

Discriminatory Harassment

314.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to prevent department members from being subjected to discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment and retaliation. The prohibition against harassment and discrimination covered by this policy applies to all forms of conduct - whether by means of speech, physical behaviors, or visual presentation - which implicate race, religion, creed, color, national origin, medical condition, ancestry, age over 40, marital status, veteran status, disability, or sexual orientation. Nothing in this policy is intended to create a legal or employment right or duty that is not created by law.

314.2 POLICY

The Garden Grove Police Department is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to creating and maintaining a work environment that is free of all forms of discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment and retaliation (Government Code § 12940(k); 2 CCR 11023). The Department will not tolerate discrimination against a member in hiring, promotion, discharge, compensation, fringe benefits and other privileges of employment. The Department will take preventive and corrective action to address any behavior that violates this policy or the rights it is designed to protect.

The nondiscrimination policies of the Department may be more comprehensive than state or federal law. Conduct that violates this policy may not violate state or federal law but still could subject a member to discipline.

314.3 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

314.3.1 DISCRIMINATION

The Department prohibits all forms of discrimination, including any employment-related action by a member that adversely affects an applicant or member and is based on actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, medical condition and any other classification or status protected by law.

"Medical Condition" is defined, in accordance with the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, as "any health impairment related to or associated with a diagnosis of cancer, for which a person has been rehabilitated or cured, based on competent medical evidence." The California Fair Employment and Housing Commission recognizes AIDS as a physical handicap. The Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination of handicapped persons including those perceived as having a history of a handicap. Employees afflicted with AIDS or an AIDS-related condition or any other handicap, shall be treated the same as any other department employee. If their medical or physical condition affects their ability to perform their assigned duties, they shall be treated as any other employee who has a disability that prevents them from performing the

Garden Grove Police Department

Policy Manual

Discriminatory Harassment

duties of their job. The Garden Grove Police Department will not discriminate against an employee with AIDS or an AIDS-related condition or any other handicap.

Discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment, is verbal or physical conduct that demeans or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual based upon that individual's protected class. It has the effect of interfering with an individual's work performance or creating a hostile or abusive work environment.

Conduct that may, under certain circumstances, constitute discriminatory harassment can include making derogatory comments; making crude and offensive statements or remarks; making slurs or off-color jokes, stereotyping; engaging in threatening acts; making indecent gestures, pictures, cartoons, posters, or material; making inappropriate physical contact; or using written material or department equipment and/or systems to transmit or receive offensive material, statements, or pictures. Such conduct is contrary to department policy and to a work environment that is free of discrimination.

314.3.2 RETALIATION

Retaliation is treating a person differently or engaging in acts of reprisal or intimidation against the person because the person has engaged in protected activity, filed a charge of discrimination, participated in an investigation, or opposed a discriminatory practice. Retaliation will not be tolerated.

314.3.3 SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The Department prohibits all forms of discrimination and discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment. It is unlawful to harass an applicant or a member because of that person's sex.

Sexual harassment includes but is not limited to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- (a) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment, position, or compensation.
- (b) Submission to, or rejection of, such conduct is used as the basis for any employment decisions affecting the member.
- (c) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a member's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

314.3.4 ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Discrimination and discriminatory harassment do not include actions that are in accordance with established rules, principles, or standards, including:

- (a) Acts or omission of acts based solely upon bona fide occupational qualifications under the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the California Civil Rights Council guidelines.
- (b) Bona fide requests or demands by a supervisor that the member improve the member's work quality or output, that the member report to the job site on time, that the

Garden Grove Police Department

Policy Manual

Discriminatory Harassment

member comply with City or department rules or regulations, or any other appropriate work-related communication between supervisor and member.

314.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

This policy applies to all department personnel. All members shall follow the intent of these guidelines in a manner that reflects department policy, professional standards, and the best interest of the Department and its mission.

Members are encouraged to promptly report any discriminatory, retaliatory, or harassing conduct or known violations of this policy to a supervisor. Any member who is not comfortable with reporting violations of this policy to the member's immediate supervisor may bypass the chain of command and make the report to a higher-ranking supervisor or manager. Complaints may also be filed with the Chief of Police, the Human Resources Director, or the City Manager.

