



GENERAL ORDER

**DURHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT
DURHAM, NC**

NUMBER:

1007 R-5

COMMAND AUTHORITY & RESPONSIBILITY

Effective Date: 12/15/1995

Revision Dates: R-1 05/16/1997; R-2 09/01/2002; R-3 01/10/2005; R-4 02/09/2010; **R-5 04/13/2020**

INTRODUCTION

The Durham Police Department (DPD) provides for a sequential order of command to maintain continuous management of the Department.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

The chief of police serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the DPD. The chief is responsible for organizing, controlling, and directing the personnel and resources of the Department.

The chief of police serves in accordance with the provision of the city code, functioning in accordance with general policy established by the city council and the city manager, with considerable latitude in the exercise of independent judgment and discretion in the management and operation of the DPD.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

To ensure the unity of command, clearly defined lines of authority must be drawn, so there exists a direct structural relationship from each employee through to the chief of police. Each employee must be aware of their relative position in the organization; to whom they are immediately responsible and those persons who are accountable to them.

Each DPD employee is accountable to only one supervisor at any given time. Each employee will be accountable to their regular immediate supervisor except when working a special assignment, incident, extra duty, or temporarily assigned to another unit or squad. In these cases, the employee will be accountable to the first line supervisor over that squad, assignment, event, duty or incident.

Similarly, each organizational component will be under the direct command of only one supervisor as shown on the Departmental organizational chart.

SEQUENTIAL ORDER OF COMMAND

In the event the chief of police is unavailable, and a designee has not been assigned, command of the DPD shall rest with the highest-ranking officer available.

The sequential order of command will be as follows:

- 1st – 3rd deputy chief by order of seniority in the rank of deputy chief;
- 4th – 7th major by order of seniority in the rank of major;
- 8th – captains by order of seniority in the rank of captain.

SPAN OF CONTROL


To achieve effective direction, coordination, and control, the exact number of employees supervised by single supervisor will be dependent on the nature of the job being performed, the complexity of the task, the size of the area to be supervised, the experience of the employees, and other work environment factors. Each commanding officer should regularly evaluate the number of employees being supervised by those under their command to ensure the supervisors are able to effectively manage direct reports.

COMMENSURATE AUTHORITY

Personnel will be given authority commensurate with their position and will be fully accountable for the use of, as well as for the failure to use this authority. The delegation of authority does not relieve a superior's full accountability or responsibility for the performance of their delegate.

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY AT MAJOR INCIDENTS

In those incidents involving personnel from more than one division, the incident command system will be activated (see G.O. [4021 Unusual Occurrences and Incident Command](#)). The incident commander shall be responsible for traffic control, crime scene protection, evidence collection, the investigative process, and prisoner security. The Public Affairs Unit will handle media relations.


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Chief of Police