

# ***Canon of Ethics***

## ***Chief of Police Preamble***

*While ethical standards of conduct for police chiefs are accepted among members of the profession, they are also for the most part unwritten. To give written expression into matters of professional conduct to Ohio police chiefs, this canon of ethics has been promulgated. These canons constitute a body of principles upon which a police chief can rely for guidance in many specific situations.*

*The principles enumerated are statements widely accepted as self evident norms, expressing in general terms the standards of professional and personal conduct expected of police chiefs in their relationships with the public, their administration, their department and its members, others departments and agencies, and the legal system as a whole.*

*As the Police Chief for my community I will strive to:*

*See that my agency provides lawful and impartial police service to all members of the community.*

*Manage the delivery of police services free from special interests, interference of pressures and, at the same time, remain responsive to legitimate requests and directions of my administrative superiors and to the needs of the community.*

*Manage the affairs of my agency to assure the integrity, trust, and conduct in all aspects of my professional and private life.*

*Encourage all police officers to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest possible professional, legal and ethical standards.*

*Continuously strive to improve administrative and technical practices and promote their use in police work.*

*Be forthright in informing the public of the dangers of crime and on how citizens can join with the profession in minimizing loss of life and property that occurs through crime.*

*Keep the public apprised of policy, legislative, and other issues that affect public safety in the community.*

*Foster police cooperation within the criminal justice system.*

*“Sworn this day before members of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc., I hereby without reservation and in full conscience affix my signature.”*

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*Chief of Police*

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*Date*

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*OACP President*