

# COMMAND SUCCESSION AND PROTOCOL

EVERETT POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY & PROCEDURE NO. <b>4.26</b>	ISSUE DATE: 22 June 2007
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## I. POLICY

This Policy & Procedures replaces P&P 8.0 Command Succession and Protocol dated 22 June 2007.

Established command succession is critical in any organization in order to ensure that leadership and direction is available should the Chief of Police be incapacitated, out of town, on vacation, on leave or otherwise unable to act.

It is also necessary to have established command protocol for those unusual situations which may occur whereby there is question or doubt as to who is in charge of any action or operation.

## II. PROCEDURES

1. The order of precedence for overall command authority of the Everett Police Department, in the absence of the Chief of Police shall be as follows:
  - a. Senior Captain.
  - b. Captains in descending order by date of appointment to rank.
  - c. Senior Lieutenant by date of appointment to rank.
  - d. Lieutenants in descending order by date of appointment to rank.
  - e. Sergeants in descending order by date of appointment to rank.

2. When the Chief of Police is to be away from duty for an extended period of time, he/she shall notify the Mayor in writing as to who is designated as his replacement during this absence. If possible, the exact dates of this temporary assignment should be specified.
3. Command protocol for control of unusual situations shall be as follows:
  - a. When two or more superior officers of equal rank, but normally assigned to different divisions or subdivisions are involved in the same operation or action, the officer attached to the unit, which initiated the activity will be in command.
  - b. When two or more superior officers of equal rank, assigned to the same division or subdivision are involved in the same operation or action, the officer who is commander of the unit which initiated the activity will be in command.
  - c. When two or more superior officers of equal rank are assigned to the same shift, the officer who is normally designated as Shift Commander shall be in command, regardless of seniority.
  - d. In situations where a detective or detectives are at the scene of an operations or action along with patrol officers and without the presence of a superior officer, the detective with the most seniority in the investigation section will assume command of the scene. Upon the arrival of a superior officer this detective shall relinquish command and shall fully acquaint that superior with any and all events to that point.
  - e. In a rare situations where there is no superior officer on duty or available due to mid-tour of duty injury or illness, the Senior Officer shall assume command of the shift until such time that he is relieved by a superior officer. He shall make every effort to notify the Patrol Commander and continue to make attempts to notify a superior in order of succession in accordance with the procedure listed above. The senior officer shall be compensated according to the bargaining agreement between the City and the Union.
  - f. In situations where there are only patrol officers at the scene of an operation or action and a superior officer or shift commander is unable to be on the scene, the officer commanding the shift at the time of the incident shall designate by radio communication which patrol officer shall assume command. Should a superior officer arrive at this scene at any time during this activity, the patrol officer shall relinquish command and shall fully acquaint that superior with any all events up to that point.

- g. Whenever a superior officer conveys an order to another officer of lesser rank through an officer of lesser rank, it shall be obeyed as if it was given directly by such superior officer to that officer.