

## **SECTION 9 SAFETY & EQUIPMENT USE**

### **9.1 SAFETY**

Employees shall abide by all safety directives contained within Department Policies, and as issued orally or in writing by their supervisors. These directives may pertain to the safe and proper method for operating vehicles and equipment, utilizing City facilities and safety gear, and other safe work practices. Failure to proceed or act in a safe manner, and thereby causing danger to oneself, other employees, or City property shall be cause for disciplinary action up to and including termination. Unsafe working conditions, injuries or damage to equipment or property, regardless of cause, must be reported immediately by employees in accordance with established procedures to their immediate supervisor or Department Head.

### **9.2 CITY VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES**

#### **On Duty**

All vehicles, equipment, and facilities shall be utilized appropriately, safely, and in a manner that will not damage any particular item. Any willful negligence or avoidable accident resulting in damage to City property may be cause for disciplinary action. Vehicles, equipment, and facilities shall only be used for City business and activities, or as authorized by the City Administrator, or by the conditions of an individual City employment agreement. These shall not generally be used for personal errands or other personal reasons. Only City employees shall ride as passengers in City vehicles or use City equipment or facilities except as may be necessary in carrying out City business or as specifically approved by the City Administrator, or as authorized by the Department Head.

#### **Off Duty**

There shall be no use of City vehicles, equipment or facilities during off duty hours. The only exception to this rule is the granting of City vehicles to employees for the purposes of conducting City business when such arises or by the conditions of an individual City employment agreement. When a vehicle is in the possession of an employee during off duty hours, it shall be used for City business when the need arises. It shall not be used for personal errands or other activities, except for personal errands on the way to and back from work (provided this time is not compensated). No other passengers besides the authorized employee(s) shall use the vehicle during such hours.

## Accidents

Any damage resulting to City vehicles, equipment, and/or facilities shall be reported immediately, but in no event later than the end of the work shift, to the employee's supervisor who shall submit a written report to the Personnel Officer. Damage to a City vehicle shall also be reported to the Police Department.

### 9.3 PHYSICAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL FITNESS FOR DUTY

When the City has reasonable suspicion to believe an employee is unfit to continue working in his assigned position, the City may require any employee to undergo physical, medical and/or psychological examinations to be performed by an independent medical examiner or psychologist to establish the fitness of the individual to continue work within his assigned position, with said cost being the City's responsibility and in accordance with applicable law. Upon advice of the independent medical examiner, the City may impose a health maintenance program, as a condition of continued employment, with said cost being the employee's responsibility, to the extent not covered by his insurance.

### 9.4 SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICIES

Substance abuse by City employees creates an unacceptably dangerous work environment, results in unproductive work days, sick leave abuse, and generally creates a risk to the safety and well-being of all employees and the residents the City serves. The City also believes the residents of our community are entitled to expect employees who serve them obey the law, are reasonably fit, healthy, and free from the effects of substance abuse.

The City has established a Code of Conduct, Section 5.2 (I), regarding substance abuse. Screening and treatment programs exist for employees and potential employees of the City in addition to all Commercial Driver's License (CDL) drug and alcohol testing policy requirements.

### 9.5 WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

The City will make every reasonable effort to provide a safe working environment for all employees and for all persons who conduct business with the City. Any employee that has experienced or witnessed an act of violence, or a threat of such, in a City workplace is to immediately advise his supervisor and/or the Personnel Officer. Violence is defined as, but not limited to, the following:

- a) Any physical behavior that involves pushing, fighting, spitting, kicking, squeezing, pinching, scratching, twisting, biting, throwing objects or intentional behavior that would injure another or attempt to injure another.