

WOONSOCKET POLICE DEPARTMENT

THOMAS F. OATES, III
CHIEF OF POLICE



TYPE OF ORDER	NUMBER/SERIES	ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
General Order	250.11	3/25/2019	3/31/2019
SUBJECT		PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DATES	
Smoke & Tobacco Use		4/13/2014, 3/1/2005	
ACCREDITATION		RE-EVALUATION DATE	
Accreditation Standards: none		3/25/2022, 5/14/2024	
RIPAC Standards: none			
INDEX		DISTRIBUTION	
Conditions & Benefits		All Personnel	

SMOKE & TOBACCO USE

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to govern the use of tobacco products of employees while on duty or any time the employee is in an official capacity for the department.

II. POLICY

The Woonsocket Police Department recognizes that tobacco use is a health risk. It is the policy of the Woonsocket Police Department to restrict the use of tobacco by employees while on-duty or any time the employee is acting in an official capacity for the Department. Further, the Department designates its workplaces as smoke-free facilities to ensure the health and welfare of all employees and visitors to Woonsocket Police Headquarters.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Use of smoking tobacco products prohibited.

1. Tobacco use by employees is prohibited anytime employees could be in public view.

2. Smoking and the use of tobacco products is prohibited:

- a. Inside any Department facility or office;
- b. Outside any Department facility;
- c. On any City-owned or leased property or premises;
- d. In any Department owned or leased vehicle; and
- e. In any Department employee vehicles while on Department-owned or leased property.

B. Smokeless Tobacco Products

Department employees are the most prominent representatives of government and as such must present a professional image at all times. An employee's use of chewing tobacco and snuff detracts from the professional bearing of the employee. The use of any smokeless tobacco products, such as chewing tobacco and electric cigarettes, is prohibited while on-duty, off-duty in uniform or any time the employee is acting in an official capacity for the Department.

C. Supervisor Responsibilities

It shall be the responsibility of each employee to ensure that no person under his/her supervision violates this policy.

D. Violations

Employees who violate this directive shall be subject to disciplinary action. Per RIGL §23-20.10-10, significant penalties for the City/Department's non-compliance are possible.

E. Exceptions

1. An officer who is in an undercover capacity and must use tobacco products to accentuate his/her role in the public view, are exempt from the use of tobacco products while in public view or in a City vehicle.
2. The designated smoking area will be located in the fenced in area, outside and away from the rear of the building near the emergency generator.
3. The designated smokeless tobacco area will be located in the basement breakroom only. Employees wishing to use smokeless tobacco products should be respectful of others while using the breakroom for such purpose.

Per order,

Thomas F. Oates, III

Chief of Police

Written directives published within PowerDMS are in full force and effect on the referenced dates and have been approved by the Chief of Police