

# Hamden Police Department General Orders

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**Policy Number:** 024-024

**Effective Date:** March 21, 2022

**Section:** Patrol

**Rescinds:** August 01, 2005

**Title:** Uniform Regulations.

**Approved By:** Police Commission

**Approval Date:** March 9, 2022

## PURPOSE

To establish guidelines governing the wearing, use, maintenance, and ownership of the uniform and equipment by members of the Hamden Police Department.

## POLICY

The Hamden Police Department will issue to its sworn officers a uniform and the equipment necessary for the performance of their duties. Uniforms and equipment shall be worn in accordance with this General Order.

## Procedures

The following specifies the police uniform for the Hamden Police department.

### A. Uniform and Equipment.

#### 1. Winter Uniform.

- a. Hat: Winter 8 Point Hat, Navy blue cloth. Detective and higher rank hat band is gold in color, Patrol officer hat band is silver in color. A winter style cap may be approved by the Chief of Police.
- b. Shirt: Long sleeve shirt, white for Lieutenants and higher ranks (with occasional option of blue as specified by the Chief of Police); blue for Patrol Officers, Detectives and Sergeants. A turtle neck, mock turtle or dickie shall be dark blue in color and approved by the Chief of Police.
- c. Pants: Navy blue cargo or other approved pant.
- d. Tie: Dark, navy blue clip on/off type to be worn with tie-clip as listed on the clothing allowance.
- e. Jackets: Appropriate for weather/winter conditions as approved by the Chief of Police.

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### 2. Summer Uniform.

- a. Hat: Summer 8 point hat, navy blue mesh. The authorized blue baseball cap may be worn for an extra-duty construction job or by Divisions authorized by the Chief of Police.
- b. Shirts: White, short sleeve shirt for Lieutenants and higher rank (with occasional blue option as specified by the Chief of Police). Blue for Sergeants, Detectives and Patrol Officers. An authorized short sleeve shirt may be worn on extra duty construction jobs or Divisions authorized by the Chief of Police. Only shirts authorized by the Chief of Police may be worn. A visible shirt under the blue uniform shirt shall be white or black in color, under the white uniform shirt shall be white in color.
- c. Pants: Navy blue cargo or approved pant. Shorts may be authorized for extra duty construction jobs and/or by those Divisions authorized by the Chief of Police. Only pants authorized by the Chief of Police may be worn.
- d. Jackets: Appropriate to weather conditions and approved by the Chief of Police.

### 3. Additional Uniform and Equipment Items:

- a. Socks: With dress shoes shall be navy blue or black in color. With boots, any color unless visible, then blue, black or white.
- b. Shoes: Black in color, military style lace or military style jump boot or soft leather shoe where applicable. Authorized footwear shall be approved by the Chief of Police.
- c. Badges - Shirt badges: Detective and higher rank is gold in color. Patrol Officer is silver in color. Badges to be worn on the left side of the shirt and the outer most garments. Hat badge: gold color Detective and higher ranks, silver color Patrol Officer.
- d. Name Plate: Name plate with a minimum of last name to be worn over the right pocket, and right side of outermost garment. Detective and higher ranks gold in color, Patrol Officer, silver in color.
- e. Commendation Awards: To be worn above the name plate.
- f. EMT/Medical insignia: To be worn above either the commendation award or shirt/jacket badge.
- g. M/C Patch: To be worn on the left sleeve under shoulder patch.

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- h. Whistle & Chain: If worn to be on the right side of shirt. Gold Detective and higher ranks, silver Patrol Officer.
- i. Collar Insignias: Patrol Officers and Detectives wear 3/8 collar cut out letters "HP", silver in color for patrol officers, gold for detectives. The letters HP will be worn on the left side collar and one of the following on the right as applicable: AI, MC, ESU. If an officer is not assigned to one of these units the HP will be worn on both collars. Sergeants, Lieutenants and Captains are only to wear their rank bar insignias on collars.
- j. Duty Belt Gear: All duty gear will be black in color, basket weave style is authorized and shall contain only authorized and issued equipment. Exceptions shall be made only by the Chief of Police and include personnel assigned to a specialized unit, the bike patrol units, administration positions and undercover positions as approved by the Chief of Police.
- k. Approved holsters/ carriers: Issued duty holster for uniform, approved duty holster for plain clothes, approved Magazine Carrier, Handcuff Pouch, Belt keepers, Baton Holder by Monadnock™, Flashlight Holder, O.C. Spray Holder and ECW/Taser Holster. Additional equipment not specified may be approved by the Chief of Police.
- l. Construction Job Uniforms: As approved by the Chief of Police. Reflective and color CONN-OSHA guidelines shall be considered for approved uniforms regarding hazardous duty work.
- m. Dress (Class A) Uniform: As approved by the Chief of Police.

