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| <b>STRATFORD<br/>POLICE<br/>DEPARTMENT</b><br><br> | Type of Directive:<br><b>Policy and Procedure</b> | Updated:<br><b>11-27-2020</b> |
|   | Title:<br><b>Tattoo and Body Modification</b>     | No.<br><b>13.2-B</b>          |
|   | Issuing Authority:<br><b>Chief Joseph McNeil</b>  | Issued:<br><b>10-11-2018</b>  |
|   | Reference: Old 13.2-A                             |                               |

### **PURPOSE:**

The Stratford Police Department recognizes the personal appearance of its sworn uniform personnel, when in the public eye, has a direct impact on public confidence and thereby on the ability of individual personnel to perform their official duties.

### **POLICY:**

It is the policy of the Stratford Police Department that sworn uniform members maintain a professional appearance that will encourage public confidence in the members of this Department. As such, the following policy will apply to sworn members of the Stratford Police Department.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

Body Modification- Means, but is not limited to: tongue splitting or bifurcation, the complete or transdermal implantation of any object(s) (other than replacement), abnormal shaping of the ears, eyes, nose, abnormal filing of teeth, branding or scarification. Body modification shall not include those procedures medically necessitated by deformity or injury, or generally accepted cosmetic changes/ augmentations performed by a licensed medical professional.

- The above definition includes facial piercings to include, but not limited to tongue piercings, lip piercings, nose piercings and brow piercings.

### **PROCEDURE:**

It shall be the procedure of the Stratford Police Department to allow tattoos for officers so long as the tattoo is in compliance with established policy. Body modifications are otherwise prohibited while on duty or when representing the department for official purposes. Tattoos and other forms of body art/modification can be perceived as unprofessional or offensive to certain members of the community. As a result, officers and civilian personnel are cautioned that tattoos or other forms of body art/modification in both covered and concealed areas of their body should not represent alliance with any group or organization which could place the employee's impartiality and/or judgment into question, thereby, rendering them ineffective in law enforcement.

## **Body Modifications**

Body modification to any area of the body that is visible while on-duty in any authorized uniform or attire is prohibited.

The use of gold, platinum or other dental veneers or caps for the purpose of ornamentation while on-duty is prohibited. Teeth, whether natural, capped, or veneer shall not be ornamented with designs, jewels, initials, etc.

Body piercing jewelry not concealed by any authorized uniform or approved attire while on-duty is prohibited with the exception of earrings worn in compliance with section 13.2 of the Stratford Police manual.

- The wearing of any facial jewelry to include, but not limited to tongue piercings, lip piercings, nose piercings, brow piercings by any sworn member of the department while on-duty is prohibited.

## **Tattoos**

Members of the Stratford Police Department are authorized to have tattoos that are visible to the public. Those tattoos are limited to arms and leg areas so long as they do not violate other sections of this policy. In order to maintain a professional appearance no member shall be allowed to have tattoos on their hands, neck face or head.

### **Prohibited Tattoos**

- Extremist tattoos or brands are those affiliated with, depicting, or symbolizing extremist philosophies, organizations, or activities. Extremist philosophies, organizations, and activities are those which advocate racial, gender or ethnic hatred or intolerance; advocate, create, or engage in illegal discrimination based on race, color, gender, ethnicity, religion, or national origin; or advocate violence or other unlawful means of depriving individual rights under the U.S. Constitution, Federal, or State law.
- Indecent tattoos or brands are those that are offensive to modesty, decency, or propriety; shock the moral sense because of their vulgar nature.
- Sexist tattoos or brands are those that advocate a philosophy that degrades or demeans a person based on gender, but that may not meet the same definition of “indecent.”
- Racist tattoos or brands are those that advocate a philosophy that degrades or demeans a person based on race, ethnicity, or national origin.

Applicants wishing for sworn appointment to the department shall be screened during applicant processing at which time a determination shall be made as to whether an applicant is in violation of the policy. If an applicant is found to be in violation, then they will have the option of having the tattoo, branding, or body art, or visible portion thereof, removed at their own expense. If an applicant expresses a willingness to have this done, then their application will be placed on hold until the removal process is completed.