Declaration of Values

Dedication – The Police Department is dedicated to proving the most professional police service possible. The self-motivated members of the Police Department endeavor to respond quickly to the needs of the community.

Professionalism – The Police Department is committed to adhering to the highest moral and ethical standards possible. Police Department personnel will be well groomed, highly trained, courteous and committed to serving the public.

Integrity – The Police Department will reflect honesty, accountability and sincerity through our actions. We will perform our duties without bias or prejudice.

Excellence – The Police Department assures that its employees are proactive, innovative and highly competent. The Police Department will produce employees who are self-motivated and performance driven through education and training.

Interaction – An excellent relationship between the Police Department and the community is essential to the achievement of the Police Department’s Mission. The Police Department will place an emphasis on community policing and will be attentive to the needs of its citizens.

Respect – The Police Department pledges to treat everyone with compassion and dignity. The Police Department aspires to earn the respect of the citizens we serve through fairness and civility.

BIAS-BASED POLICING

A Guide for Community Education and Awareness

This brochure is designed to provide helpful information on the issue of bias-based policing including what it is, and what to do if you believe you have been a victim of bias-based policing.

The Davenport Police Department

Department Mission Statement

We, the members of the Davenport Police Department, are committed to excellence in law enforcement and are dedicated to the people, traditions and diversity of our City. We will provide service with understanding, response with compassion, performance with uncompromised integrity and law enforcement with vision.

DAVENPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT
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Published by the
Davenport Police Department

Larry M. Holden
Chief of Police
Every citizen regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, background, age, or culture deserves the highest level of service available and equal treatment under the law. The Davenport Police Department is committed to this belief, and strives to insure un-biased policing in all of its encounters between officers and citizens.

Bias-based policing occurs when an officer makes decisions or take police action based upon his or her own personal or societal biases or stereotypes, rather than relying on facts and observed behaviors which would lead the officer to believe that an individual has been, is currently, or is about to be involved in criminal activity.

Many citizens mistakenly believe that profiling is illegal, and that police officers are forbidden from using such a practice. The truth is that criminal profiling is legal, and is a legitimate technique. Bias-based profiling, on the other hand, is illegal and has no legitimate use in solving or preventing crime. So what’s the difference between the two?

Criminal profiling is the use of legitimate law enforcement knowledge, training, and experience to narrow a field of suspects during a criminal investigation. Factual information, patterns of activity, and motives are some of the aspects considered when using criminal profiling to develop a suspect.

Bias-based profiling is the use of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, background, age, or culture as the sole basis for police activity. The absence of facts, suspicious activity, or specific criminal information is what separates bias-based profiling from legitimate criminal profiling.

It is important to realize that police officers must sometimes considered a person’s race, age, gender, religion, and other factors when preparing a criminal profile, as it may be a necessary part of determining who would have had a motive or the capability of committing an alleged crime. Routinely we determine a possible type of suspect in a series of crimes by first scrutinizing the facts of the case, then further narrowing our search as race, ethnicity, gender, etc. The key element is that the investigative outcome is based on facts and knowledge, not personal attributes or social biases.

Bias-based policing does not pay off for any of us – not for the Police Department or for the citizens. It invites distrust from the public, intense media scrutiny, and the possibility of legal action against the Department for constitutional and civil rights violations. We use every legitimate law enforcement techniques, including criminal profiling, to preserve the safety of everyone we serve, but acts of bias-based policing are simply discriminatory acts that will not be tolerated.

Citizens who feel they have been stopped or searched as a result of bias-based policing should not hesitate to file a complaint with the Department.

Complaints may be filed in person, by mail, by electronic mail, or by telephone. However, meeting with a Department representative is the preferred method and allows us to obtain the most detail with which to begin investigating your complaint.

ALL COMPLAINTS WILL BE INVESTIGATED

Regular Mail may be sent to:
Davenport Police Department
Attn: Administrative Complaints
16 West Bay Street
Davenport, FL 33837

Contact the Chief of Police at:
Email - lholden@mydavenport.org
Phone - (863) 419-3307 x201