

340. EQUALITY OF ENFORCEMENT. As one of the world's largest cities, Los Angeles is composed of many different communities, each with its own life-style and each with its own individual crime problems. The cosmopolitan nature of the City is manifested by the diverse ethnic and sociological background of its people. However, all persons in each area of the City have in common the need for the protection which is afforded by fair and impartial law enforcement.

Additionally, as a person moves throughout the City, he or she must be able to expect a similar police response to his behavior wherever it occurs. Where the law is not evenly enforced, there follows a reduction in respect for the law and a resistance to its enforcement.

In order to respond to varying law enforcement needs in the different parts of the City, the Department must have flexibility in deployment and methods of enforcement; however, enforcement policies should be formulated on a Citywide basis, and applied uniformly in all areas.

Implicit in uniform enforcement of law is the element of evenhandedness in its application. The amount of force used or the method employed to secure compliance with the law or to make arrests is governed by the particular situation. Similar circumstances require similar treatment in all areas of the City and for all groups and individuals. To ensure equal treatment in similar circumstances, an officer must be alert to situations where, because of a language barrier or for some other reason, he or she may be called upon to display additional patience and understanding in dealing with what might otherwise appear to be a lack of response.

345. POLICY PROHIBITING BIASED POLICING. Discriminatory conduct on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived race, religion, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, immigration or employment status, English language fluency or homeless circumstance, is prohibited while performing any law enforcement activity. All law enforcement contacts and activities, including, but not limited to, calls for service, investigations, police-initiated stops or detentions, and activities following stops or detentions, shall be unbiased and based on legitimate, articulable facts, consistent with the standards of reasonable suspicion or probable cause as required by federal and state law. Officers shall not initiate police action where the objective is to discover the civil immigration status of any person and shall strictly adhere to the Department's immigration enforcement guidelines as outlined in Department Manual Sections 4/264.50 and 4/264.55.

Department personnel may not use race, religion, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or disability (to any extent or degree), immigration or employment status, English language fluency or homeless circumstance as a basis for conducting any law enforcement activity, including stops and detentions, except when engaging in the investigation of appropriate suspect-specific activity to identify a particular person or group. Department personnel seeking one or more specific persons who have been identified or described in part by their race, religion, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability (to any extent or degree), immigration or employment status, English language fluency or homeless circumstance: may rely, in part, on the specified identifier or description only in combination with other appropriate identifying factors; and may not grant the specified identifier or description undue weight.

A failure to comply with this policy is counterproductive to professional law enforcement and is considered to be an act of serious misconduct. Any employee who becomes aware of biased policing or any other violation of this policy shall report it in accordance with established Department procedures.