

DALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

		<i>Effective Date</i> May 1, 1998	<i>Number</i> GO91-2.4
<i>Subject</i> Oath of Office and Code of Ethics			
<i>Reference</i> CALEA Standards – 1.1.1, 1.1.2		<i>Revised</i> September 22, 2020 27, 2022	
<i>Distribution</i> All Personnel	<i>Re-evaluation Date</i> September 2022 2024		<i>No. Pages</i> 4

I. Policy

It is the policy of the Dalton Police Department to provide all personnel with a clear Code of Ethics and Oath of Office to abide by and uphold while employed with the Department.

II. Oath of Office

Prior to assuming sworn status, all Officers shall take, and subsequently abide by, an oath of office to enforce the law and uphold the Constitution of the United States and, when applicable, its governmental subdivisions. The oath of office is as follows:

I, _____, do solemnly swear / affirm that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Georgia, and the Ordinances of the City of Dalton. I will faithfully enforce the laws of the State of Georgia and the Ordinances of the City of Dalton.

I do further swear that I am not the holder of any unaccounted for public money due this state or any political subdivision or authority thereof.

I do further swear that I do not hold any office of trust under the government of the United States, any other state, or any foreign state that I am prohibited from holding.

I do further swear that I am otherwise qualified to hold said office according to the Constitution and laws of Georgia.

I do further swear that, as a Dalton Police Officer, I recognize my fundamental duty is to serve all persons; to safeguard lives and property and to respect the constitutional rights of all persons to liberty, equality, and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of the Dalton Police Department.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. I will enforce the law courteously and

RESTRICTED LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA

The data contained in this manual is confidential for internal department use only and shall not be divulged outside the department without the written approval of the Chief of Police.

appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence 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 this oath of office. So help me God.

III. **Oath of Honor**

The law enforcement Oath of Honor is as follows:

On my honor, I will never betray my badge, my integrity, my character, or the public's trust.

I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable for our actions. I will always uphold the Constitution, my community, and the agency I serve.

IV. **Code of Ethics for Government Service**

As established by O.C.G.A. 45-10-1, Georgia's Code of Ethics for government service is as follows:

Any person in government service should:

- A. Put loyalty to the highest moral principles and to country above loyalty to persons, party, or government department.
- B. Uphold the Constitution, laws, and legal regulations of the United States and the State of Georgia and of all governments therein and never be a party to their evasion.
- C. Give a full day's labor for a full day's pay and give to the performance of his duties his earnest effort and best thought.
- D. Seek to find and employ more efficient and economical ways of getting tasks accomplished.
- E. Never discriminate unfairly by the dispensing of special favors or privileges to anyone, whether for remuneration or not, and never accept, for himself or his family, favors or benefits under circumstances which might be construed by reasonable persons as influencing the performance of his governmental duties.
- F. Make no private promises of any kind binding upon the duties of office, since a government employee has no private word which can be binding on public duty.
- G. Engage in no business with the government, either directly or indirectly, which is inconsistent with the conscientious performance of his governmental duties.

RESTRICTED LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA

The data contained in this manual is confidential for internal department use only and shall not be divulged outside the department without the written approval of the Chief of Police.

- H. Never use any information coming to him confidentially in the performance of governmental duties as a means for making private profit.
- I. Expose corruption wherever discovered.
- J. Uphold these principles, ever conscious that public office is a public trust.

V. **Law Enforcement Code of Ethics**

Officers shall abide by the Code of Ethics for Government Service and the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics adopted by the Department:

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 violence 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 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 in both 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 violence 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.

VI. **Non-Sworn Employee Code of Ethics**

All non-sworn employees shall abide by the Code of Ethics for Government Service and Code of Ethics below as adopted by the Department:

RESTRICTED LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA

The data contained in this manual is confidential for internal department use only and shall not be divulged outside the department without the written approval of the Chief of Police.

I will abide by the ordinances of the City of Dalton, and the laws of the State of Georgia and the United States of America.

I acknowledge respect for human life above all else, recognizing diversity among the members of the communities and departments I serve, allowing for fair and open access to services.

I will exhibit honesty and integrity through ethical behavior.

I will protect the safety, health and welfare of the public and proactively advocate in those areas affecting the public interest.

I will not, in the performance of my duty, work for personal advantage or profit and will refrain from seeking or dispersing personal favors.

I will, at all times, recognize that I am a public servant, and that ultimately I am responsible to the public.

I will give the most efficient, impartial and courteous service of which I am capable at all times.

I will maintain the privacy and confidentiality where required of information obtained in the course of my duty unless disclosure is required by legal authority.

I will demonstrate professional excellence through leadership, cooperation and dedication serving the public.

I will regard my fellow employees with the same standards as I maintain myself, encouraging professional development and fostering respectful relationships.

I will recognize the positive relationship between good physical and mental conditioning and the performance of my duties.

I will do only those things that will reflect honor on myself, my fellow employees, my supervisors and my Department.

I will accept responsibility for my actions.

This policy supersedes any previous policies issued.

BY ORDER OF

CHIEF OF POLICE

RESTRICTED LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA

The data contained in this manual is confidential for internal department use only and shall not be divulged outside the department without the written approval of the Chief of Police.