

GENERAL ORDER



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Subject

Command Succession to Acting Chief of Police

Topic / Series / Number

GO-OMA-101.08

Effective Date

November 20, 2009

Replaces

GO-OMA-101.08 (Command Succession to Acting Chief of Police), Effective Date June 4, 2004

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I. BACKGROUND

Police departments are paramilitary organizations whose operations are dependent upon command and control. Certainty and clarity about who has the authority to direct the members of the Metropolitan Police Department is necessary at all times. The purpose of this order is to delineate the command succession to Acting Chief of Police.

II. POLICY

The policy of the Metropolitan Police Department is to ensure that continuity of command exists under all circumstances.

III. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

A. The order of succession to Acting Chief of Police in the event of death, serious injury, or any event causing the Chief of Police to be unable to perform the duties of his/her office, shall be the following:

1. Executive Officer, Executive Office of the Chief of Police;
2. Assistant Chief, Patrol Services and School Security Bureau;
3. Assistant Chief, Investigative Services Bureau;
4. Assistant Chief, Internal Affairs Bureau;
5. Remaining Assistant Chiefs in order of succession;
6. Commanders in order of succession; and

7. Inspectors in order of succession.
- B. The order of succession for the officials listed in Part III.A.5 though 7 above shall be determined by seniority on the Metropolitan Police Department within Rank and Grade.
 - C. The Acting Chief of Police shall have the authority of the Chief of Police and the responsibility for making necessary decisions and issuing appropriate orders for the Metropolitan Police Department and to its members.
 - D. The Acting Chief of Police shall keep the delegated authority until the Chief of Police returns to duty. If the Chief of Police is unable to return to duty, the Acting Chief of Police shall keep the delegated authority until the Mayor appoints an acting or permanent Chief of Police.
 - E. As soon as practicable, each Assistant Chief of Police shall establish and submit to the Chief of Police, by organizational title, a line of succession among Commanders, Inspectors and Directors to serve as Acting Assistant Chief or Executive Director when the Assistant Chief or Executive Director is on leave or otherwise unable to perform his/her duties and responsibilities. The Chief of Police shall be notified in writing of any changes to the line of succession.



Cathy L. Lanier
Chief of Police

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