

 <p style="text-align: center;">University of Pittsburgh Police Department</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rules & Regulations Manual</p>	Reference Number: 1 - 7 (Chapter / Section) PLEAC 1.2.1a, 1.2.1b
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	Rescinds: All Previous
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Title: Role and Authority of University of the Pittsburgh Police Department	 By Order of James K. Loftus, Chief of Police

1.0 Policy

The University of Pittsburgh is a state-related university, established for the general purposes of education, research and community services. The University of Pittsburgh Police Department is a support unit of the University, organized for the primary purpose of establishing and maintaining an atmosphere in which people in the University community can safely and securely go about their varied activities in furtherance of the University's higher objectives. The police department must accomplish its mission by excellence in professional law enforcement, security and safety services.

2.0 Authority to Establish Police Department

In 1966 the University of Pittsburgh Police Department was established by virtue of Title 24 (Education), Pa. C.S.A. §2510-205 which grants the Board of Trustees of the University of Pittsburgh the authority to control and conduct the administrative affairs of the University. The University of Pittsburgh Police Department is a campus police department within the meaning of the campus police powers and duties Act, 71 P.S. 646.1, and also has jurisdiction to enforce laws per 42 Pa C.S.A. 8951 et seq., the Municipal Police Jurisdiction Act.

(PLEAC 1.2.1a)

3.0 Police Authority to Enforce Laws

A University of Pittsburgh Police Officer may exercise the powers and duties conferred by law, including, but not limited to the provisions of Section 2416.1 of The Administrative Code of 1929, 71 P.S. § 646.1, *Campus Police Powers and Duties*: Generally University of Pittsburgh Police shall have the power and their duty shall be:

(PLEAC 1.2.1b)

- A. To enforce good order on the grounds and in the buildings of the university;
- B. To protect the grounds and buildings of the university;
- C. To adopt whatever lawful means may be necessary for the performance of their duties;

- D. To carry and use weapons in the performance of their duties (PLEAC 1.2.1b)
- E. To exercise the same powers as are now or may hereafter be exercised under authority of law or ordinance by the local police department, including, but not limited to, those powers conferred pursuant to Title 42 Pa. C.S.A. Chapter 89, Subchapter D (relating to Municipal Police Jurisdiction Act)
- F. To prevent crime, investigate criminal acts, apprehend, arrest, and charge criminal offenders and issue summary citations for acts committed on the grounds and in the buildings of the university, and take the offender before the proper issuing authority and prefer charges against him under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Except when acting pursuant to 42 Pa. C.S.A., Ch. 89. Subch. D, the grounds and within 500 yards of the grounds of the university shall constitute the primary jurisdiction of the campus police.
- G. To order off the grounds and out of the buildings of the university all persons having no legitimate purpose or business within the University of Pittsburgh and, if necessary, remove them by force and, in case of resistance, take such offenders before an issuing authority; and
- H. To exclude all disorderly persons from the grounds and buildings of the university.

When acting within the scope of the authority of § 646.1, Pa. C.S.A, University of Pittsburgh Police Officers are at all times employees of the University of Pittsburgh and shall be entitled to all of the rights and benefits accruing there from.

4.0 Commissioned Police Officers

All University of Pittsburgh Police Officers are required to be certified under the standards of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC), pursuant to Title 53 (Municipalities) Pa. C.S.A. §2167.

University of Pittsburgh Police Officers are covered under various Pennsylvania statutes defining police officers. Under 53 Pa. C.S.A. § 2162, a "*police officer*" is defined as "Any full-time or part-time employee of a city, borough, town, township, campus police or university police or county police department assigned to criminal or traffic law enforcement duties...". Title 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 501, defines a "*peace officer*" as, "a person who by virtue of his office...is vested by law with a duty to maintain public order or to make arrests for offenses...". Title 234, Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rule 3 defines a "*police officer*" as, "any person who is by law given the power to arrest when acting within the scope of the person's employment." Title 75, Pennsylvania Vehicle Code § 102 defines a "*police officer*" as, "a natural person authorized by law to make arrests for violations of the law."

5.0 Limitations on Authority

Limitations on law enforcement authority are derived from statutes, federal, state, and local judicial interpretation of laws, opinions of the Attorney General of Pennsylvania and District Attorney of Allegheny County, departmental policies/rules and regulations, and university administrative decisions.

6.0 Use of Discretion by Officers

Police officers, by the nature of their job, are required to exercise discretion in the performance of

their duties. The police department provides officers with written policy and procedures, department orders, directed patrol assignments, and training in order to aid them in making decisions which govern discretion in performing their duties.

With the exception of departmental rules and regulations, departmental policy generally gives officers guidelines to consider in exercising their discretion. Consistent and wise use of discretion, based on professional policing competence, will do much to preserve good relationships and retain the confidence of the public. There can be difficulty in choosing between conflicting courses of action. It is important to remember that a timely word of advice rather than arrest - which may be correct in appropriate circumstances - can be a more effective means of achieving a desired end.

It is up to the individual officer to consider relevant facts, the situation, and then, using knowledge, training and good judgment, make appropriate decisions. Supervisors must closely observe the use of discretion by their subordinates and point out factual errors or alternatives that may be more appropriate.

7.0 Responsibilities

To accomplish the purposes of our role, the professional responsibilities of the commissioned members of the police department include, but are not limited to the following functions:

- A. The protection of life and the safeguarding of property;
- B. The prevention and control of crime;
- C. The investigation of crime, the apprehension of criminal offenders and the recovery of stolen property;
- D. The preservation of the peace and maintenance of good order;
- E. The enforcement of all laws and university regulations;
- F. The immediate response to all emergencies on university property and to all persons therein who are in need of aid or assistance;
- G. The performance of such other services required by the university, as determined by the Chief of Police;
- H. The advancement of a cooperative relationship with the students, faculty and staff of the university;
- I. The creation of a sense of safety and security for the entire university community through a vigilant preventive patrol; and
- J. The accomplishment of all police objectives within the law and the constitutional guarantees of all citizens.

8.0 Oath of Office and Code of Ethics

All police officers, prior to issuance of their commission, shall take and abide by the Oath of Office and the Code of Ethics as prescribed in policy.

9.0 References

University of Pittsburgh Police Department Manual:
Chapter 1: Administration and Management
Section 1-4: Oath of Office

University of Pittsburgh Police Department Manual:
Chapter 1: Administration and Management
Section 1-3: Code of Ethics