#### **4. Use and Maintenance of Uniforms.**

- a. Officers will be responsible for proper care, use and maintenance of all uniforms and equipment issued to or used by them.
- b. Negligent or reckless use shall not be tolerated.
- c. All members of the department will produce any article of uniform clothing or equipment on demand from a superior officer.
- d. Any officer whose uniform clothing or issued equipment is damaged or lost will report this to his immediate supervisor and submit a detailed report.

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### 5. Disposal of worn Uniform Items.

- a. Uniform items worn out or damaged beyond repair shall be disposed of in an appropriate manner.
- b. HPD Patches and any other PD related insignia will be removed from the worn clothing.
- c. Used patch items may be reused on fresh uniforms however if the items are badly worn, damaged or beyond repair they will be destroyed so reuse is impossible.
- d. Items with stenciling will be destroyed so reuse is impossible.

\*\*\*Destruction of disposed items will not allow unauthorized use of disposed items by criminally intentioned persons.

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6. Wearing of Uniforms (POST Model Policy A, B and C shall be adhered to).
  - A. An on-duty, uniformed police officer in the State of Connecticut shall adorn:
    1. The official badge or facsimile of their agency, affixed prominently to the outer-most garment of their uniform and
    2. The official name plate/tag of their agency, affixed prominently to the outer-most garment of their uniform, including (at minimum) the police officer's last name.
  
  - B. Any on-duty, plain clothes police officer in the State of Connecticut working an assignment during which he/she is interacting with the public and wearing an outer uniform garment, as defined by the officer's agency, shall adorn:
    1. The official badge or facsimile of their agency, displayed at a conspicuous position on the outer-most uniform garment, if applicable (e.g. raid jacket, outer vest carrier, etc.), and
    2. The official name plate/tag, including (at minimum) the police officer's last name, displayed at a conspicuous position on the outer-most uniform garment, if applicable;
    3. (An identification card of their agency, may be substituted if the card displays the name and official agency badge facsimile).
    4. If not wearing an outer uniform garment, the official badge or facsimile of their agency shall be visible and/or the agency ID card if the card displays the name and official agency badge facsimile.
  
  - C. An on-duty police officer in the State of Connecticut is not required to wear the above referenced badge and name tag if working an assignment during which the badge and identification requirements listed above would:
    1. Place that police officer and/or any other member of the public's personal safety in jeopardy or,
    2. Would compromise the integrity of a sensitive investigation shall be exempt from the badge and identification requirements for the duration of such conditions.

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7. Uniform Guidelines. It is the policy of the Hamden Police Department that:
  1. Articles of clothing, equipment, badges or insignia not issued by the Department will not be worn or utilized without authorization from the Chief of Police.
  2. While on duty, all members of the Patrol Division shall be in complete uniform unless directed by a supervisor.
  3. While on duty, every member of the department must, at all times, be neat and clean in their person, and their uniform.
  4. If, in the immediate discharge of his duties, an officer's uniform becomes soiled or damaged, he will, as soon as practicable, put himself in proper order.
  5. Upon completion of an officer's tour of duty, whether regular or extra duty, a complete change to civilian clothes will be made prior to going to clubs or restaurants, public or private, if the purpose of attending is for the consumption of alcoholic beverages or if gathering in the company of those who may consume alcohol.
  
8. Badge and I.D. Card.
  1. All officers, while in the Town of Hamden and in public, should have, in their possession, the department-issued badge and identification card.
  
9. Return of Issued Equipment.
  1. Whenever any member of the department resigns, is discharged, or in any way vacates his office, he shall surrender to the police department Training Division supervisor all issued equipment in his possession. Uniforms may be disposed of by the vacating officer after removing all patches and insignia.
  2. In the case of death of any member of the department, the Chief of Police, or his representative, will obtain the officer's badge, uniforms and equipment, and make proper disposition of it.

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### 10. Weapons.

1. All officers shall take proper care of their service weapon.
2. The weapon will be kept clean and serviceable.
3. If an Officer has questions as to weapon maintenance then he or she is directed to contact a Hamden Police Department armorer and request information or instructions.
4. Service weapons, any firearms or anything classified as a weapon shall not be left unsecured at HQ or in any other place.
5. Service weapons, any firearms or anything classified as a weapon shall not be left unsecured in vehicles; they shall be secured in vehicles in compliance with all applicable laws.