



# SYKESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Code of Ethics

General Order 1-2

Effective: 02/08/17

Authorized By: *Michael A. Spaulding* Chief of Police

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### I. PURPOSE

To provide a Code of Ethics by which all Sykesville Police Officers must abide by in the course of business as well as in their private lives.

### II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Sykesville Police Department to abide by the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, as described below.

### III. PROCEDURES

A. The Sykesville Police Department has adopted the International Association of Chiefs of Police's "Law Enforcement Code of Ethics." All sworn members of the Police Department will abide by these ethics (with non-sworn personnel governed by applicable provisions).

B. The IACP Law Enforcement Code of Ethics provides that,

*As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.*

*I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.*

*I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.*

*I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such*

*acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice. I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession... law enforcement.*

- C. Ethics training will be conducted for all personnel at least every two years.

#### **IV. CANCELLATIONS**

This General Order cancels and replaces the following policies: General Order 1.1.2, entitled Canon of Police Ethics/Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, dated December 2, 2001.