



# CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE

## GENERAL POLICE ORDER



EFFECTIVE DATE: NOVEMBER 9, 2020	CHAPTER: 4 - Field Operations	PAGE: 1 of 2	NUMBER: 4.06.01
SUBJECT: BODY ARMOR			
CHIEF: <i>Calvin D. Williams, Chief</i>			

*Substantive changes are italicized*

**PURPOSE:** To provide guidelines for the use and maintenance of body armor.

**POLICY:** *It is the policy of the Cleveland Division of Police* to maximize officer safety by providing and requiring the proper wearing of body armor. The Division shall issue body armor to sworn officers and replace it according to the manufacturer’s recommended serviceable replacement schedule. Division-issued body armor shall comply with the National Institute of Justice *Body Armor Performance Standards NIJ HG2*.

**PROCEDURES:**

I. Officer Responsibilities

A. Officers shall:

1. Wear their Division-issued body armor while on duty, and when engaged in secondary employment of a law enforcement nature, except as stated in section II.
2. Wear their body armor in compliance with manufacturer instructions either under the shirt or inside an approved external carrier.
3. Properly store and clean body armor according to the manufacturer’s instructions and inspect it daily for cleanliness and damage.
4. Turn in body armor upon separation from the Division with pending discipline or termination.

II. Exceptions

A. Officer are exempt from wearing body armor when:

1. The *Safety Medical Unit physician* determines that a medical condition precludes wearing body armor.
2. Involved in a plain clothes or undercover operation when an immediate supervisor concurs that wearing body armor could compromise the officer’s duties.
3. Engaged in administrative duties inside a police facility. Body armor shall be readily available regardless of an officer’s responsibilities.
4. Off-duty attending court or consulting with the prosecutor.

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5. Attending or engaged in public speaking engagements *as approved by an immediate supervisor.*
6. Instructing or attending approved training unless wearing body armor is required by the curriculum.
7. Determined by the Chief of Police *or Chief's designee.*

III. Loss, Theft, or Damage

- A. Officers shall follow the procedures in General Police Order 6.04.03 City Property - Damaged, Lost, or Stolen for any lost, damaged, or stolen City-issued equipment.
- B. Reimbursements shall comply with current City and Division depreciation values.

**THIS ORDER SUPERSEDES ANY PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DIRECTIVE OR POLICY FOR THIS SUBJECT AND WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE UNTIL RESCINDED OR SUPERSEDED.**