

Update from Police Chief Mangseth

This year, one of the Police Department's (PD) strategic plan goals was to review and update the department's policy manual in order to ensure that policies reflect the Vision and Mission of the City of St. Anthony and PD, along with adhering to principles that are consistent with Procedural Justice, Fair and Impartial Policing standards.

During our extensive work with the Collaborative Reform Initiative for Technical Assistance (CIRTA) in 2018, we requested and received training with policy review and development, directly focusing on policies that were originally outlined as priorities in the Community Identified Work Plan:

- Traffic and pedestrian safety
- Use of force
- De-escalation tactics
- Emergency response and pursuit driving
- Fair and impartial policing
- Procedural justice
- Responding to people with a mental illness, or suffering from mental and emotional distress

This has been a significant project that began in January, and is now coming to its completion after a thorough review by Lexipol, a public safety policy and training resource for law enforcement, fire and rescue, and corrections. This review process ensured that the department's overall policy development is grounded in federal, state, and local laws, and includes pertinent case law.

In addition to the work done with Lexipol, we consulted with both the Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board, and the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust, focusing on industry best practices.

We are currently engaged in pursuing completion of one of the final objectives related to the policy manual, which includes issuing the policies, training staff, and ensuring compliance.

Our main goal is to serve and protect, through improving the overall quality of life by preserving the peace and safety of our entire community. We remain mindful that policing involves this partnership with all of our community members. Staff will work cooperatively to ensure the PD is actively and continuously working towards the goals and objectives outlined in our strategic plan, which will continue to aid in focusing our resources, making data-driven decisions, and evaluating how we receive and channel feedback from all stakeholders. Furthermore, we will continue to identify and prioritize issues that may arise within the department and the community, while developing solutions.