

Mission Statement



The mission of the Winston Police Department is to protect life and property of the citizens of Winston and it's visitors by providing high quality and professional law enforcement that partners with the citizens we serve.

Through a collaborative effort, we work to deter crime, and affect circumstances that are root causes of criminal behaviors. Our ultimate goal is to improve the quality of life in our community.

Our Values

Central to our mission are the values that guide our work and decisions , they help us to contribute to the quality of life in Winston.

Our values are characteristics or qualities of worth. **They are non-negotiable.** Although we may need to balance them, we will never ignore them for the sake of expediency or personal preference. We hold our values constantly before us to teach and remind us and the community we serve our ideals. They are the foundation upon which our policies, goals, and operations are built.

In fulfilling our mission, we need the support of citizens, elected representatives, and city officials in order to provide the quality of service our values commit us to providing.

We, the men and women of the Winston Police Department, value:

- Human Life
- Integrity
- Laws and the Constitution
- Excellence
- Accountability
- Cooperation
- Problem-Solving
- Ourselves

Human Life

We value life above all else. Therefore:

- We give first priority to situations which threaten life;
- We use force only when necessary;
- We treat all persons with courtesy and respect;
- We are compassionate and caring.

Integrity

We believe integrity is the basis for community trust. Therefore:

- We are honest and truthful;
- We are consistent in our beliefs and actions;
- We hold ourselves to high standards of moral and ethical conduct;
- We are role models for the community;
- We demonstrate honor and integrity in all we do through ethical behavior.

Laws and the Constitution

We believe in the principles embodied in the Constitution. We recognize the authority of federal, state, and local laws. Therefore:

- We respect and protect the rights of all citizens;
- We treat all persons fairly and without favoritism;
- We are knowledgeable of the law;
- We obey the law.

Excellence

We strive for personal and professional excellence. Therefore:

- We do our best;
- We have a vision for the future;
- We seek adequate resources: staffing, facilities, equipment, training, salaries, benefits;
- We recruit and hire the best people;
- We train and develop our employees to their highest potential;
- We are committed to fair and equitable practices;
- We recognize and reward good performance;
- We support reasonable risk taking and are tolerant of honest mistakes;
- We are receptive to new ideas and to change;
- We work toward realistic, mutually agreed-upon goals;
- We lead by example.

Accountability

We are accountable to each other and to the citizens we serve, who are the source of our authority. Therefore:

- We communicate openly and honestly among ourselves and with the community;
- We understand the importance of community values and expectations;
- We are responsive to community concerns;
- We acknowledge our mistakes and are open to constructive criticism;
- We manage our resources effectively.

Cooperation

We believe that cooperation and teamwork will enable us to combine our diverse backgrounds, skills, and styles to achieve common goals. Therefore:

- We work as a team;
- We understand our role in achieving Department and City goals and objectives;
- We share our responsibility to serve the citizens of Winston with many other agencies and organizations;
- We strive to understand those who disagree with us;
- We seek the help and cooperation of others;
- We seek to resolve conflicts;
- We rely on community support and involvement.

Problem-Solving

We are most effective when we identify and solve community problems. Therefore:

- We work to anticipate and prevent problems;
- We give high priority to preventing crime and helping citizens feel safe;
- We actively seek opinions and ideas from others;
- We recognize that crime is a community problem;
- We listen to problems and complaints with empathy and sensitivity;
- We seek innovative solutions.

Ourselves

We are capable, caring people who are doing important and satisfying work for the citizens of Winston. Therefore:

- We respect, care about, trust, and support each other;
- We enjoy our work and take pride in our accomplishments;
- We are disciplined and reliable;
- We keep our perspective and sense of humor;
- We balance our professional and personal lives;
- We consult the people who will be affected by our decisions;
- We have a positive "CAN DO" attitude;
- We cultivate our best characteristics: initiative, enthusiasm, creativity, patience, competence, and judgement;
- We promote honesty over loyalty to the Department;
- We recognize that it is the domain of the courts to punish individuals convicted of crimes;
- We hold ourselves to a higher standard of social and professional conduct.

Officially adopted by the men and women of the Winston Police Department on September 28, 1995.

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