	<p style="text-align: center;">BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POLICY AND PROCEDURE GENERAL ORDER</p>	Distribution	General Order Number
		ALL PERSONNEL	<b>3.07</b>
		Original Issue Date	Reissue/Effective Date
		5/9/19	4/21/21
Order Title:  <b>FIREARMS</b>		Accreditation Standard: 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.3.10	Section  3
		Section Title <b>RULES OF CONDUCT</b>	
Rescinds: 1.3.37, 2.1.2.1, 2.1.2.1.1, 2.1.2.1.2, 2.1.2.2, 2.1.2.3, 2.1.2.8, 2.1.2.8.1, 2.4.11, 2.4.12 (new) 3.2.14 (new)		<b>Armando J. Perez, Chief of Police</b>	

*This General Order is for departmental use only and does not apply in any criminal or civil proceeding. This General Order should not be construed as creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this General Order will only form the basis for departmental administrative sanctions. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting*

## I. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines and procedures governing Bridgeport Police Department issued and/or authorized firearms and ammunition including training, qualification, safety, carrying, care, and maintenance.

## II. POLICY

The Bridgeport Police Department is committed to the belief that increased training enhances professionalism and decreases the likelihood of injury to officers and citizens. Because of this commitment, officers are required to demonstrate proficiency in the use of firearms annually each calendar year, in compliance with POST requirements. Only officers who first receive training in the Department's Use of Force and Firearms policies, and demonstrate proficiency in their application, are authorized to carry firearms. All Department qualifications and sponsored firearms training shall be administered by certified firearm instructors. Firearms qualification is a combination of skill and discretion. Department training emphasizes proper use of force decision-making (when to shoot as well as how to shoot). [Refer to General Order 3.1 (Use of Force)].

## III. DEFINITIONS

Administrative No Gun Status: The lack of technical ability to qualify, as determined by the Firearms Training Unit.

Annual Firearm Qualification: Firearms qualification is required once every calendar year.

Firearm: An issued and/or authorized weapon designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive (e.g., revolver, pistol, shotgun, rifle) to be utilized in accordance with applicable department policies).

Magazine or “Source of Feed”: An ammunition retainer for semi-automatic pistols and rifles

Medical No-Gun Status: The lack of physical ability to qualify with a firearm as determined by a qualified physician

Physical Stress Training: Requires the officer to successfully perform a live-fire exercise before or during an agility drill.

Sidearm: The on duty sidearm and the weapon officers must use to train and qualify with annually.

Proper Use of Force Decision Making: The use of reasonable force, including proper tactics, and de-escalation techniques.

Psychological Stress Training: Under stress certain physical changes may occur (e.g., loss of fine motor skills, tunnel vision, auditory exclusions). This training mentally prepares the officer to overcome or minimize these changes by demonstrating proficiency in a variety of skills within a specific time frame.

Shoulder Weapons: Department issued or approved, carbine, rifles, shotguns

#### IV. PROCEDURE

##### A. Authorized Use of Firearms/Ammunition

###### 1. General

- a. Only those firearms and ammunition which are issued and/or authorized and trained in by the Bridgeport Police Department shall be carried while on or off-duty. This is true even if a officer chooses to secure a CCW permit in addition to his/her authorization to carry a firearm granted by virtue of his/her certification as a Bridgeport Police Officer;
- b. All officers will be issued a Smith & Wesson M&P .45 M2.0,4.6” barrel as a primary sidearm for on duty carrying to the exclusion of all other sidearms. The Department Armorer will maintain a record of all approved weapons.
- c. Qualification with one Department issued model firearm does not qualify the officer to carry other model firearms. Officers must qualify separately with each model of semi-automatic pistol or firearm that

they choose to carry either while on or off-duty.


3. Security of Weapons


- a. Officers are responsible for the care, cleaning, and security of weapons issued to them. Officers shall keep their Department issued and/or approved weapons in good, serviceable condition at all times. All weapons shall be kept clean and free from excessive amounts of oil.

4. Repair

- a. Officers shall report and explain any weapon malfunction to a Department armorer. Department issued weapons shall only be repaired by Department armorers.
- b. Department issued weapons which become defective will be immediately removed from service.
- c. If a Department issued weapon must be replaced, the officer will report to the Department Armorer for an exchange. The armorer shall record the information (e.g., weapon, model number, serial number) on the officer's firearm's record.

