



GENERAL ORDER

**DURHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT
DURHAM, NC**

NUMBER:

1018 R-2

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Effective Date: 12/15/1995

Revision Dates: R-1 07/25/2003; **R-2 04/24/2017**

INTRODUCTION

The Durham Police Department encourages positive interactions between its members and the community. It seeks opportunities to establish and maintain close ties with the community and to provide services that meet the community's needs. The Durham Police Department is committed to providing service that reflects the values of the citizens it serves.

SPECIFIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

All officers of the Durham Police Department are active participants in the Department's community relations objectives. District Commanders in the Patrol Services Bureau are responsible for assisting in the development and coordination of the community relations function and for implementing approved strategies and programs.

As part of its plan for improved community relations, the Durham Police Department will continually develop and update its community-relations practices. Critical to this process is an open exchange of information. To that end, the Durham Police Department will seek feedback from the community. All officers are a part of this goal, conveying information and concerns of the community to their supervisors.

Interaction with groups and organizations allows the Durham Police Department to examine the practices that have a bearing on community relations. These examinations allow the Department to identify training needs that will improve actions, practices, and attitudes that may contribute to community tensions and grievances. The Durham Police Department will maintain a liaison with community groups and organizations.

ROLE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OFFICER

The positive relationship is damaged when officers use words, phrases, or mannerisms that may be interpreted as offensive by members of the public with whom officers are interacting. In dealing with members of the community, each officer must attempt to make the interaction one that inspires respect for himself/herself as an individual and a professional, and one that generates the cooperation and approval of the public.

DEPARTMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH JUVENILES

Because of the importance of the Department's relationship to juveniles during its day-to-day operation, police personnel are seen by young people in a role that is much different from that of other professions. For this reason, Department personnel should be mindful of the impact that their daily activities and demeanor have on young people.


Regardless of rank or assignment, officers should exert a positive influence on the youth of our community and provide valuable input for department programs aimed at youth guidance.

ATTITUDES

While some citizens may display characteristics or select lifestyles that differ from the values of an individual police officer, each person must be treated with the respect and courtesy due all citizens. The responsibility for this attitude of courtesy and respect lies with each individual officer. Such an attitude is equally important on and off duty because each officer is likely to be judged as a representative of the Durham Police Department, regardless of the circumstances surrounding the interaction.

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

To promote understanding and cooperation, there must be interpersonal communication between members of the community and officers at all levels in the Department. All officers must be aware of both the law enforcement needs of the community and their particular assigned area of responsibility. The Durham Police Department must provide programs to encourage productive dialogue with the public at all levels and ensure that the unity of the police and the public is preserved.



Cerelyn J. Davis
Chief of Police