

SAUK CENTRE POLICE DEPARTMENT
Law Enforcement
Policies and Procedures

Subject: Impartial Policing	Policy Number: 160
Issue Date:	Revision Date:
Approval Authority: Sauk Centre City Council	

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Sauk Centre Police Department to provide service and enforce laws in a fair and equitable manner to all. This policy reaffirms the department's commitment to impartial/unbiased policing and is intended to meet the requirements of Minnesota State Statute 626.8471.

PROCEDURE:

A. Policing Impartially

1. Investigative detentions, pedestrian and vehicle stop arrests, searches and property seizures by officers will be based on a standard of reasonable suspicion or probable cause in accordance with the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution. Officers must be able to articulate specific facts, circumstances and conclusions that support reasonable suspicion or probable cause for investigative detentions, pedestrian and vehicle stops, arrests, nonconsensual searches and property seizures.
2. Except as provided in paragraph (3), officers shall not consider race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation and religion in establishing either reasonable suspicion or probable cause.
3. Officers may take into account the descriptions in paragraph (2) of a specific suspect(s) based on information that links specific, suspected, unlawful or suspicious activity to a particular individual or group of individuals. This information may be used in the same manner officers use specific information regarding age, height, weight, etc. about specific suspects.

B. Preventing Perceptions of Biased Policing – Procedural Guidelines

1. Be respectful and professional.
2. Introduce or identify yourself as a member of the Sauk Centre Police Department to the citizen and state the reason for the contact as soon as practical, unless providing this information will compromise officer or public safety.
3. Ensure that the detention is no longer than necessary to take appropriate action for the known or suspected offense.
4. Attempt to answer any relevant questions the citizen may have regarding the citizen/officer contact, including relevant referrals to other agencies when appropriate.
5. When requested, provide your name and badge number in writing or on a business card.
6. Explain and/or apologize if you determine the reasonable suspicion was unfounded (e.g. after an investigatory stop).

C. Supervision and Accountability

Supervisors shall ensure that all personnel in their command are familiar with the content of this policy and are operating in compliance with it. Formal complaints received from the public and those received through the POST Board concerning allegations of violations of impartial policing will be investigated by this department following department complaint procedures.

