

Chattanooga Police Department - Policy Manual

PER-3 – PERSONAL APPEARANCE, UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Amends/Supersedes: PER-3 (11/30/10)

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CALEA 22.2.5, 26.1.1, 41.3.4 - 41.3.6, 61.3.4c (5th Ed.)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this general order is to establish clear and concise standards governing the maintenance of a professional image by all members of the Chattanooga Police Department.

I. PERSONAL GROOMING STANDARDS

A. Hair

1. All uniformed personnel shall keep their hair clean and neatly groomed so as to present a professional appearance at all times.
2. The hair of all uniformed personnel shall not be worn in such a way that it will interfere with the proper wearing of the regulation headgear.
3. Plainclothes female and male officers shall wear their hair in a conservative, businesslike style, commensurate with the furtherance of the department's professional image. Hair regulations shall not apply to undercover officers when acting in that capacity.
4. Female officers' hair shall not extend more than six (6) inches below the top of the collar of the regulation uniform shirt. If hair is to be worn down, it must be worn in a conservative, professional style. A single French braid or ponytail will be acceptable.
5. Hair restraints may be worn, but must compliment the hair color or be black, gold or transparent and have no ornamentation.
6. Male officers' hair shall not extend more than one-half (1/2) inch over the top of the collar at the back of the neck. Hairstyles must represent conservative and professional standards. Hair is not to be worn in unusual styles so as to detract from the professional appearance of the uniform. Unusual styles include, but are not limited to, carvings, ducktails, mohawks, multicolored or unnatural dyed etc. Hair on the sides of the head of male officers shall not cover more than one half of the ear.
7. Except as permitted by this order, male officers' faces shall be clean-shaven. Mustaches are authorized but shall be kept neatly and closely trimmed. No portion of the mustache shall extend below the lip line of the upper lip. It shall not go beyond a horizontal line extending across the corners of the mouth and no more than 1/4 inch beyond a vertical line drawn from the corner of the mouth. The length of an individual mustache hair fully extended shall not exceed approximately 1/2 inch. Handlebar mustaches, goatees, beards or eccentricities are not authorized for uniformed personnel. Undercover officers shall be exempt from these standards when so authorized by the appropriate Deputy Chief.
8. If an officer is diagnosed by a dermatologist as having a skin condition, which prohibits shaving, such as "Pseudofolliculities Barbee," that officer shall be permitted to temporarily wear a beard, provided that a physician prescribes it. The beard shall not exceed a length of one-quarter (1/4) inch. The affected officer shall submit to his supervisor a physician's report including documentation of the diagnosis, prognosis and the anticipated length of time the officer shall need to refrain from shaving.
9. Officers who are diagnosed with such a skin condition will adhere to the following guidelines:
 - a. The officer must have a written excuse from a State of Tennessee certified medical doctor who specializes in Dermatology.
 - b. The officer may go to a dermatologist of his choice, but it is incumbent upon the officer to be responsible for all costs associated with the office visits and treatments.