

Personal Appearance Standards

1023.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

In order to project uniformity and neutrality toward the public and other members of the department, employees shall maintain their personal hygiene and appearance to project a professional image appropriate for this department and for their assignment.

1023.2 GROOMING STANDARDS

Unless otherwise stated and because deviations from these standards could present officer safety issues, the following appearance standards shall apply to all employees, except those whose current assignment would deem them not appropriate, and where the Chief of Police has granted exception.

1023.2.1 HAIR

Hairstyles of all members shall be neat in appearance. For male sworn members, hair must not extend below the top edge of the uniform collar, or more than one-half inch over the top of the ear, while assuming a normal stance.

For female sworn members, hair must be no longer than the bottom of the back of the shirt collar when the employee is standing erect, worn up or in a tightly wrapped braid or ponytail.

1023.2.2 MUSTACHES

A short and neatly trimmed mustache may be worn. Mustaches shall not extend more than one-half inch below the corners of the mouth or three-quarter inches horizontally beyond the corners of the mouth.

1023.2.3 SIDEBURNS

Sideburns shall not extend below the bottom of the outer ear opening (the top of the earlobes) and shall be trimmed and neat.

1023.2.4 FACIAL HAIR

Members shall be clean-shaven. Facial hair other than sideburns, mustaches and eyebrows shall not be worn, unless authorized by the Chief of Police or his/her designee. A growth of whiskers shall be permitted for medical reasons only. An employee with a medical condition, which precludes shaving, may be assigned duties requiring the least possible public exposure. Exceptions: Special assignments may be exempt from this regulation with approval of the Division Commander.

1023.2.5 FINGERNAILS

Fingernails extending beyond the tip of the finger can pose a safety hazard to officers or others. For this reason, fingernails shall be trimmed so that no point of the nail extends beyond the tip of the finger.

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1023.2.6 JEWELRY AND ACCESSORIES

No jewelry or personal ornaments shall be worn by officers on any part of the uniform or equipment, except those authorized within this manual. Jewelry, if worn around the neck, shall not be visible above the shirt collar.

Earrings shall not be worn by uniformed sworn members, detectives or special assignment personnel without permission of the Chief of Police or his/her designee. Only one ring may be worn on each hand of the employee while on-duty. An engagement/wedding grouping shall be considered one ring if worn on the same finger.

1023.3 TATTOOS

Tattoos shall not be visible while employees are on-duty.

- (a) Employees with existing tattoos hired before the implementation of this policy (2/1/05) are exempt.
- (b) Employees meeting the above exception shall not display any new or modified tattoos obtained after 2/1/05 while on-duty.
- (c) This policy shall not apply to employees assigned to undercover assignments with prior approval of the employee's immediate supervisor.

1023.4 BODY PIERCING OR ALTERATION

Body piercing or alteration to any area of the body visible in any authorized uniform or attire that is a deviation from normal anatomical features and which is not medically required is prohibited. Such body alteration includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Tongue splitting or piercing.
- (b) The complete or transdermal implantation of any material other than hair replacement.
- (c) Abnormal shaping of the ears, eyes, nose or teeth
- (d) Branding or scarification.

1023.5 EXEMPTIONS

Members who seek cultural (e.g., culturally protected hairstyles) or other exemptions to this policy that are protected by law should generally be accommodated (Government Code § 12926). A member with an exemption may be ineligible for an assignment if the individual accommodation presents a security or safety risk. The Chief of Police should be advised any time a request for such an accommodation is denied or when a member with a cultural or other exemption is denied an assignment based on a safety or security risk.