Any member who believes, in good faith, that the member has been discriminated against, harassed, or subjected to retaliation, or who has observed harassment, discrimination, or retaliation, is encouraged to promptly report such conduct in accordance with the procedures set forth in this policy.

Supervisors and managers receiving information regarding alleged violations of this policy shall determine if there is any basis for the allegation and shall proceed with resolution as stated below.

314.4.1 QUESTIONS OR CLARIFICATION

Members with questions regarding what constitutes discrimination, sexual harassment, or retaliation are encouraged to contact a supervisor, a manager, the Chief of Police, the Human Resources Director, the City Manager, or the California Civil Rights Department for further information, direction, or clarification (Government Code § 12950).

314.4.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of supervisors and managers shall include but are not limited to:

- (a) Continually monitoring the work environment and striving to ensure that it is free from all types of unlawful discrimination, including harassment or retaliation.
- (b) Taking prompt, appropriate action within their work units to avoid and minimize the incidence of any form of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.
- (c) Ensuring that their subordinates understand their responsibilities under this policy.
- (d) Ensuring that members who make complaints or who oppose any unlawful employment practices are protected from retaliation and that such matters are kept confidential to the extent possible.
- (e) Making a timely determination regarding the substance of any allegation based upon all available facts.
- (f) Notifying the Chief of Police or the Human Resources Director in writing of the circumstances surrounding any reported allegations or observed acts of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation no later than the next business day.

Garden Grove Police Department

Policy Manual

Discriminatory Harassment

314.4.3 SUPERVISOR'S ROLE

Supervisors and managers shall be aware of the following:

- (a) Behavior of supervisors and managers should represent the values of the Department and professional standards.
- (b) False or mistaken accusations of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation can have negative effects on the careers of innocent members.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent supervisors or managers from discharging supervisory or management responsibilities, such as determining duty assignments, evaluating or counseling members, or issuing discipline, in a manner that is consistent with established procedures.

314.5 INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS

Various methods of resolution exist. During the pendency of any such investigation, the supervisor of the involved member should take prompt and reasonable steps to mitigate or eliminate any continuing abusive or hostile work environment. It is the policy of the Department that all complaints of discrimination, retaliation, or harassment shall be fully documented and promptly and thoroughly investigated.

314.5.1 SUPERVISOR RESOLUTION

Members who believe they are experiencing discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should be encouraged to inform the individual that the behavior is unwelcome, offensive, unprofessional, or inappropriate. However, if the member feels uncomfortable or threatened or has difficulty expressing the member's concern, or if this does not resolve the concern, assistance should be sought from a supervisor or manager who is a rank higher than the alleged transgressor.

314.5.2 FORMAL INVESTIGATION

If the complaint cannot be satisfactorily resolved through the supervisory resolution process, a formal investigation will be conducted. The City Manager, the Personnel Director, the Chief of Police, and the Personnel Services Manager and their designees are authorized to fully investigate reports of possible violations of this policy and will do so in a timely and confidential manner. Generally, in the Police Department, the Internal Affairs Sergeant will conduct the investigation in cooperation with the Personnel Services Manager.

The person assigned to investigate the complaint will have full authority to investigate all aspects of the complaint. Investigative authority includes access to records and the cooperation of any members involved. No influence will be used to suppress any complaint and no member will be subject to retaliation or reprisal for filing a complaint, encouraging others to file a complaint, or for offering testimony or evidence in an investigation.

Formal investigation of the complaint will be confidential to the extent possible and will include but is not limited to details of the specific incident, frequency and dates of occurrences, and names of any witnesses. Witnesses will be advised regarding the prohibition against retaliation, and that a disciplinary process, up to and including termination, may result if retaliation occurs.

Garden Grove Police Department

Policy Manual

Discriminatory Harassment

Members who believe they have been discriminated against, harassed, or retaliated against because of their protected status, are encouraged to follow the chain of command but may also file a complaint directly with the Chief of Police, the Human Resources Director, or the City Manager.

