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Domestic Violence Involving a Law Enforcement Employee		



I. Introduction

This directive applies to complaints of domestic violence ***that occur within the jurisdiction of the City of Columbus in which the alleged offenders are*** employees of the Columbus Division of Police ***or*** any other law enforcement agency.

II. Definition

For purposes of this directive, “employee” means any sworn or civilian employee of a law enforcement agency.

III. Policy Statements

- A. Any Division employee, other than the victim of the alleged offense, knowing or having probable cause to believe that another Division employee has committed the crime of Domestic Violence, Violation of a Protection Order, or has made threats of domestic violence, ***shall*** immediately report the information to the Division as specified in Section IV, A below.
- B. Arrest is the preferred course of action when a violation of the Domestic Violence or Violation of a Protection Order statute has occurred and the primary physical aggressor can be identified. However, no complaint/affidavit will be signed and no arrest will be made except upon probable cause.
- C. No special privilege or consideration shall be given to any active or former law enforcement employee who becomes involved in a domestic violence situation. Responding personnel shall comply with ***the*** “Domestic Violence” ***directive*** and applicable section of law.

IV. Procedures

- A. Division Personnel Having Probable Cause to Believe that Another Division Employee has Committed or Threatened to Commit an Offense of Domestic Violence or Violation of a Protection Order
 1. Non-Supervisory Personnel

Immediately report the information to a Division supervisor.
 2. Supervisory Personnel
 - a. Immediately ***contact*** the Internal Affairs Bureau (***IAB***) ***Duty Responder or IAB Duty Desk personnel, and relay the information.***

- b. Cause a letter of information detailing the circumstances to be forwarded through the alleged offender's chain of command to **IAB**.
3. All Personnel

If the incident is presently occurring or if the threats of domestic violence are of **an** immediate occurrence, notification **shall** be immediately reported to the **Communications Bureau**.
 - B. Domestic Violence Calls Involving a Division Employee or Former Division Employee **as the Alleged the Offender**
 1. **Communications Bureau** Personnel
 - a. Advise **a Communications Bureau** supervisor of the incident.
 - b. If the location of the incident is within the City of Columbus, **dispatch sworn personnel, including an on-duty Patrol supervisor**, to the scene.

Note: When the **alleged offender is** a Division employee, the responding **sworn** supervisor **should** be of a higher rank than the alleged offender.
 2. **Communications Bureau** Supervisor
 - a. If the location of the incident is not within the City of Columbus, notify and request the appropriate law enforcement agency respond to the scene.
 - b. If the alleged offender is a Division employee, forward a letter of information detailing the incident and response through the involved personnel's chain of command to **IAB**.
 - c. If notified of an arrest or charges filed against a Division employee, ensure the required emergency notifications are made.**
 3. First Responding **Sworn Personnel**

Request a **sworn** supervisor respond to the scene, if one was not previously dispatched.
 4. Responding **Sworn** Supervisor
 - a. If the alleged offender is a Division employee who is present and is arrested:
 - (1) Notify **a Communications Bureau** supervisor.
 - (2) If the alleged offender is a sworn employee:
 - (a) Relieve **sworn personnel** of Division firearm(s) and badge(s).
 - (b) Advise **sworn personnel** where to initially report for duty pending further notification by the chain of command.
 - (3) Forward a letter of information detailing the circumstances, action taken, and referrals made through the involved employee's chain of command to **IAB**.

b. If the alleged offender is a Division employee who is not present, cannot be easily located, and **charges are** to be filed:

- (1) Notify **a Communications Bureau** supervisor.
- (2) Forward a letter of information detailing the circumstances, action taken, and referrals made through the involved employee's chain of command to **IAB**.

5. Alleged Offender's Immediate Supervisor

- a. Relieve sworn personnel of Division firearm(s) and badge(s), if this was not done at the time of the arrest.
- b. Advise sworn personnel where to report for duty pending further notification by the chain of command.
- c. Advise the involved employee of available counseling services and strongly encourage the use of such services.

6. Bureau Commander

- a. **Ensure sworn personnel were relieved of Division firearm(s) and badge(s).**
- b. Place sworn personnel in to a restricted duty assignment.
- c. **After reviewing the letters of information and the facts of the case, determine** when to return the **sworn personnel's firearm(s) and badge(s).**

C. Domestic Violence Calls Involving a Law Enforcement Employee From a Foreign Jurisdiction **as the Alleged Offender**

1. All Personnel

Follow the procedures set forth in Sections B1 through B3, as applicable.

2. Responding **Sworn** Supervisor

- a. Immediately notify the zone lieutenant of the circumstances.
- b. Forward a letter of information **through the chain of command** concerning the incident to the **Deputy Chief**.

3. Zone Lieutenant

Cause an appropriate official of the **alleged offender's** foreign agency to be advised of the arrest or issued warrant.

4. **Deputy Chief**

Forward to IAB for filing.

V. Administrative Investigations

When a Division employee is arrested, charged, or is involved as **the alleged offender** in a domestic violence situation, **IAB shall** conduct a follow-up administrative investigation of the alleged offense unless otherwise directed by the Chief of Police.