

## **UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT - COMPANION EQUIPMENT**

### **POLICY:**

It is the policy of the Omaha Police Department (OPD) that all sworn employees while on duty will carry only authorized companion equipment. Sworn employees will have the companion equipment appropriate for their assignment with them and available for use. Unless otherwise noted, it is the responsibility of each sworn employee to purchase and maintain their companion equipment.

#### **I. Attaché, Briefcase, or Duty Bag**

- A. Will be black in color.
- B. Will be of one of the following materials:
  - 1. Leather.
  - 2. Plastic.
  - 3. Fiberglass.
  - 4. Nylon.
- C. Maximum size twenty (20") inches long by fourteen (14") inches high (excluding straps) and fourteen (14") inches wide including supplementary pouches.
- D. There will be no badges, insignias, decals, or other decorations permitted on the outside of briefcases. Duty bags and attaché cases may have appropriate OPD insignias and/or badges.
- E. Sworn employees will maintain an adequate supply of all necessary police reports and citations with them at all times during a tour of duty.
- F. The bag or case is optional equipment for all employees assigned to Central Police Headquarters duties.

#### **II. Badge**

- A. The Authorized Police Badge is the raised shield badge issued to sworn employees by the OPD as Organizational Equipment.
  - 1. Whenever the police uniform is worn, the Authorized Police Badge will be worn on the prescribed badge tab.
  - 2. When sworn employees are in plainclothes, the Authorized Police Badge will be worn in a visible location, either on the sworn employee's belt or in a badge holder worn around the neck. The only badge other than the Authorized Police Badge authorized for wear in plainclothes is the Optional Detective Badge.
  - 3. When a sworn employee is acting in their official capacity, and anyone asks the sworn employee for identification, the sworn employee will give their name and badge number to the person who made the request.
  - 4. The possession of more than one Authorized Police Badge is prohibited with the exception of the Optional Detective Badge.

5. Purchases of badges are allowed when sworn employees are promoted or when a sworn employee resigns in good standing.
6. Officers that need to purchase a replacement badge will forward an Inter-Office Communication, requesting approval to purchase a replacement badge, to their Captain. If approved, the request will be forwarded to the Police Supply Unit. Officers must pre-pay for the replacement badge, which will be ordered with the officer's serial number printed on it.

B. Optional Detective Badge.

1. The OPD will allow officers who work in an investigative function to wear an Optional Detective Badge. The badge is identical to the current Authorized Police Badge with the exception of the word "Detective" replacing the word "Officer."
2. Officers who are interested in obtaining an Optional Detective Badge will forward an Inter-Office Communication requesting approval to purchase the badge to the CIB Deputy Chief. If approved, the request will be forwarded to the Police Supply Unit. Officers must pre-pay for the Optional Detective Badge, which will be ordered with the officer's serial number printed on it.
3. The Optional Detective Badge cannot be worn with the OPD uniform. Officers must maintain their current Authorized Police Badge for use with the uniform.
4. If an officer obtains an Optional Detective Badge and leaves their investigative assignment, the officer will maintain ownership of the Optional Detective Badge, but will not use it until such time as the officer returns to an investigative function.
5. Command officers are not eligible for an Optional Detective Badge.

C. Optional Wallet Badge.

1. Sworn employees may purchase an Optional Wallet Badge. Officers are responsible for the cost of the Optional Wallet Badge and for any future repair or replacement costs.
  - a. Ordering Procedure.
    - (1) Sworn employees who are interested in obtaining an Optional Wallet Badge must contact the Police Supply Unit.
    - (2) The Police Supply Unit will provide the sworn employee with written authorization that will be taken to the J. P. Cooke Company where their order will be placed. Sworn employees are responsible for making payment directly to the J. P. Cooke Company at the time the order is placed.
    - (3) It is the responsibility of the sworn employee to pick up the Optional Wallet Badge once the order is complete.
  - b. Optional Detective Badges will also be allowed in this style if the prescribed criteria are met as described in this policy.
  - c. Badge Numbers.
    - (1) Optional Wallet Badge numbers will correspond with sworn employees' Authorized Police Badge number.

2. The Optional Wallet Badge does not take the place of the Authorized Police Badge. On-duty sworn employees will wear the Authorized Police Badge in accordance with this policy.