5. Ammunition

- a. Ammunition approved for use while on or off duty in Department issued or approved weapons are limited to the ammunition approved by the Firearms Training Officer and the Chief of Police. No other ammunition is authorized unless the Chief of Police or his or her designee exempts the specific officer or group. Currently, the following ammunition is approved for use:  
  


- b. All Department issued firearms carried by officers, on or off duty, shall be carried with a chambered round and a fully loaded magazine. Additional magazines, when carried, shall also be fully loaded;  
  


- d. The Firearms lead instructor, as authorized by the Chief of Police, shall provide ammunition guidelines for all other weapons.

6. Shoulder Weapons

- a. Only Department issued or approved shoulder weapons (carbines, rifles, shotguns) may be carried in any Department vehicle. No officer shall carry any shoulder weapon on duty prior to successful completion of training and qualification during the firearms qualification program. All shoulder weapons shall be carried in Department vehicle trunks: shotguns and rifles / carbines shall be locked in the gun mount.
- b. The serial number of any Department issued or approved shoulder weapon carried in an Bridgeport vehicle must be recorded on the officer's vehicle inspection sheet at the beginning of the officer(s) tour of duty.
- c. The Firearms Training Officer shall notify all Division Commanders of those officers within their command that have qualified with any shoulder weapon, including the type of weapon and the weapon's serial number. The Division Commander shall note this information in the officer's Training File.

7. Shotguns

[REDACTED]

- b. The Department assigned shotguns are:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- d. Officers shall carry and use only ammunition issued by this Department unless the Chief or his designee approves, in writing, for an exception and the officer qualifies with the alternate ammunition. This includes but is not limited to rifled slugs and magnum loads. The Training Officer shall maintain a written or electronic record of an officer's request for an exception and the disposition of that request.
- e. Patrol Shotguns shall be stored in the Lieutenant's office. The Lieutenant will be responsible for assigning and retrieving the shotguns. The Patrol Lieutenant will also be responsible for maintaining the inventory of the shotguns.
- f. While in a patrol vehicle, shotguns will be stored in the cruiser safe mode inside of the shotgun rack.

B. Firearm Safety

1. General

- a. All firearms shall be carried holstered.
- b. Officers are prohibited from the use of shoulder holsters and cross-draw holsters.

2. Securing Service Weapon While Processing Arrested Individuals

- a. Prior to escorting a prisoner(s) into any secured area, (cellblock, interview room, etc.), officers will secure their weapons in a weapon locker, placing the locker key in their pocket.
- b. Following all prisoner processing/detail duties, the officer will retrieve his/her weapon from the locker and shall secure it back in his/her holster prior to moving from the area.
- c. All lockers are individually keyed, and all lockers and keys are numbered. Locker keys shall be left in the locker when empty.
- d. Weapon lockers are located in the front and back of Booking. Weapons must be secured prior to entering the processing area.

3. Modifications

Officers are prohibited from affixing any attachment, grip, extension or other equipment, or in any way modifying any Department issued sidearm without written approval from the Chief of Police or designee. Officers shall qualify at the first available training session once a modification has been approved.

4. Prohibited Uses

- a. The use of a firearm is categorized as deadly/lethal force. The use of a firearm must be in strict compliance with this department's Use of Force policy (See General Order 3.01 (Use of Force).]
- b. An officer shall not unnecessarily display or at anytime use any weapon as an intimidation device.
- c. The firing of warning shots is strictly prohibited.
- d. Officers are prohibited from discharging their firearms at or from a moving vehicle, motorcycle, or bicycle (collectively, "moving vehicle") unless officers reasonably believe deadly force is necessary to defend the officer or a third person from the use, or imminent use, of deadly

force. For purposes of this policy, officers will not discharge their firearms at moving vehicles except under extreme circumstances. Such discharges will be rigorously scrutinized. Officers shall, as a rule, avoid tactics that could place them in a position where a vehicle could be used against them.

