

Chapter 1 - Law Enforcement Role and Authority

Law Enforcement Authority

100.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to affirm the authority of the members of the Metro Transit Police Department to perform their functions based on established legal authority.

100.2 PEACE OFFICER POWERS

Licensed officers of this department are peace officers pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 626.84 Subd. 1(c).

100.2.1 ARREST AUTHORITY WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE METRO TRANSIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arrest authority of a full-time officer or part-time officer extends to any place within the jurisdiction of the department at all times (Minn. Stat. § 629.34, Subd. 1 and Minn. Stat. § 629.40):

- (a) The person is being arrested for a felony.
- (b) The person is being arrested for a non-felony crime that was attempted or committed in the officer's presence.
- (c) The person is being arrested for a non-felony crime that was not attempted or committed in the officer's presence but an arrest is permitted by statute (e.g., domestic abuse, restraining order and no contact order violations).
- (d) The person is a juvenile committed to the custody of the commissioner of corrections and committed a felony after he/she escaped from custody (Minn. Stat. § 609.485).
- (e) There is reasonable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed or attempted to commit theft from a merchant (Minn. Stat. § 629.366).

The arrest authority pursuant to a warrant is applicable only while on-duty. The arrest authority of a part-time peace officer is applicable only while on-duty (Minn. Stat. § 629.34, Subd. 1(b)).

100.2.2 ARREST AUTHORITY OUTSIDE THE JURISDICTION OF THE METRO TRANSIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Full-time, on-duty officers may make an arrest outside the jurisdiction of the Metro Transit Police Department anytime the officer may by law make an arrest for a criminal offense and the person to be arrested escapes from custody or flees out of the officer's jurisdiction (Minn. Stat. § 629.40):

- (a) A full-time officer's arrest authority when off-duty and outside the jurisdiction of the department is limited to circumstances that would permit the officer to use deadly force under Minn. Stat. § 609.066 (see the Use of Force Policy). Under any other circumstances, the full-time off-duty officer is limited to the same power as are members of the general public.
- (b) An officer making an arrest under this subsection should, as soon as practicable after making the arrest, notify the agency having jurisdiction where the arrest was made.

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100.2.3 GRANTING AUTHORITY TO OTHERS

An officer may summon the aid of private persons when making an arrest pursuant to a warrant (Minn. Stat. § 629.30).

100.3 INTERSTATE PEACE OFFICER POWERS

Peace officer powers may be extended within other states:

- (a) As applicable under interstate compacts and memorandums of understanding in compliance with the laws of each state.
- (b) When an officer enters Iowa or Wisconsin in fresh pursuit of a felony subject (Iowa Code § 806.1; Wis. Stat. § 976.04).
- (c) When an officer enters North Dakota or South Dakota in pursuit of a subject who committed any offense (N.D.C.C. § 29-06-05; SDCL 23A-3-9; SDCL 23A-3-10).

Whenever an officer makes an arrest in another state, the officer shall take the offender to a magistrate or judge in the county where the arrest occurred as soon as practicable (Iowa Code § 806.2; N.D.C.C. § 29-06-06; SDCL 23A-3-12; Wis. Stat. § 976.04).

100.4 POLICY

It is the policy of the Metro Transit Police Department to limit its members to only exercise the authority granted to them by law.

While this department recognizes the power of peace officers to make arrests and take other enforcement action, officers are encouraged to use sound discretion in the enforcement of the law. This department does not tolerate abuse of law enforcement authority.

100.5 CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

All members shall observe and comply with every person's clearly established rights under the United States and Minnesota Constitutions.

Chief Executive Officer

102.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Minnesota Legislature acting through the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST Board) has mandated that all peace officers employed within the State of Minnesota shall hold a POST Board license (Minn. Stat. § 626.846).

102.1.1 CHIEF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REQUIREMENTS

Any chief law enforcement officer of this department, as defined in Minn. R. 6700.0100, shall as a condition of employment hold a license as a peace officer with the POST Board (Minn. R. 6700.0800; Minn. R. 6700.0501). The peace officer license shall be renewed every three years as required by Minn. R. 6700.1000.

Oath of Office

104.1 POLICY

It is the policy of the Metro Transit Police Department that, when appropriate, department members affirm the oath of their office as an expression of commitment to the constitutional rights of those served by the Department and the dedication of its members to their duties (Minn. Stat. § 358.05).

104.2 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Officers of this department are sworn to uphold the federal and state constitutions and to enforce federal, state and local laws.

104.3 OATH OF OFFICE

Upon employment, all employees shall be required to affirm, sign and date the oath of office expressing commitment and intent to respect constitutional rights in discharging the duties of the position, regardless of whether law mandates such an oath. The oath shall be as follows:

I, (employee name), do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of (applicable position or office) within and for the Metro Transit Police Department and State of Minnesota.

104.4 MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

Oaths mandated by law shall be filed as required by law (Minn. Stat. § 387.01; Minn. Stat. § 387.14). Other oaths shall be maintained consistent with other personnel employment records.

Policy Manual

106.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The manual of the Metro Transit Police Department is hereby established and shall be referred to as the Policy Manual or the manual. The manual is a statement of the current policies, rules and guidelines of this department. All members are to conform to the provisions of this manual.

All prior and existing manuals, orders and regulations that are in conflict with this manual are rescinded, except to the extent that portions of existing manuals, procedures, orders and other regulations that have not been included herein shall remain in effect, provided that they do not conflict with the provisions of this manual.

106.2 POLICY

Except where otherwise expressly stated, the provisions of this manual shall be considered as guidelines. It is recognized that the work of law enforcement is not always predictable and circumstances may arise which warrant departure from these guidelines. It is the intent of this manual to be viewed from an objective standard, taking into consideration the sound discretion entrusted to members of this department under the circumstances reasonably available at the time of any incident.

106.2.1 DISCLAIMER

The provisions contained in the Policy Manual are not intended to create an employment contract nor any employment rights or entitlements. The policies contained within this manual are for the internal use of the Metro Transit Police Department and shall not be construed to create a higher standard or duty of care for civil or criminal liability against the Metropolitan Council / Metro Transit, its officials or members. Violations of any provision of any policy contained within this manual shall only form the basis for department administrative action, training or discipline. The Metro Transit Police Department reserves the right to revise any policy content, in whole or in part.

106.3 AUTHORITY

The Chief of Police shall be considered the ultimate authority for the content and adoption of the provisions of this manual and shall ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws. The Chief of Police or the authorized designee is authorized to issue Interim Directives, which shall modify those provisions of the manual to which they pertain. Interim Directives shall remain in effect until such time as they may be permanently incorporated into the manual.

106.4 DEFINITIONS

The following words and terms shall have these assigned meanings throughout the Policy Manual, unless it is apparent from the content that they have a different meaning:

Adult - Any person 18 years of age or older.

CFR- Code of Federal Regulations.

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Child- Any person under the age of 18 years.

Metropolitan Area - The Metropolitan Area of Metro Transit.

Civilian - Employees and volunteers who are not licensed peace officers.

Department/MTPD - The Metro Transit Police Department.

DPS- The Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

DVS- The Minnesota Department of Driver and Vehicle Services.

Employee/personnel - Any person employed by the Department.

Manual - The Metro Transit Police Department Policy Manual.

May - Indicates a permissive, discretionary or conditional action.

Member - Any person employed or appointed by the Metro Transit Police Department including:

- Full- and part-time employees
- Licensed peace officers
- Reserve, auxiliary officers
- Civilian employees
- Volunteers.

Officer - Those employees, regardless of rank, who are licensed peace officer employees of the Metro Transit Police Department.

On-duty - A member's status during the period when he/she is actually engaged in the performance of his/her assigned duties.

Order - A written or verbal instruction issued by a superior.

Peace officer- An employee of the Department who is required to be certified by POST pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 626.84, Subd. 1 or otherwise holds a peace officer license. The term includes licensed full-time and part-time officers who perform the duties of a peace officer.

POST- The Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training.

Rank - The title of the classification held by an officer.

Shall or will - Indicates a mandatory action.

Should - Indicates a generally required or expected action, absent a rational basis for failing to conform.

Supervisor - A person in a position of authority that may include responsibility for hiring, transfer, suspension, promotion, discharge, assignment, reward or discipline of other department members, directing the work of other members or having the authority to adjust grievances. The supervisory exercise of authority may not be merely routine or clerical in nature but requires the use of independent judgment.

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The term "supervisor" may also include any person (e.g., officer-in-charge, lead or senior worker) given responsibility for the direction of the work of others without regard to a formal job title, rank or compensation.

When there is only one department member on-duty, that person may also be the supervisor, except when circumstances reasonably require the notification or involvement of the member's off-duty supervisor or an on-call supervisor.

USC- United States Code.

106.5 ISSUING THE POLICY MANUAL

An electronic version of the Policy Manual will be made available to all members on the department network for viewing and printing. No changes shall be made to the manual without authorization from the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

Each member shall acknowledge that he/she has been provided access to, and has had the opportunity to review the Policy Manual and Interim Directives. Members shall seek clarification as needed from an appropriate supervisor for any provisions that they do not fully understand.

106.6 PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE POLICY MANUAL

The Chief of Police will ensure that the Policy Manual is periodically reviewed and updated as necessary.

106.7 REVISIONS TO POLICIES

All revisions to the Policy Manual will be provided to each member on or before the date the policy becomes effective. Each member will be required to acknowledge that he/she has reviewed the revisions and shall seek clarification from an appropriate supervisor as needed.

Members are responsible for keeping abreast of all Policy Manual revisions.

Each Division Commander will ensure that members under his/her command are aware of any Policy Manual revision.

All department members suggesting revision of the contents of the Policy Manual shall forward their written suggestions to their Division Commanders, who will consider the recommendations and forward them to the command staff as appropriate.