



# COTTAGE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

## GENERAL ORDER

### SUBJECT: **BODY ARMOR**

### NEW REVISED RESCINDS

APPROVED: *GM*

GEORGIA MILTENBERGER  
ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE

Effective Date 8/22/2018

---

#### **I. POLICY**

Minimizing or eliminating the risk of serious personal injury or death to an officer is one of the most critical concerns of the Cottage City Police Department and this government. One of the most tested, and proven successful, devices available to aid in ensuring the safety of an officer is body armor; therefore, the Department will provide each member of the department with body armor that will afford a reasonable level of protection consistent with the level of ballistic projectile threat that might normally be encountered by an officer engaged in routine uniform field duties.

An offer to provide and/or the provision of body armor by the Department and a refusal on the part of a member of the Department to either accept the body armor or wear provided body armor will not release the member of the Department from the mandatory procedures government the wearing of body armor. In addition, such an offer to provide and/or a provision of body armor by the Department will be sufficient, by itself, regardless of the action(s) of a member of the Department, to prove that such body armor was made available to every officer of the Department.

#### **II. PROCEDURES**

- A. Body armor should be worn by every member of the Department engaged in any field assignment, whether in uniform or plainclothes. An officer may elect to wear the body armor provided by the Department or he/she may elect to wear his/her personally-owned body armor that provides at least the same, or greater, level of ballistic projectile threat protection as that afforded by the body armor provided by the Department. Personally-owned body armor worn by an

officer while engaged in any Department field assignment must be approved, in advance, by the Chief of Police or his/her designee.

- B. Body armor, whether provided by the Department or personally-owned by an officer, must be immediately available for every officer on duty in any assignment. "Immediately available" shall be interpreted as either being worn by an officer or being in such close proximity to an officer that the body armor can be put on immediately. "Close proximity" to an officer may be defined as either in a patrol vehicle trunk or passenger compartment, depending upon the specific assignment and physical location of an officer.
- C. The body armor provided by the Department will be specifically designed for the sex of the officer wearing the body armor.
- D. The body armor provided by the Department or personally-owned by an officer, will be replaced every five (5) years based upon the manufacturer's specific instructions and/or warranty regarding its span of effectiveness.
- E. The Chief of Police may, at his/her discretion, determine that the wearing of body armor shall be mandatory for any, or every, member of the Department engaged in any field assignment, whether in uniform or plainclothes. In addition, the Chief of Police may, at his/her discretion, determine those specific circumstances, situations, or assignments in which the wearing of body armor shall be mandatory.
- F. Body armor shall be worn by every member of the Department involved in the service of a search and/or arrest warrant, whether or not an officer is a member of an entry team or serving in an assisting capacity, regardless of the offense for which the search and/or arrest warrant is being served.
- G. Body armor should be worn by every member of the Department involved in a tactical field situation in which a reasonable threat of great bodily injury or death to an officer exists, or may develop. Those tactical field situations may include, but are not limited to:
  - 1. Violent crimes/situations in progress;
  - 2. Barricade and/or hostage situations; and
  - 3. Field situations in which an officer has been advised that a weapon reasonably capable of inflicting great bodily injury or death, e.g. a firearm or knife, is present or in which an officer reasonably believes that such a weapon may reasonably be present, e.g. armed robbery in progress.

- H. Body armor shall be worn in any field situation in which any on-scene field commander or incident manager, whether from Cottage City Police Department or any other police agency, who has supervisory responsibility over a member of the Department determines that the wearing of body armor shall be mandatory.