#### 5. Use of Force Reporting

- a. The use of a firearm must be reported in strict compliance with the Department's Use of Force policy (See General Order 3.05 (Reporting and Investigating Force)].
- b. Any use of a firearm must comply with the Bridgeport Police Department's Use of Force Policy (See General Order 3.01).

#### C. Monthly Sidearm Inspections

##### 1. General

Although a Firearm Instructor shall inspect each weapon during qualification at the range. At least once each month, all commanding officers shall ensure that a sidearm inspection is conducted for all officers presently assigned to their command. The inspection shall determine: that the officer has an updated Armorer Report, that the officer carries a fully loaded weapon, and that the officer carries Department approved ammunition.

To inspect the officer's ammunition, the officer shall be required to remove the magazine from their holstered weapon, while the firearm is still in the holster. The supervisor conducting the inspection shall prepare an Internal Memorandum to the Chief of Police, documenting the results of the inspection.

##### 2. Inspection Procedure

- a. For all semi-automatic pistol inspections officers may be directed to a clearing barrel or shooting range by a supervisor conducting the inspection to perform the following:
  - 1) To remove the firearm from the holster;
  - 2) To keep their finger off the trigger and point the muzzle of the firearm into the clearing barrel or down range;
  - 3) To remove the magazine from the pistol, keeping their finger off the trigger. While keeping the finger off the trigger, the officer shall be instructed to rack the slide to the rear several times to eject the chambered round and then lock the slide to the rear;
  - 4) To inspect the weapon, ammunition, magazines and barrels



- g. The Armorer shall thoroughly inspect all Department issued or approved weapons annually to ensure that all weapons are safe and that they are properly maintained.
- h. The standards for all firearms qualifications shall meet current POSTC standards and all training, including remedial training, will be documented.
- i. Training and qualification sessions for semi-automatic pistols and shoulder weapons, should include but are not limited to: stress training, night training, advanced training and proper use of force decision making to adequately prepare for real life situations.
- j. Upon successful completion, an officer will be provided with proof of qualification.

2. Accidental or Unintentional Firearm Discharge

- a. Commanding officers shall require officers that experience an accidental or unintentional discharge or that have improperly used a weapon to receive and successfully complete firearms re-training. An Interdepartmental Memorandum shall be submitted to the Chief of Police requesting that the officer(s) be provided with re-training. A copy of the investigation and report on the incident precipitating the request shall be attached;
- b. All accidental or unintentional firearm discharges are classified as Level 1 uses of force and will be investigated by the Internal Affairs Division.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- a. [REDACTED]

4. Shoulder Weapon Failure

- a. A failure to train and qualify with a Department issued shoulder weapon requires that the officer be scheduled for an immediate remedial training session.
- b. The officer may not carry or be issued the respective weapon until the



officer successfully completes a training and qualification session.

## 5. Medical Deferment

- a. A Medical Deferment does not necessarily excuse an officer from firearms training and qualification. The Firearms Training Officer can accommodate officers in wheelchairs or that are otherwise physically impaired. Officers shall be guided by the Firearms Training Officer's determination of ability to complete a qualification course, considering any physical impairments or disabilities.
- b. Officers excused from any session(s) of the Training and Qualification Program for a medical condition (as determined by a qualified physician) shall be advised of a temporary revocation of authority to carry any Department issued weapon, on or off duty, during the deferment;
- c. Authority to carry a firearm is revoked after certification by an approved physician that the officer is either medically unable to take part in or complete a required firearm training and qualification session. The revocation shall take place regardless of whether the officer has previously qualified for the current year;
- d. The officer relieved of their firearm shall sign the Revocation Notice acknowledging that the officer is in a no-gun status and is prohibited from taking any law enforcement action. The Revocation Notice shall be forwarded to the Chief of Police.

## 6. Failure to Attend

- a. The annual Firearms Training and Qualification Program will be conducted on dates to be determined by the Firearms Training Officer.
- b. Failure to attend required training sessions shall result in the immediate revocation of authorization to carry a firearm.
  - (1) Officers shall be required to sign the Revocation Notice acknowledging that the officer is relieved from carrying a firearm and is prohibited from taking law enforcement action;
  - (2) This revocation shall remain in effect until such time as the officer attends a training and qualification session; and
  - (3) It is incumbent upon each officer to ensure attendance in order to avoid further administrative action.

