

	POLICY AND PROCEDURAL ORDER		001-001
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	Issued By: Chief Michael Cox		CALEA Standards 1.2.7
Effective: 06/30/1997	Updated: 10/13/2020		
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I. Purpose

The purpose of this order is to make a general statement on the use of discretion by sworn officers and civilian employees of this department. It should be recognized that discretion is spoken to in other policies such as the Pursuit, Deadly Force, and Domestic Violence orders.

II. Policy

It is the policy of the Ann Arbor Police Department to encourage all police department employees that include but not limited to volunteers, chaplains, interns, and cadets to exercise discretion based upon the community oriented policing philosophy. This philosophy promotes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to reduce crime, social disorder, and the fear of crime in our community.

III. Definition

Discretion can be defined as the power of free decision or latitude of choice within certain legal bounds. Discretion is also defined as the ability to make responsible decisions.

IV. Discussion

All police department employees essentially have discretion whenever the effective limits of their power leave them free to make a choice among possible courses of action or inaction. Discretion is necessary because it is impossible to enforce every law that has been enacted at all times. It is the responsibility of every employee to base their decisions upon the spirit of the law and departmental directives, while utilizing their training and experience. It is important to remember discretion is predicated on good judgment.

Police department employees must recognize when discretion exists and when it is limited. To do this, employees must know the law and the policies that apply. Armed with this information, employees must be able to put aside personal biases and utilize their training and experience in reaching a decision that is in the best interest for our community.