

Personal Appearance Standards

1044.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

In order to project uniformity and neutrality toward the public and other members of the [department/office], employees shall maintain their personal hygiene and appearance to project a professional image appropriate for this [department/office] and for their assignment.

1044.2 GROOMING STANDARDS

Unless otherwise stated and because deviations from these standards could present officer safety issues, the following appearance standards shall apply to all employees, except those whose current assignment would deem them not appropriate, and where the Chief of Police has granted exception.

1044.2.1 HAIR

Hairstyles of all members shall be neat in appearance. For male sworn members, hair must not extend below the top edge of the uniform collar while assuming a normal stance.

For female sworn members, hair must be no longer than the horizontal level of the bottom of the uniform patch when the employee is standing erect, worn up or in a tightly wrapped braid or ponytail.

1044.2.2 MUSTACHES

A short and neatly trimmed mustache may be worn. Mustaches shall not extend below the corners of the mouth or beyond the natural hairline of the upper lip.

1044.2.3 SIDEBURNS

Sideburns shall not extend below the bottom of the outer ear opening (the top of the earlobes) and shall be trimmed and neat.

1044.2.4 FACIAL HAIR

Facial hair other than sideburns, mustaches and eyebrows shall not be worn, unless authorized by the Chief of Police or his or her designee.

1044.2.5 FINGERNAILS

Fingernails extending beyond the tip of the finger can pose a safety hazard to officers or others. For this reason, fingernails shall be trimmed so that no point of the nail extends beyond the tip of the finger.

1044.2.6 JEWELRY AND ACCESSORIES

No jewelry or personal ornaments shall be worn by officers on any part of the uniform or equipment, except those authorized within this manual. Jewelry, if worn around the neck, shall not be visible above the shirt collar.

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Except for a single stud pierced earring worn in the lobe of each ear, no body piercing shall be visible in any authorized uniform or other attire, while on duty or representing the Department in any official capacity.

- (a) This policy shall apply to female sworn staff only. Male officers are prohibited from wearing earrings while on duty and representing the Department without the express permission of the Chief of Police, or his designee.
- (b) Refer to policy section 1044.4 for additional information on body piercing's and/or alterations.

1044.3 TATTOOS

While on duty or representing the Department in any official capacity, every reasonable effort should be made to conceal tattoos or other body art. At no time while on duty or representing the Department in any official capacity, shall any offensive tattoo or body art be visible (examples of offensive tattoos would include, but not be limited to those which depict racial, sexual, discriminatory, gang related, or obscene language).

1044.4 BODY PIERCING OR ALTERATION

Body piercing or alteration to any area of the body visible in any authorized uniform or attire that is a deviation from normal anatomical features and which is not medically required is prohibited. Such body alteration includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Tongue splitting or piercing.
- (b) The complete or transdermal implantation of any material other than hair replacement.
- (c) Abnormal shaping of the ears, eyes, nose or teeth
- (d) Branding or scarification.

1044.5 EXEMPTIONS

Members who seek cultural (e.g., culturally protected hairstyles) or other exemptions to this policy that are protected by law should generally be accommodated (Government Code § 12926). A member with an exemption may be ineligible for an assignment if the individual accommodation presents a security or safety risk. The Chief of Police should be advised any time a request for such an accommodation is denied or when a member with a cultural or other exemption is denied an assignment based on a safety or security risk.