

	Greenville, SC Police Department <b>GENERAL ORDER</b>		
	<b>Subject</b> Enforcement Authority and Discretion	<b>Number</b> 110A6	<b>Type</b> Administrative
<b>Effective Date</b> 1/13/2025	<b>Amends/ Rescinds</b> 110A5	<b>Pages</b> 1 of 4	<b>Re-evaluation</b> Annual-January
<b>References</b> CALEA 1.2.1; 1.2.7; 2.1.1; 12.1.1; 22.1.3 22 1 10			<b>Notes</b> Added CALEA reference. Updated section 2.4 to show where boundary maps are located.

## 1.0 POLICY

The Chief of Police and officers of the Greenville Police Department are vested with law enforcement authority by the State of South Carolina and the City of Greenville. It is the policy of the Greenville Police Department to allow officers some degree of discretion in exercising this authority. Officers of the Greenville Police Department will strive to:

- Protect life and property;
- Preserve the peace;
- Prevent crime;
- Detect and arrest violators of the law.

## 2.0 AUTHORITY

Pursuant to Section 6 of Act 283 of the 1975 South Carolina General Assembly, the City of Greenville adopted by ordinance the council-manager form of government. Police powers for the City of Greenville were extended to City property through Section 2-3 of the Code of Ordinances. The Chief of Police will be appointed by the City Council. The Chief of Police, as the chief executive officer of the police department, is responsible for enforcement of rules, regulations, ordinances, and laws of the city and state and the preservation of order within the city. The Chief of Police has fiscal and management responsibility of the police department.

- 2.1 The Chief of Police is an appointed official who is responsible for the enforcement of all laws enacted by the South Carolina Legislature or the Greenville City Council. The Chief of Police is responsible for all policies of the police department and the proper execution of these policies.

- 2.2 The authority of the police officer is set forth in the Greenville Code of Ordinances, Section 20-33, and is based on South Carolina Code 1976, Section 5-7-110. All officers will be sworn in by the City of Greenville and certified through the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy.
- 2.3 The Chief of Police has the authority to issue and authorize the use of weapons which are deemed necessary to preserve the peace. The authority to issue and authorize the use of weapons in the performance of police duties is set forth in the Greenville Code of Ordinances, Section 20-35 and is based on South Carolina Code 1976, Section 16-23-20.
- 2.4 Officers of the Greenville Police Department have law enforcement authority in the city limits of the City of Greenville. Officers also have law enforcement powers outside of the city limits under exceptional circumstances as defined by South Carolina law. The geographical boundaries of the City of Greenville are determined by the City Council and are subject to change through annexation and de-annexation. Current detailed maps of these boundaries are available on the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system utilized in the Communications Center and on officer mobile data terminals (MDT's).
- 3.0 **RESPONSIBILITIES AND DISCRETION**
- 3.1 Within the city limits of Greenville police officers will at all times take appropriate action to:
- 3.1.1 Protect life and property;
- 3.1.2 Preserve the peace;
- 3.1.3 Prevent crime;
- 3.1.4 Detect and arrest violators of the law.
- 3.2 Officers will enforce all laws and ordinances within the jurisdiction of the City of Greenville, ensuring fairness and impartiality in all matters of law enforcement.
- 3.2.1 Proper enforcement action must be taken whenever required; however, provisions are made for the use of officer discretion in cases best serving the immediate situation and public at large.
- 3.2.2 Officers will not consider an individual's race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or religion in the performance of their duty, nor will they allow such characteristics to influence their conduct in



traffic contacts, field contacts, or asset seizure and forfeiture efforts.

- 3.3 There are circumstances where it may be better not to make an arrest even though there may be grounds for a lawful arrest. Each employee will be held accountable for the sound use of discretion and the use of good judgment in the performance of his duties. This performance will be measured by giving consideration to the facts of each situation and what actions a reasonable officer under the same circumstances would have taken.

#### 4.0 LIMITS OF AUTHORITY

Officers are bound in their authority by the laws of South Carolina, ordinances of the City of Greenville, and the duties and responsibilities placed upon them by the Chief of Police. As certified law enforcement officers of the State of South Carolina, officers are empowered and obligated to take appropriate action whenever state or local law stipulates. Officers possess no other authority than private citizens outside of the city limits of the City of Greenville except when extended as authorized by law (i.e., assisting other agencies) or, under exceptional circumstances such as transporting prisoners to prevent escape or during a pursuit.

#### 5.0 LIABILITY PROTECTION

The City of Greenville will obtain and maintain law enforcement liability insurance covering all city law enforcement employees, elected or appointed officials, and volunteers. Such insurance will provide coverage for all wrongful acts directly related to the conduct of law enforcement duties which may lead to personal injury, death, or property damage which occurs while such covered persons are in the scope and course of their employment with the City of Greenville. The City will maintain, at a minimum, limits of one million dollars per occurrence.

DocuSigned by:

*J. H. Thompson*

EDD8600A95F84FA...

J.H. Thompson, Chief of Police

1/13/2025

Date



The Greenville, SC Police Department- An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency