

CHIEF'S PREFACE

The Town of East Troy Police Department hereby establishes a Code of Conduct comprised of our Vision Statement, Mission Statement, Core Values, Guiding Principles, and Standard Operating Procedures. This Code establishes fundamental standards of conduct and performance consistent with the highest professional standards of policing.

Our vision statement describes what we as a police department seek to achieve. Our mission statement describes how we as department members will achieve that vision. Our core values and guiding principles shape our conduct and performance both on and off duty, consistent with the highest standards of the police profession. Our policies and procedures guide our standards of practice for situations most likely to be encountered during our duties.

The Town of East Troy Police Department recognizes the inherent complexity of policing and the use of legitimate discretion by members to confront that complexity. Discretion is, however, limited. Discretion cannot be arbitrary or used as an excuse for personal inclination when members fail to perform properly. When members confront situations that are so unique that no policy or procedure can guide them, their decisions and interventions must always be consistent with our core values and guiding principles.

Department members shall always conduct themselves, to the extent their position requires, in accordance with the provisions of this Code. Any conduct, whether on or off duty, which brings or is likely to bring discredit on the Town of East Troy Police Department may be investigated in order to establish whether or not a breach of the Code or policy has occurred. A breach of the Code or policy may result, in appropriate circumstances, in a criminal or disciplinary investigation, either as directed by the Chief of Police or the Town Board.

When department members are investigated for a breach of this Code, whether directed by the Chief of Police or the Town Board Chairman, they have the right to expect that the investigation will be conducted promptly, thoroughly, and impartially. This Code shall be applied in any investigation, hearing or decision relating to misconduct in a reasonable and objective manner. Due regard shall be given to the degree of negligence or deliberate fault of a member and to the nature and circumstances of the member's misconduct. The Chief of Police reserves the right to impose discipline up to and including discharge from the department if, after a prompt, thorough, and impartial investigation has been conducted, he or she determines that a breach of the Code has occurred.

VISION

A town where all can live safely and without fear, protected by a police department with the highest ethical and professional standards.

MISSION

The Town of East Troy Police Department, as part of and empowered by the community, will protect the Town of East Troy through enforcement, prevention, partnership, and professional services.

CORE VALUES

Competence

We are prudent stewards of the public's grant of authority and resources. We are accountable for the quality of our performance and the standards of our conduct. We are exemplary leaders and exemplary followers.

Courage

We place the safety of others before our own and accept our moral responsibility to take action against injustice and wrongdoing. Police members are expected to take prudent risks on behalf of the public

Integrity

We recognize the complexity of police work and exercise discretion in ways that are beyond reproach and worthy of public trust. It is our duty to earn public trust through consistent words and actions. We are honest in word and deed.

Leadership

We seek to influence human behavior to achieve organizational goals that serve the public while developing individuals, teams and the organization for future service. We accept our responsibility to be leaders, both within the community and among our peers, and for the actions of our colleagues and ourselves. We are all responsible for the performance, reputation and morale of the department.

Respect

We hold life in the highest regard. We treat all citizens and colleagues with dignity and respect, and are fair and impartial as we perform our duties.

Restraint

We use the minimum force and authority necessary to accomplish a proper police purpose. We demonstrate self-discipline, even when no one is listening or watching.

Respectfully,

Chief Don P. Jensen Sr.
Town of East Troy Police Department

LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against abuse or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or abuse and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession . . . law enforcement.