to supplement and support, rather than supplant, sworn officers and civilian personnel.

7.04.1 DEFINITIONS

Volunteer - Someone who performs service for the department without promise, expectation, or receipt of compensation for services rendered. This may include unpaid Chaplains, unpaid Reserve Officers, interns, Citizens on Patrol, persons providing administrative support, and youth involved in a Law Enforcement Explorer Post, among others.

7.04.2 ADMINISTRATION

The Chief will name a Coordinator of Volunteers. This Coordinator is responsible for the administration of the volunteer program. All requests for volunteers, other than for Police Explorers, will be routed through the designated chain of command for review and volunteer selection. Duties of the Coordinator include:

- Recruiting, selecting, and training qualified volunteers for various positions
- Maintaining "personnel records" for each volunteer
- Maintaining the volunteer handbook, which outlines expectations, policies, and responsibilities for all volunteers
- Maintaining a record of volunteer schedules and work hours
- Completion and dissemination as appropriate of all necessary paperwork and information
- Planning periodic recognition events
- Administering discipline when warranted

7.04.3 RECRUITING

Volunteers should be recruited on a continuous and ongoing basis. All recruitment will be consistent with the Department's policy on equal opportunity nondiscriminatory employment. A primary qualification for participation in the application process shall be an interest in, and an ability to, assist the Department in serving the public.

7.04.4 SCREENING

All prospective volunteers shall complete the volunteer application form. The Coordinator of Volunteers, or designee, will conduct a face-to-face interview with an applicant under consideration. A documented background investigation shall be completed on each volunteer applicant and shall include but not necessarily be limited to the following:

- Traffic and criminal record
- Employment
- References

7.04.5 SELECTION & PLACEMENT

Upon their selection, applicants shall receive a confirmation letter prior to the start of service.

All volunteers shall receive a copy of the volunteer handbook.

All volunteers shall be required to sign a volunteer agreement.

Volunteers shall be placed only in job assignments or programs that are consistent with the knowledge, skills, abilities, and needs of the agency.

7.04.6 POSITION DESCRIPTION

Volunteers shall be provided with a comprehensive written position description detailing their duties.

Volunteers shall be used only in accordance with this description. Volunteers shall not work without a written job description or outside the limits of job responsibilities specified in the job description.

Position descriptions shall be reviewed periodically to ensure that they accurately reflect the volunteer's duties and responsibilities.

7.04.7 TRAINING

Volunteers shall be provided with an orientation program to acquaint them with the department, personnel, policies, and procedures that have a direct impact on their work assignment.

Volunteers shall receive position-specific training to ensure they have adequate knowledge and skills to complete tasks required by the position.

Volunteers shall receive periodic ongoing training as deemed appropriate by their supervisor or the Coordinator of Volunteers.

Training shall reinforce to volunteers that they may not intentionally represent themselves as, or by omission infer that they are, sworn officers or other full-time members of the department. They shall always represent themselves as volunteers.

All volunteers shall comply with the rules of conduct and with all orders and directives, either oral or written, issued by the department.

7.04.8 FITNESS FOR DUTY

No volunteer shall report to work or be on duty when his or her judgment or physical condition has been impaired by alcohol, medication, other substances, illness, or injury.

Volunteers shall report to their supervisor any changes in status that may affect their ability to fulfill their duties. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Driver's license status change
- Medical condition
- Arrests
- Personal involvement in criminal investigations

7.04.9 DRESS CODE

Volunteers will conform to department-approved dress consistent with their duty assignment. Uniforms authorized for volunteers will be readily distinguishable from those worn by sworn officers. No volunteer shall wear his or her uniform or identifiable parts of that uniform while off duty. Volunteers are required to return any issued uniform or agency clothing at the termination of service.

7.04.10 CONFIDENTIALITY

With appropriate security clearance, volunteers may have access to confidential information such as criminal histories or investigative files. Unless otherwise directed by a supervisor or departmental policy, all police information shall be considered confidential. Only that information specifically identified and approved by authorized personnel shall be released. Confidential information shall be given only to persons who have a need and a right to know as determined by departmental policy and supervisory personnel.

Each volunteer shall sign a nondisclosure agreement. Subsequent disclosure of any confidential information, verbally in writing, or by any other means, shall be grounds for immediate dismissal and possible criminal prosecution.

Volunteers shall not address public gatherings, appear on radio or television, prepare any article for publication, act as correspondents to a newspaper or other periodical, release or divulge any information concerning the activities of the agency, or maintain that they represent the agency in such matters without permission from the proper agency personnel.

7.04.11 PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

Volunteers will be issued an identification card that must be worn at all times while on duty, with the exception of Reserve or Auxiliary Officers wearing the official uniform and badge.

Any fixed and portable equipment issued by the agency shall be for official and authorized use only. Any property or equipment issued to a volunteer shall remain the property of the Department and shall be returned at the termination of service.

7.04.12 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

A volunteer may be removed from the volunteer program at the discretion of the Chief. Termination of volunteers shall not be subject to due process considerations and volunteers shall have no property interests in their continued employment.

7.04.13 EVALUATION

An evaluation of the overall volunteer program shall be conducted on an annual basis.

Regular personnel evaluations shall be conducted with volunteers to ensure the best use of human resources available, to ensure personnel problems can be identified and dealt with promptly and fairly, and to ensure optimum job satisfaction on the part of volunteers.

By order of:

Jim Prandini, Chief of Police
City of Des Plaines