314.5.3 ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCESS

No provision of this policy shall be construed to prevent any member from seeking legal redress outside the Department. Members who believe that they have been harassed, discriminated against, or retaliated against are entitled to bring complaints of employment discrimination to federal, state, and/or local agencies responsible for investigating such allegations. Specific time limitations apply to the filing of such charges. Members are advised that proceeding with complaints under the provisions of this policy does not in any way affect those filing requirements.

314.6 DOCUMENTATION OF COMPLAINTS

All complaints or allegations shall be thoroughly documented on forms and in a manner designated by the Chief of Police. The outcome of all reports shall be:

- (a) Approved by the Chief of Police, the City Manager, or the Human Resources Director, depending on the ranks of the involved parties.
- (b) Maintained in accordance with the department's established records retention schedule.

314.6.1 NOTIFICATION OF DISPOSITION

The complainant and/or victim will be notified in writing of the disposition of the investigation and the actions taken to remedy or address the circumstances giving rise to the complaint.

314.7 WORKING CONDITIONS

The Administrative Services Bureau Commander or the authorized designee should be responsible for reviewing facility design and working conditions for discriminatory practices. This person should collaborate with other City employees who are similarly tasked (2 CCR 11034).

314.8 TRAINING

All new members shall be provided with a copy of this policy as part of their orientation. The policy shall be reviewed with each new member. The member shall certify by signing the prescribed form that the member has been advised of this policy, is aware of and understands its contents, and agrees to abide by its provisions during the member's term with the Department.

All members shall receive annual training on the requirements of this policy and shall certify by signing the prescribed form that they have reviewed the policy, understand its contents, and agree that they will continue to abide by its provisions.

314.8.1 STATE-REQUIRED TRAINING

The Training Manager should ensure that employees receive the required state training and education regarding sexual harassment, prevention of abusive conduct, and harassment based

Garden Grove Police Department

Policy Manual

Discriminatory Harassment

on gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation as follows (Government Code § 12950.1; 2 CCR 11024):

- (a) Supervisory employees shall receive two hours of classroom or other effective interactive training and education within six months of assuming a supervisory position.
- (b) All other employees shall receive one hour of classroom or other effective interactive training and education within six months of their employment or sooner for seasonal or temporary employees as described in Government Code § 12950.1.
- (c) All employees shall receive refresher training every two years thereafter.

If the required training is to be provided by the Civil Rights Department online training courses, the Training Manager should ensure that employees are provided the following website address to the training course: <https://calcivilrights.ca.gov> (Government Code § 12950; 2 CCR 11023).

314.8.2 TRAINING RECORDS

The Training Manager shall be responsible for maintaining records of all discriminatory harassment training provided to members. Records shall be retained in accordance with established records retention schedules and for a minimum of two years (2 CCR 11024).

314.9 REQUIRED POSTERS

The Department shall display the required posters regarding discrimination, harassment and transgender rights in a prominent and accessible location for members (Government Code § 12950).

314.10 COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

A complaining or accused employee may appeal the factual conclusions reached in an investigation of a possible violation of this policy to the City Manager by filing a written request to the City Manager, via the office of the Chief of Police, within one week of learning of the conclusions. The City Manager or his or her designee will meet with the employee(s) in a timely fashion, conduct whatever additional investigation that appears to be appropriate and advise the employee(s) of his or her conclusions. The decision of the City Manager or his or her designee is final, except as provided below.

Complaints about violations of this policy shall be handled exclusively through the above means and are not subject to either the grievance procedure contained in the Grievance Procedure Policy or the Employee Relations Resolution of the City of Garden Grove, as amended (Resolution No. 4066-71) or to the appeal procedure contained in the Personnel Complaints Policy and the Garden Grove Municipal Code (Section 2.44.390). Notwithstanding the foregoing, this policy shall not limit or expand the applicability of Section 2.44.390 (3) of the Garden Grove Municipal Code to disciplinary action taken for violation(s) of this policy; provided that the employee has properly exhausted the complaint procedure in this policy and within one week of notice of the City Manager's decision within this complaint procedure the employee makes a written request to the City Manager for an appeal before an ad hoc personnel appeals board.