## F. Carrying Firearms

### 1. General

- a. No officer shall enter any holding cell or holding cell area with a firearm.
- b. Officers assigned to duty inside any department building shall keep all weapons immediately available but out of view and out of reach of the general public.
- c. The taking of prescription drugs or over the counter medications that may inhibit a officer's ability or judgment prohibits the officer from carrying any weapon. Officers shall notify their immediate supervisor, should they be required by a medical condition, to take any prescription or over the counter drug that may inhibit their ability or judgment to carry a weapon.
- d. Officers are required to store their firearms prior to a medical evaluation or taking part in a Department disciplinary proceeding. Lock boxes will be provided. Firearms shall not be removed from any holster in an unsafe manner. Officers shall keep their fingers off the trigger and the firearm pointed at the floor during the storage process.

### 2. Uniform (On Duty)

- a. Officers shall carry their Department issued or approved primary sidearm holstered in a Department issued or approved holster, worn in accordance with Department uniform standards;
- b. Secondary sidearms must be carried holstered and concealed in such a manner so as to allow for no unusual bulges, protrusions or exposure.

### 3. Civilian Attire (On Duty)

- a. All officers shall carry their Department issued or approved sidearm holstered, on their strong hand side, unless otherwise authorized in writing by the officer's Commanding Officer. The written authorization shall be retained in the officer's command personnel file and shall be effective until the officer is transferred to another command or notified by the officer's commanding officer that such authorization has been revoked.
- b. Officers that have been authorized by the Chief of Police to carry a primary sidearm in a purse, pouch, or similar article shall do so with the

sidearm properly holstered, or in a separate compartment. A sidearm shall not lie free with other items.

- c. Officers in civilian attire shall not appear in public places or buildings open to the general public without having their weapons concealed in such a manner so as to allow for no unusual bulges, protrusions, or exposure. Officers in plain clothes shall have their badges clearly displayed when in the public if their firearm is clearly viewed by the public.

#### 4. Off Duty

- a. The carrying of a Department issued sidearm while off-duty shall be at the option of the officer.
- b. Officers carrying weapons off-duty shall comply with the guidelines and procedures set forth in this General Order, and with all Department use of force policies.
- c. All officers must carry their Bridgeport Police Department identification card and badge while on-duty or off-duty.
- d. While operating a Bridgeport Police Department vehicle off duty, officers shall be armed with their Department issued or approved sidearm.
- e. Officers electing to carry a weapon off duty shall carry a Department issued or approved sidearm, holstered, in a safe and accessible manner. Off-duty weapons shall be carried safely and concealed from public view.
- f. Officers are prohibited from participating in any sporting activity while carrying a sidearm.
- g. Officers shall not carry any Department issued weapon while engaged in or participating in any public demonstration, rally, march or picketing activity.
- h. Off-duty officers are prohibited by state law from carrying a firearm if their blood alcohol level is .08 or above. In addition, officers shall not carry a firearm in situations where an officer's performance may be impaired. The odor of intoxicants on the breath of an officer shall be deemed "prima facie evidence" that he is unfit to carry a Department issued weapon.

- i. Officers are prohibited from carrying a firearm if he or she is taking any debilitating medication (prescribed or non-prescribed).
- j. Officers shall not carry any weapon while serving in the capacity of juror or prospective juror.
- k. Officers appearing in any court for jury duty shall report to the police detail at court to check-in any weapon for safekeeping. If the police detail is closed or ill-equipped to handle safekeeping, the weapon shall be checked with the nearest police agency.

5. Off-Duty Police Action

- a. Off-duty officers shall notify on-duty Department or local law enforcement officers (if outside of the City of Bridgeport) before taking police action, absent exigent circumstances, so that they may respond with appropriate personnel and resources to handle the problem.
- b. Off-duty officers are prohibited from carrying or using firearms or taking police action in situations where an officer's performance may be impaired or the officer's ability to take objective action may be compromised.
- c. If it appears that the officer making an arrest or carrying a firearm while off-duty has consumed alcohol or is otherwise impaired, the officer shall be required to submit to field sobriety, Breathalyzer, and /or blood tests.

