



GENERAL ORDERS: Preface A

PUBLISHED DATE: 1/6/2023

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/6/2023

APPROVED BY: Chief Dana Wingert

REVISED DATE:

Authorization and Authority

I. General Orders authorization

A. Authorization

1. The Des Moines Police Department General Orders are hereby adopted in conformance with the authorization and responsibilities assigned to the Chief of Police and the City Manager by Ordinance of the City of Des Moines.
 - a. Municipal code references
 - (1) [Section 86-27\(a\)](#) of the Municipal Code of the City of Des Moines provides "*The Chief of Police shall supervise and direct the Police Department.*"
 - (2) [Section 86-27\(f\)](#) of the Municipal Code of the City of Des Moines provides "*The Chief of Police shall have the power and authority ... to prescribe rules and regulations for the conduct and management of the Police Department.*"

B. Scope, implementation and applicability

1. The General Orders become effective upon their publication and provide the basis for the administration, the orderly and disciplined performance of duty, and promote a better understanding of what is expected by establishing permanent personnel and administrative rules of the department.
 - a. The Chief of Police or designee reserves the right to authorize or grant an exception to any standard contained within the General Orders or subsequent department publication.
2. The General Orders serve as a broad guide. They are applicable for all Police Department employees and are intended to be read gender neutral.
3. All current Special Orders, Chief of Police Memorandums, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's), and other Written Directives not in conflict with the General Orders shall continue in effect until such time they are amended or cancelled by the issuing authority.

II. Authority

A. Code references

1. The legal authority of a police officer to enforce the laws of the city and make arrests is found in [Iowa Code Section 804.7](#) and City of Des Moines Ordinance [Section 86-27\(g\)](#). Additionally, officers are authorized to:
 - a. Carry and use weapons in the performance of their official duties pursuant to [Iowa Code Section 724.28A](#) and City of Des Moines Ordinance [Section 70-85](#).
 - b. Use force to effect an arrest, to include the use of deadly force, pursuant to [Iowa Code Section 804.8](#).
 - (1) Officers shall only use force that is objectively reasonable and in accordance with police department policy, and state and federal law.

B. General

1. The department grants all employees at every level within this organization the authority necessary to perform the duties of their assignment in an effort to accomplish the mission, goals, and objectives of the department. As such, each employee will be held accountable for the proper use of that authority.
 - a. Authority to execute the required activities of a particular task in the department is delegated by the Chief of Police through the chain of command to individual employees.
 - b. Officers shall use the authority vested in them to faithfully and impartially enforce the laws of City of Des Moines and the State of Iowa, in accordance with their Oath of Office, and within the limits imposed by law.

C. Discretion

1. Officers may exercise discretion in certain situations to include alternatives to arrest through the use of citations, summonses, warnings and approved diversion programs.
 - a. Alternatives to arrest must respect the rights of the parties involved and accomplish a law enforcement purpose.
 - b. When using discretion, officers should balance the objective of providing service with that of protecting the community.