

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS**

The LSU Alexandria University Police Department (LSUA UPD) has adopted the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics as the standard by which all its members shall conduct themselves at all times. The following Code of Ethics shall serve as a constant reminder of the responsibilities that accompany police powers and as a guide to daily actions.

As a Law Enforcement Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; 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 men to liberty, equality and justice. I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; 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 laws of the land 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 secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty. I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities, or friendship 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 the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession -- law enforcement.

Law enforcement is an honorable calling. Service in this field demands a professional rather than an occupational philosophy. Personal honor, a desire for professional status, and devotion to service above self are the motives which impel police officers to execute their responsibilities in full measure.

A police officer's life is one of self-sacrificing service to a high ideal based upon recognition of the responsibilities entrusted them and the belief that law enforcement is an honorable vocation. A police officer fully accepts the responsibilities to defend the right, to protect the weak, to aid the distressed, and to uphold the law in public and private living. Police officers accept the obligation to report facts, to testify without bias or display of emotion, and to consider all information of which they are knowledgeable, by virtue of their position, as a sacred trust to be used for official purposes only. Being equally alert to protect the innocent and prosecute the guilty, a police officer gives loyal and faithful attention to the identification and apprehension of criminals. A

police officer performs the functions of office without fear, favor, or prejudice, and does not engage in unlawful or improper practices.

Police officers do not disclose to unauthorized persons any information concerning pending matters which might be prejudicial to the interests of the State, the city, or the department. Police officers do not seek personal gain or benefit from any confidential information obtained in the course of their official duties. Police officers are respectful and courteous to all citizens at all times, regardless of provocation. Police officers are faithful and loyal to their organization, always striving to foster better cooperation and to promote better relations with all regularly constituted law enforcement agencies and their representatives in matters of mutual interest and obligation.

Rigid adherence to the aforementioned principles is mandatory for anyone accepting a position in the police department. Acceptance of these principles should not be perfunctory; it should be weighted carefully. Citizens are quick to criticize any misconduct of members of the department. The community places a trust in police officers and expects them to conduct themselves, on and off duty, to merit this trust. Members should be proud to hold a position that demands so much.

There must be moral philosophy and strong appreciation of the need for service in any profession. Unwavering adherence to such a moral philosophy will earn police officers the respect and support of the public.

Members of the LSUA-UPD will be held to the highest standards of the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics.