



Athens-Clarke County Police Department

Directive 1.02



VISION, MISSION, VALUES, OATH OF OFFICE, AND CODE OF ETHICS

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1.02.01 POLICY/PURPOSE

It is the policy of the Athens-Clarke County Police Department (hereinafter referred to as "ACCPD" or "Department") to clearly state the role of the Department in the community and to make all employees aware of the actions and attitudes expected of them so they can act without hesitation in accordance with Departmental policy. In the absence of a policy statement specifically governing a particular type of action or behavior, all employees will be governed by and held accountable for the basic values and expectations stated in this directive.

It is the policy of the Department that all officers, will take an oath of office prior to assuming sworn status. In addition, all employees will abide by a code of ethics as authorized by the Chief of Police.

The purpose of this directive is to define the agency's role through its vision, mission, and values, to form a basic foundation from which all other policies and procedures will flow, and to establish procedures for administering the oath of office and code(s) of ethics.

1.02.02 VISION

We strive for ethical, efficient, and effective policing in collaboration with the community we serve.

1.02.03 MISSION

The mission of the Department is to preserve life and reduce crime through continued enforcement of the law and sustained, meaningful partnerships across the community.

[CLE 1.1.1]

1.02.04 VALUES

[CLE 12.2.1] and [CC 2.2.1]

As an entity of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County (ACCGov), the Department embraces its role in upholding and sustaining the core values: **Integrity**, **Competence**, **Collaboration**, **Community**, and **Each Other**. These core values are the guiding framework for our thoughts and actions. It is through leadership, mentorship, and accountability that we will uphold and sustain these core values and succeed in achieving our vision and mission in service to the Athens-Clarke County community.



INTEGRITY

We hold each other accountable to our community and to our commitment of upholding the law and protecting life and property.

COMPETENCE

We develop excellence and professionalism through our commitment to training, education, and mentorship.

COLLABORATION

We share the responsibility of reducing crime by policing with our community.

COMMUNITY

We build trust and legitimacy through relationships and transparency.

EACH OTHER

We stand together to support and protect the integrity, wellbeing, and safety of our fellow employees.

1.02.05 PROCEDURES**A. Oath of Office****[CLE 1.1.1] and [SC 1.2]**

Prior to assuming sworn status, all Department peace officers will take and abide by an oath of office (ACCPD Form 1.02.A), as specified in Georgia law, to uphold the laws of the United States, State of Georgia, and Athens-Clarke County.

1. The Chief of Police, or designee, is authorized by the Mayor and Commission of the ACCGov to administer the oath of office for all peace officers of the Department. In the event that the Chief of Police is unable to do so, the oath may be administered by the Athens-Clarke County Probate Court Judge or the Athens-Clarke County Superior Court Judge.
2. A signed copy of the oath of office will be maintained in the employee's personnel file and the original filed in the Probate Court of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia.

B. Code of Ethics**[CLE 1.1.2], [CLE 26.1.1], [CC 2.2.2], [CC 3.6.1] and [SC 1.3]**

All employees and volunteers of the Department shall abide by and uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct for law enforcement agencies, and will share equally in a commitment to the Department's vision, mission, values, goals, and objectives. All sworn officers are required to abide by the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics approved by the Department of Criminal Justice Services. The Northeast Georgia Police Academy staff provides extensive training on this set of principles during recruit training.

1. All employees and volunteers will sign and abide by a code of ethics: the International Association of Chief of Police (IACP) Law Enforcement Code of Ethics (ACCPD Form 1.02.B) for sworn officers; the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Public Safety Telecommunicators' Code of Ethics (ACCPD Form 1.02.C) for communications officers; and the Civilian Staff Code of Ethics (ACCPD FORM 1.02.D) for all non-sworn staff and volunteers.
2. A signed copy of the IACP Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, the APCO Public Safety Telecommunicators' Code of Ethics, and the Civilian Staff Code of Ethics, as applicable, will be maintained in the respective personnel file for each employee.

By Authority of:

Jerry G. Saulters
Chief of Police