SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Requirement for Professional Conduct

"The mission of the South Texas College Police Department is to provide a safe educational environment for students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors".

South Texas College police officers are expected to abide by standards of conduct established by the Texas Legislature, the federal government, and departmental procedures. College police officers will maintain the highest professional and ethical standards and to adhere to all policies and procedures.

The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) has established standards of conduct for peace officers licensed by the Commission. These standards of conduct serve not only as a guide for official conduct by peace officers, but also as a basis for discipline for those who fail to meet those standards.

All South Texas College Police officers will adhere to the following Law Enforcement Code of Ethics:

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 persons to liberty, equality and justice.

I WILL keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will conduct myself 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 in both my personal and official life. I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land 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 feeling, 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 of 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 the 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.

South Texas College police officers will also adhere to the following Law Enforcement Cannon of Ethics as adapted from the International Association of Chiefs of Police:

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF JOB

The primary responsibility of law enforcement, and of the individual officer, is the protection of people of the United States through the upholding of laws. Chief among these laws is the Constitution of the United States and its amendments. The law enforcement officer always represents the whole of the community and it's legally expressed will and is never the arm of any political party or clique.

LIMITATIONS OF AUTHORITY

The first duty of law enforcement officers, as upholders of the law, is to know its bounds upon them in enforcing the law. Because they represent the legal will of the community, be it local, state, or federal, they must be aware of the limitations and proscriptions which the people, through the law, have placed upon them. They must recognize the genius of the American system of government, which gives to no person, groups of people, or institutions, absolute power; and they must ensure that they, as prime defenders of that system, do not pervert its character.

DUTY TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE LAW AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SELF & OTHER PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Law enforcement officers shall assiduously apply themselves to the study of the principles of the laws, which they are sworn to uphold. They will make certain of their responsibilities in the particulars of their enforcement, seeking aid from their superiors in matters of technicality or principle when these are not clear to them. They will make special effort to fully understand their relationships to other public officials, including other law enforcement agencies, particularly on matters of jurisdiction, both geographically and substantively.

UTILIZATION OF PROPER MEANS TO GAIN PROPER ENDS

Law enforcement officers shall be mindful of their responsibilities to pay strict attention to the selection of means in discharging the duties of their office. Violations of law or disregard for public safety and property on the part of an officer are intrinsically wrong; they are self-defeating in that they instill in the public mind a like disposition. The employment of illegal means, no matter how worthy the end, is certain to encourage disrespect for the law and its officers. If the law is to be honored, it must be by those who enforce it.

COOPERATION WITH PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN THE DISCHARGE OF THEIR AUTHORIZED DUTIES

Law enforcement officers shall cooperate fully with other public officials in the discharge of authorized duties, regardless of party affiliation or personal prejudice. They shall be meticulous, however, in assuring themselves of the propriety, under the law, of such actions and shall guard against the use of their office or person, whether knowingly or unknowingly, in any improper or illegal action. In any situation open to question, they shall seek authority from their superior officer, giving them a full report of the proposed service or action.

PRIVATE CONDUCT

Law enforcement officers shall be mindful of their special identification by the public as upholders of the law. Laxity of conduct or manner in private life, expressing either disrespect for the law or seeking to gain special privilege, cannot but reflect upon the police officer and the police service. The community and the service require that the law enforcement officer lead the life of a decent and honorable person. Following the career of a police officer gives no person special perquisites. It does give the satisfaction and pride of following and furthering an unbroken tradition of safeguarding the American republic. The officer who reflects upon this tradition will not degrade it. Rather, they will so conduct their private lives that the public will regard them as examples of stability, fidelity, and morality.

CONDUCT TOWARD THE PUBLIC

Law enforcement officers, mindful of their responsibility to the whole community, shall deal with individuals of the community in a manner calculated to instill respect for its laws and its police service. Law enforcement officers shall conduct their official life in a manner such as will inspire confidence and trust. Thus, they will be neither overbearing nor subservient, as no individual citizen has an obligation to stand in neither awe of them nor a right to command them. The officers will give service where they can, and will require compliance with the law.

They will do neither from personal preference or prejudice but rather as duly appointed officers of the law discharging their sworn obligation.

CONDUCT IN ARRESTING AND DEALING WITH LAW VIOLATORS

Law enforcement officers shall use their powers of arrest strictly in accordance with the law and with due regard to the rights of the citizen concerned. Their office gives them no right to prosecute the violator or to mete out punishment for the offense. They shall, at all times, have a clear appreciation of their responsibilities and limitations regarding detention of the violator. They shall conduct themselves in such a manner as will minimize the possibility of having to use force. To this end, they shall cultivate a dedication to the service of the people and the equitable upholding of the law, whether in the handling of law violators or in dealing with the law abiding.

GIFTS AND FAVORS

Law Enforcement officers, representing government, bear the heavy responsibility of maintaining, in their own conduct, the honor and integrity of all government institutions. They shall, therefore, guard against placing themselves in a position in which any person can expect special consideration or in which the public can reasonably assume that special consideration is being given. Thus, they should be firm in refusing gifts, favors or gratuities, large or small, which can, in the public mind, be interpreted as capable of influencing their judgment in the discharge of their duties.

PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE

Law enforcement officers shall be concerned equally in the prosecution of the wrongdoer and the defense of the innocent. They shall ascertain what constitutes evidence and shall present such evidence impartially and without malice. In so doing, they will ignore social, political, and all other distinctions among the persons involved, strengthening the tradition of the reliability and integrity of an officer's word. Law enforcement officers shall take special pains to increase their perception and skill of observation, mindful that in many situations they are the sole impartial testimony to the facts of the case.

ATTITUDE TOWARD PROFESSION

Law enforcement officers shall regard the discharge of their duties as a public trust and recognize their responsibility as a public servant. By diligent study and sincere

attention to self-improvement, they shall strive to make the best possible application of science to the solution of crime and, in the field of human relationships, shall strive for effective leadership and public influence in matters affecting public safety. They shall appreciate the importance and responsibility of their office and shall hold police work to be an honorable profession rendering valuable service to their community and country.