



MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

001 – FAIR AND IMPARTIAL POLICING

GENERAL ORDER: 2013-04

ISSUED: February 8, 2013

EFFECTIVE: February 8, 2013

ACTION: Creates SOP 001

001.00 PURPOSE

The work of our police members has a substantial and positive effect on crime and helps us pursue our mission of creating neighborhoods capable of sustaining civic life. We recognize that crime disproportionately impacts some of our neighborhoods, and police tactics – while proper and effective – can at times be perceived as frightening or alienating. An unfortunate paradox exists: the vulnerable neighborhoods most in need of police services are often inhabited by residents who sometimes feel unfairly targeted by police. We must be aware that the way our authority is used is equally as important as the result of its use.

To that end, this policy is intended to reaffirm this department's commitment to fair and impartial policing, to clarify the circumstances in which officers can consider race, color, ethnicity, national origin, economic status, age, sex, and religion when making law enforcement decisions, and to reinforce procedures that serve to ensure the public that we are providing service and enforcing laws in an equitable way.

001.05 POLICY

Police members shall not consider race, color, ethnicity, national origin, economic status, age, sex, or religion in carrying out law enforcement activities except when credible, locally relevant information links a person or people of specific race/ethnicity to a specific unlawful incident, or to specific unlawful incidents, criminal patterns, or schemes. This restriction on the use of race/ethnicity does not apply to law enforcement activities solely designed to strengthen the department's relationship with a diverse community.

EDWARD A. FLYNN
CHIEF OF POLICE