The Winston-Salem Police Department's (WSPD) policies and procedures are an essential part of our organization. Together, policies and procedures provide a road map for day-to-day operations. They ensure compliance with laws and regulations, give guidance for decision-making, streamline internal processes and ensure consistency in the way we conduct our investigations and operations. The WSPD operates under the authority of the Constitutional Laws of the United States of America and the Laws of the State of North Carolina. While we do not have the ability to omit Federal or State laws, we have on occasion implemented more restrictive policies than the law requires.

The WSPD is internationally accredited (since 1997) by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), which is a credentialing authority whose primary mission is to accredit public safety agencies, namely law enforcement agencies, training academies, communications centers, and campus public safety agencies. The purpose of CALEA is to improve the delivery of public safety services, primarily by maintaining a body of standards developed by public safety practitioners, covering a wide range of up-to-date public safety initiatives and recognizing professional excellence. Through the WSPD Training Staff, Planning and Accreditation Unit, Professional Standards Division and CALEA, our policies are reviewed annually. In addition, we are have an “on-site” CALEA assessment every four years. This assessment, which was last conducted during the week of March 3, 2020, is an extensive and thorough review of our policies and procedures. The outcome of this process determines if our agency has met the requirements to be reaccredited as a professional law enforcement agency utilizing the “best practices” of the profession.

Additionally, we are members of the International Association of Chief of Police (IACP), National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). These organizations are involved in law enforcement research and policy organization and they can provide upon request management services, technical assistance, and executive-level education to support law enforcement agencies. These organization help to improve the delivery of police services through the exercise of strong national leadership; public debate of police and criminal justice issues; and research and policy development. Several members of our Command Staff are members of these organizations and have attended forums and training from them, as well as receive daily and monthly publications of law enforcement philosophies and trends associated with our profession.
The Mission of the Winston-Salem Police Department is to protect life and property by providing exceptional police services to our community in partnership with the citizens of Winston-Salem.

We will achieve our mission through the consistent application of our core values:

**Service, Integrity, Professionalism and Fairness and Impartiality.**

The following policies and procedures are being provided for your review:

- General Order 7.13 Professional Responsibility Philosophy of Enforcement
- General Order 1.27 Use of Force
- Techniques of Traffic Law Enforcement
- Arrest, Search and Seizure/Constitutional Law
- Juvenile Laws and Procedures
- Ethics for Professional Law Enforcement

Chokeholds, strangleholds or carotid restraints are not mentioned in our policies because they are not taught in our police academy or during annual in-service training. Officers are explicitly instructed to use ONLY the techniques taught during training by WSPD instructors.

The WSPD adopted the community oriented policing philosophy in 1989. Community- oriented policing is a strategy of policing that focuses on building ties and working closely with members of the communities. The main idea is to build bridges to develop trust and legitimacy efforts.

Respectfully,

Catrina A. Thompson
Chief of Police