D. Tri-Color Sergeant Badge.

1. The OPD will allow current sergeants to wear a Tri-Color Sergeant Badge.
2. Current sergeants who are interested in obtaining a Tri-Color Sergeant Badge will forward an Inter-Office Communication requesting to purchase a Tri-Color Sergeant Badge to their Captain. When approved, the request will be forwarded to the Police Supply Unit.
  - a. The Police Supply Unit will issue Sergeants a voucher for J.P. Cooke.
  - b. Sergeants will take the voucher to J.P. Cooke and pre-pay to order a replacement badge with their serial number printed on it.
  - c. Sergeants interested in keeping their all gold badge may purchase it from the Police Supply Unit at the time the voucher is issued for the Tri-Color Sergeant Badge.
3. Newly promoted sergeants will be issued the Tri-Color Sergeant Badge to be worn on their OPD uniform.

E. All badges are considered sensitive equipment.

**III. Equipment Bag (Optional)**

- A. Sworn employees sometimes must have equipment with them that cannot be carried in the authorized attaché, briefcase, or duty bag.
- B. The equipment bag must be black in color.

**IV. Flashlight (optional)**

- A. The flashlight will be of a conventional style and material, not to be used for any other duty such as discharging chemicals, etc., and will not contain more than five (5) batteries.
- B. Weight, not including batteries, will not exceed seventeen (17) ounces.

**V. Handcuffs**

- A. Handcuffs will be forged steel, with a self-locking, swing-through ratchet type cuff with a double lock. Handcuffs will be traditional chain or hinged, and silver or black in color only.
- B. One set of handcuffs are issued to each sworn employee.
- C. All sworn employees will carry handcuffs when on duty.

**VI. Police Helmet**

- A. Uniform Patrol officers will carry their issued police helmets while on duty.

- B. Plainclothes officers will have their issued police helmets readily available while on duty.

## **VII. Identification Card**

- A. The Identification (ID) Card and Authorized Police Badge will be carried on the sworn employee's person at all times while the sworn employee is on-duty, whether in plainclothes or in uniform. The only exception is an undercover assignment.
- B. Identification cards are issued by the OPD and are considered sensitive equipment.

## **VIII. Nameplate**

- A. The nameplate will be metal, at least one-half (1/2") inch in height and will not exceed two and one-half (2½") inches in length. Silver metal nameplates are authorized for police officers, gold metal nameplates for command. The lettering inscribed on the nameplate will be black. The nameplate may have either clutch-type (two-pronged) with clasp or safety pin type fasteners.
- B. Sworn employees will wear the nameplate on their uniform shirt, centered and attached just below the top seam of the pocket flap of the right front pocket.
- C. Nameplates are issued by the Police Supply Unit.
  - 1. Nameplates that are lost or damaged may be replaced by completing a Police Equipment – Accountability Form ([OPD Form 24](#)) per Section III of the OPD "[Equipment](#)" policy.

## **IX. Rainwear**

- A. Sworn employees will be issued a raincoat. See [Appendix B](#) for specifications.
- B. Uniform Patrol officers will have their raincoats with them while on duty.
- C. Plainclothes officers will have their issued police raincoats readily available while on duty.

## **X. Traffic Control Vest**

- A. A high visibility, American National Standards Institute (ANSI) compliant traffic control vest is mandatory companion equipment and is issued to all OPD sworn personnel. All OPD lieutenants, sergeants, and officers shall carry the vest when on-duty.
- B. Sworn employees are required to properly wear the vest, per their OPD training, when they direct traffic or are working within the right-of-way of a roadway and are exposed to traffic and/or vehicles.

## **XI. Whistle**

- A. The whistle will be black in color, made of either metal or plastic.

## **REFERENCES:**

### **I. Previous OPD Orders**

- A. Previous General Orders include the following: #7-75, 5-82, 15-82, 70-85, 86-88, 131-89, 45-94 20-99, 53-99, 6-03, 5-08, 10-14, 116-16, 27-19, and 27-19 Supp #1.

## **II. Accreditation Standards**

- A. CALEA Accreditation standard 22.2.7 is relevant to this policy.

## **III. Miscellaneous**

- A. MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) Section 6D.03 applies to this policy (regarding traffic vests).