

# Discriminatory Harassment

## **328.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The purpose of this policy is to prevent department members from being subjected to discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment and retaliation. Nothing in this policy is intended to create a legal or employment right or duty that is not created by law.

## **328.2 POLICY**

The Fontana Police Department is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to creating and maintaining a work environment that is free of all forms of discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment and retaliation (Government Code § 12940(k); 2 CCR 11023). The Department will not tolerate discrimination against a member in hiring, promotion, discharge, compensation, fringe benefits and other privileges of employment. The Department will take preventive and corrective action to address any behavior that violates this policy or the rights it is designed to protect.

The nondiscrimination policies of the Department may be more comprehensive than state or federal law. Conduct that violates this policy may not violate state or federal law but still could subject a member to discipline.

## **328.3 DEFINITIONS**

Definitions related to this policy include:

### **328.3.1 DISCRIMINATION**

The Department prohibits all forms of discrimination, including any employment-related action by a member that adversely affects an applicant or member and is based on actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and any other classification or status protected by law.

Discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment, is verbal or physical conduct that demeans or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual based upon that individual's protected class. It has the effect of interfering with an individual's work performance or creating a hostile or abusive work environment.

Conduct that may, under certain circumstances, constitute discriminatory harassment can include making derogatory comments; making crude and offensive statements or remarks; making slurs or off-color jokes, stereotyping; engaging in threatening acts; making indecent gestures, pictures, cartoons, posters, or material; making inappropriate physical contact; or using written material or department equipment and/or systems to transmit or receive offensive material, statements, or pictures. Such conduct is contrary to department policy and to a work environment that is free of discrimination.

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#### 328.3.2 SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The Department prohibits all forms of discrimination and discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment. It is unlawful to harass an applicant or a member because of that person's sex.

Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- (a) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment, position or compensation.
- (b) Submission to, or rejection of, such conduct is used as the basis for any employment decisions affecting the member.
- (c) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a member's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

#### 328.3.3 ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Discrimination and discriminatory harassment do not include actions that are in accordance with established rules, principles, or standards, including:

- (a) Acts or omission of acts based solely upon bona fide occupational qualifications under the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the California Civil Rights Council guidelines.
- (b) Bona fide requests or demands by a supervisor that the member improve the member's work quality or output, that the member report to the job site on time, that the member comply with City or department rules or regulations, or any other appropriate work-related communication between supervisor and member.

#### 328.3.4 RETALIATION

Retaliation is treating a person differently or engaging in acts of reprisal or intimidation against the person because the person has engaged in protected activity, filed a charge of discrimination, participated in an investigation, or opposed a discriminatory practice. Retaliation will not be tolerated.

### **328.4 RESPONSIBILITIES**

This policy applies to all department personnel. All members shall follow the intent of these guidelines in a manner that reflects department policy, professional standards, and the best interest of the department and its mission.

Members are encouraged to promptly report any discriminatory, retaliatory, or harassing conduct or known violations of this policy to a supervisor. Any member who is not comfortable with reporting violations of this policy to the member's immediate supervisor may bypass the chain of command and make the report to a higher-ranking supervisor or manager. Complaints may also be filed with the Chief of Police, the Human Resources Manager, or the City Manager.

Any member who believes, in good faith, that the member has been discriminated against, harassed, or subjected to retaliation, or who has observed harassment, discrimination, or

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retaliation, is encouraged to promptly report such conduct in accordance with the procedures set forth in this policy.

Supervisors and managers receiving information regarding alleged violations of this policy shall determine if there is any basis for the allegation and shall proceed with resolution as stated below.

#### 328.4.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of supervisors and managers shall include but are not limited to:

- (a) Continually monitoring the work environment and striving to ensure that it is free from all types of unlawful discrimination, including harassment or retaliation.
- (b) Taking prompt, appropriate action within their work units to avoid and minimize the incidence of any form of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.
- (c) Ensuring that their subordinates understand their responsibilities under this policy.
- (d) Ensuring that members who make complaints or who oppose any unlawful employment practices are protected from retaliation and that such matters are kept confidential to the extent possible.
- (e) Making a timely determination regarding the substance of any allegation based upon all available facts.
- (f) Notifying the Chief of Police or the Human Resources Manager in writing of the circumstances surrounding any reported allegations or observed acts of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation no later than the next business day.

#### 328.4.2 SUPERVISOR'S ROLE

Supervisors and managers shall be aware of the following:

- (a) Behavior of supervisors and managers should represent the values of the Fontana Police Department and professional standards.
- (b) False or mistaken accusations of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation can have negative effects on the careers of innocent members.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent supervisors or managers from discharging supervisory or management responsibilities, such as determining duty assignments, evaluating or counseling members, or issuing discipline, in a manner that is consistent with established procedures.

#### 328.4.3 EMPLOYEES ROLE

- (a) If another employee tells you that he/she finds your behavior offensive, do not get angry or insulted. People have different values and standards based on ethnicity, age, gender, etc. and may be offended by behavior that you think is proper. Tell the employee that you did not realize that he/she would be offended by your behavior, stop the offensive conduct immediately, and reassure the behavior will not be repeated.
- (b) There is no intent by this department to regulate or control any relationship or social interactions of employees that are freely entered into by both parties.

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(c) The following are suggestions for all employees to help establish and maintain a professional and healthy working environment, while at the same time preventing sexual harassment from occurring.

