



West Warwick Police Department
GENERAL ORDER 320.80

SECTION	RIPAC STANDARD	EFFECTIVE DATE	PAGES
300 – Law Enforcement Operations	2.8	April 1, 2021	2
SUBSECTION	REVIEW DATE	PREVIOUSLY ISSUED	
20 – Patrol Functions	As Needed	8/1/15; 6/1/13; 6/15/11	
	Reviewed & revised April 2021		
TITLE	BY ORDER OF		
320.80 – Fair and Impartial Policing	Major Ernest Lavigne Acting Chief of Police		

I. PURPOSE

To establish and maintain guidelines for sworn Department members, regarding fair and impartial policing.

II. POLICY

Criminal profiling can be a useful tool to assist law enforcement officers in carrying out their duties. Biased based profiling, however, involves the selection of individuals based solely on a common trait of a group. This includes, but is not limited to, race, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, age, cultural group, or any other identifiable groups.

The West Warwick Police Department **prohibits** the use of bias based profiling in traffic contacts, field contacts, asset seizure and forfeiture efforts. The Department recognizes that bias based profiling undermines legitimate law enforcement efforts and may lead to allegations of constitutional rights violations. Additionally, bias based profiling alienates citizens, fosters distrust of law enforcement by the community, and invites media scrutiny, legislative action and judicial intervention.

While performing law enforcement operations, sworn Department members shall continue to focus on individuals' conduct or other specific suspect information. Citizens shall only be selected, stopped or detained when there exists reasonable suspicion supported by specific, articulable facts that they have committed, are committing, or are about to commit an infraction of the law.

III. DEFINITION

BIASED BASED PROFILING – The selection, detention, stopping or searching of a motor vehicle, or other disparate treatment of individuals based solely on a common trait of a group. This includes, but is not limited to, race, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, age, cultural group, or any other identifiable groups. Biased based profiling

320.80 West Warwick Police Department 04/01/2021 1 includes racial profiling, which defined by state law as “the detention, interdiction or other disparate treatment of an individual on the basis, in whole or in part, of the racial or ethnic status of such individual, except when such status is used in combination with other identifying factors in seeking to apprehend a specific suspect whose racial or ethnic status is part of the description of the suspect.”

IV. CORRECTIVE MEASURES

- A. Supervisory officers shall continuously monitor sworn Department members under their command and ensure that corrective measures are taken whenever it is determined that such officers have engaged in bias based profiling.
- B. Corrective measures may include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Counseling;
 - 2. Remedial training;
 - 3. Formal discipline;
 - 4. Dismissal.
- C. The processing of civilian complaints related to bias based profiling, internal affairs investigations, and disciplinary action imposed as a result of internal affairs investigations shall be consistent with applicable provisions enumerated in the Department’s “Internal Affairs Investigations” policy (General Order 130.01).

VI. PROVISION

- A. The Patrol Major and the Planning and Training Lieutenant shall conduct an annual review of Department practices related to biased based profiling and forward a report to the Police Chief.
- B. Department practices related to biased based profiling may include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Citizen concerns;
 - 2. Internal affairs investigations;
 - 3. Motorist data collection information, and;
- C. Sworn personnel shall receive initial training at the RI Municipal Police Academy in biased policing issues including legal aspects, and refresher training at a minimum of once every three years thereafter.

Major Ernest Lavigne
Acting Chief of Police

Colonel Mark A. Knott
Acting Town Manager

