

Lesson Title: Ethical Awareness		Course: DJCS Peace Officer Basic Course
Duration [Hour(s)]: 2 Hours	Prepared by: Kevin H. McGovern Date: 01/11/2012	Page <u> 1 </u> of <u> 3 </u>
Method of Presentation: Lecture / Handouts		Instructor:
Course Description: This block of instruction shall, at minimum, contain the following objectives and expand on ethical awareness and professionalism of Peace/Police Officers		
Student Training Objective(s): At the completion of this module, each student, without reference to notes (from memory), unless otherwise stated, will be able to orally or in writing:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define Ethics. • List at least three (3) unethical practices. • List at least two (2) external agencies that review unethical conduct. • 		
Trainee Reference(s): Handouts PowerPoint Blackboard		Training Aid(s) Recommended: PowerPoint Instructor Notes
Instructor Reference(s): NYPD Academy Guide NYS Penal Law		

I - Introduction of Instructor:: The instructor will introduce:

- Him/herself
- Experience

II - Introduction: Peace/Police Officers must treat all persons with respect, regardless of their age, sex, race, or social/economic status. Peace Officers are not expected, and may not judge persons by their social arrangements (relationship status, etc.) or their political beliefs. All persons are expected to be treated equally regardless of our own personal lifestyles or political views and/or convictions.

III – Ethics / Abuse of Authority: The personnel of an organization are the organization’s most valuable asset. The manner in which personnel within that organization act will likely determine if the organization is a success or failure. Peace Officers, as well as Police Officers, because of the unique nature of our work, are held to a much higher standard than that of the public. Personnel that are competent and perform duties in a positive, professional, and ethical manner promote a favorable image. The reverse also applies: dishonest, unethical personnel the conduct unethical acts foster a poor image.

- Integrity: is defined as a “firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values”, or incorruptibility and is synonymous with honesty.
- Ethics: is defined as “the discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation” and “ a set of moral principles or values” or “The principles of conduct governing an individual or a group.
- Professional: A person who conforms to the technical or ethical standards of a professional.

IV – Ethics involved a value for one thing over another

- A choice of “good” over “bad”
- Ethics infers acting on principle in order to help someone
- Ethics is a system of moral principles which lead to the highest good.

V – Ethics and abuse of authority: Ethics are established principles of conduct. They are standards that guide our personal and vocational actions. Dan Carlson, Associate Director of the Southwestern Law Enforcement Institute, states that one way of defining ethics is, “doing the right thing, when nobody will know if you do the wrong thing.”

Abuse of authority constitutes unethical conduct. A Peace Officer is employed to act as the protector of the public; to provide helping services and to preserve order. Peace Officers, as well as Peace Officers, as always in the public eye and are held to a higher standard. We take an oath to faithfully discharge our duties of our office, duties that reflect the moral voice of the community as embodied in its laws. When we fail to perform these duties or break our oath, we commit grave breaches of professional ethics and negate the very reason of our employment. At times, a Peace Officer might forget where his or her power comes from (it comes from the people) and that we exist to protect and serve the people. We must strive to keep our behavior consistent with the ideas of professionalism. If you see contradictions between professionalism and what you see some other Peace Officers do, resist the temptations to join them. Be a leader, not a follower. Lets look at some of examples of unethical practices:

- Excessive use of Force
- False arrest and/or detention
- Illegal search and seizure
- Impersonation of Police Officer
- Failure to report a criminal act
- Violation of company/agency rules and regulations
- Accepting bribes or unauthorized gratuities
- Falsifying reports
- Exhibiting favoritism
- Stealing time
- Lying under oath during official investigations/questioning
- EEO issues
- Conflicts of interest issues

VI – Accountability in New York City: besides your individual Agencies, there are several external agencies that can review your actions and/or incidents, including:

- NYPD License Division/Special Patrolman Section
- 311 Complaints
- NYC Board of Ethics/Conflict of Interest Board
- OEEO (Office of Equal Employment Opportunity)
- IG (Inspector General Office)

VII – Penal Law Offenses relating to ethical misconduct:

Sec. 200.00 Bribery in the third degree.

A person is guilty of bribery in the third degree when he confers, or offers or agrees to confer, any benefit upon a public servant upon an agreement or understanding that such public servant's vote, opinion, judgment, action, decision or exercise of discretion as a public servant will thereby be influenced. Bribery in the third degree is a class D felony.

Sec. 200.10 Bribe receiving in the third degree.

A public servant is guilty of bribe receiving in the third degree when he solicits, accepts or agrees to accept any benefit from another person upon an agreement or understanding that his vote, opinion, judgment, action, decision or exercise of discretion as a public servant will thereby be influenced. Bribe receiving in the third degree is a class D felony.