1. It is the department's philosophy that employees must set an example of acceptable conduct by not participating in or provoking behavior that is offensive.
2. Make it absolutely clear that you are not interested in, or flattered by uninvited sexual advances.
3. Whenever possible, employees who believe they are experiencing discrimination and/or harassment are encouraged to inform the individual that his/her behavior is unwelcome, offensive, unprofessional or highly inappropriate. If this does not resolve the concern or if an employee feels uncomfortable, threatened, or has difficulty expressing his/her concern, supervisory or management assistance or counseling should be sought from a supervisor or manager one rank higher than the alleged offender.

#### **328.4.4 QUESTIONS OR CLARIFICATION**

Members with questions regarding what constitutes discrimination, sexual harassment, or retaliation are encouraged to contact a supervisor, a manager, the Chief of Police, the Director of Human Resources, the City Manager, or the California Civil Rights Department for further information, direction, or clarification (Government Code § 12950).

#### **328.5 INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS**

Various methods of resolution exist. During the pendency of any such investigation, the supervisor of the involved member should take prompt and reasonable steps to mitigate or eliminate any continuing abusive or hostile work environment. It is the policy of the Fontana Police Department that all complaints of discrimination, retaliation, or harassment shall be fully documented and promptly and thoroughly investigated.

##### **328.5.1 FORMAL INVESTIGATION**

If the complaint cannot be satisfactorily resolved through the supervisory resolution process, a formal investigation will be conducted.

The person assigned to investigate the complaint will have full authority to investigate all aspects of the complaint. Investigative authority includes access to records and the cooperation of any members involved. No influence will be used to suppress any complaint and no member will be subject to retaliation or reprisal for filing a complaint, encouraging others to file a complaint, or for offering testimony or evidence in an investigation.

Formal investigation of the complaint will be confidential to the extent possible and will include but is not limited to details of the specific incident, frequency and dates of occurrences, and names of any witnesses. Witnesses will be advised regarding the prohibition against retaliation, and that a disciplinary process, up to and including termination, may result if retaliation occurs.

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Members who believe they have been discriminated against, harassed, or retaliated against because of their protected status, are encouraged to follow the chain of command but may also file a complaint directly with the Chief of Police, the Human Resources Manager, or the City Manager.

#### 328.5.2 ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCESS

No provision of this policy shall be construed to prevent any member from seeking legal redress outside the department. Members who believe that they have been harassed, discriminated against, or retaliated against are entitled to bring complaints of employment discrimination to federal, state, and/or local agencies responsible for investigating such allegations. Specific time limitations apply to the filing of such charges. Members are advised that proceeding with complaints under the provisions of this policy does not in any way affect those filing requirements.

#### **328.6 DOCUMENTATION OF COMPLAINTS**

All complaints or allegations shall be thoroughly documented on forms and in a manner designated by the Chief of Police. The outcome of all reports shall be:

- (a) Approve by the Chief of Police, the City Manager, or the Human Resources Manager, depending on the ranks of the involved parties.
- (b) Maintained in accordance with the department's established records retention schedule.

##### 328.6.1 DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINTS

**Unfounded** - When the investigation discloses that the alleged act(s) did not occur or did not involve department personnel. Complaints which are determined to be frivolous will fall within the classification of unfounded (Penal Code § 832.5(c)).

**Exonerated** - When the investigation discloses that the alleged act occurred, but that the act was justified, lawful and/or proper.

**Inconclusive** - When the investigation discloses that there is insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the employee.

**Sustained** - When the investigation discloses sufficient evidence to establish that the act occurred and that it constituted misconduct.

If an investigation discloses misconduct or improper job performance which was not alleged in the original complaint, the investigator shall take appropriate action with regard to any additional allegations.

##### 328.6.2 NOTIFICATION OF DISPOSITION

The complainant and/or victim will be notified in writing of the disposition of the investigation and the actions taken to remedy or address the circumstances giving rise to the complaint.

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#### **328.7 TRAINING**

All new members shall be provided with a copy of this policy as part of their orientation. The policy shall be reviewed with each new member. The member shall certify by signing the prescribed form that the member has been advised of this policy, is aware of and understands its contents, and agrees to abide by its provisions during the member's term with the department.

All members shall receive annual training on the requirements of this policy and shall certify by signing the prescribed form that they have reviewed the policy, understand its contents, and agree that they will continue to abide by its provisions.

##### **328.7.1 STATE-REQUIRED TRAINING**

The Training Sergeant should ensure that employees receive the required state training and education regarding sexual harassment, prevention of abusive conduct, and harassment based on gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation as follows (Government Code § 12950.1; 2 CCR 11024):

- (a) Supervisory employees shall receive two hours of classroom or other effective interactive training and education within six months of assuming a supervisory position.
- (b) All other employees shall receive one hour of classroom or other effective interactive training and education within six months of their employment or sooner for seasonal or temporary employees as described in Government Code § 12950.1.
- (c) All employees shall receive refresher training every two years thereafter.

If the required training is to be provided by the Civil Rights Department online training courses, the Training Sergeant should ensure that employees are provided the following website address to the training course: <https://calcivilrights.ca.gov> (Government Code § 12950; 2 CCR 11023).

##### **328.7.2 TRAINING RECORDS**

The Training Specialist shall be responsible for maintaining records of all discriminatory harassment training provided to members. Records shall be retained in accordance with established records retention schedules and for a minimum of two years (2 CCR 11024).

#### **328.8 WORKING CONDITIONS**

The Administrative Division Commander or the authorized designee should be responsible for reviewing facility design and working conditions for discriminatory practices. This person should collaborate with other City employees who are similarly tasked (2 CCR 11034).

#### **328.9 REQUIRED POSTERS**

The Fontana Police Department shall display the required posters regarding discrimination, harassment and transgender rights in a prominent and accessible location for members (Government Code § 12950).