

**COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
GENERAL ORDER**

<b>TITLE:</b> BIAS POLICING	<b>GENERAL ORDER:</b> 11.6 <b>(High Risk)</b>
<b>EFFECTIVE:</b> February 6, 2013	<b>AMENDED:</b> October 21, 2020
<b>RESCINDS:</b> CCSO Directive 3392.00 dated February 1, 2006 and all applicable Amended/Temporary Orders prior to February 1, 2006	<b>PAGE(S):</b> Page 1 Paragraph E.5
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**A. PURPOSE:** The purpose of this order is to establish guidelines for preventing any type of bias policing.

**B. SCOPE:** This order shall apply to all sworn and certified Sheriff's Office members.

**C. DISCUSSION:** It is the responsibility of the Sheriff's Office to provide law enforcement services to the public. In accomplishing this, deputies must be observant, identify unusual occurrences and law violations, using reasonable suspicion, and act upon them. It is this proactive enforcement that keeps our citizens, our streets, and our highways safer. It further enables us in detecting and apprehending criminals. All laws shall be enforced equally, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, sex, physical handicap, or religion and bias policing shall not be tolerated in enforcement efforts.

**D. POLICY:** It shall be the policy of the Sheriff's Office to enforce applicable laws for all, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, sex, physical handicap, or religion. It shall further be policy that bias policing shall not be used in traffic contacts, field contacts, searches and seizures and asset seizure, forfeiture efforts or other law enforcement activities.

**E. PROCEDURE:**

1. The Sheriff's Office shall not use any type of bias policing in providing any law enforcement services to the citizens of the county, as prescribed by Section 30.15(3), F.S. For procedures in these specific areas, please refer to the following General Orders:

**a. Traffic Contacts:** G.O. 42.2, Traffic Law Enforcement.

**b. Asset Seizure/Forfeiture:** G.O. 100.8, Forfeiture of Assets Under the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act.

2. **Training:** In accordance with the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC) requirements, all sworn members shall be provided in-service training on fair and impartial policing, including legal aspects in accordance with Florida Statutes. **[CFA 2.06A]**

3. **Community Education and Awareness:** Community education and awareness shall be made available to the citizens through the Community Services Unit. **[CFA 2.06D]**

4. **Citizen Complaints:** Supervisors shall review profiling complaints, reports filed on traffic stops by deputies, and respond at random to back up deputies on vehicle stops. Immediate and appropriate action shall be taken whenever it appears that this policy is being violated as delineated in G.O. 33.5, Disciplinary Procedures, and G.O. 52.1, Citizen Complaints, Administrative Inquiries and Investigations. Community education and awareness shall be available to the citizens. **[CFA 2.06B, F]**

5. **Annual Review:** The Patrol Lieutenant shall prepare and make available a statistical summary report on all complaints against the agency and its members, to include a review of agency practices and any allegations of fair and impartial policing, by April 1 of each year. **[CFA 2.06E]**

**F. GLOSSARY:** [CFA 2.06C]

BIAS POLICING - The inappropriate consideration of specified characteristics while enforcing the law or providing police services. Specified characteristics includes, but is not limited to, race, ethnic background, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, age, disability, political status, or any other legally protected characteristics.

**G. INDEXING:**

ARTICULABLE SUSPICION  
COMMUNITY SERVICES UNIT  
BIAS POLICING

**H. ACCREDITATION STANDARDS:**

CFA 2.06M

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**DRAFTED:** 953/February 6, 2013/Filed:11.6/ CFA5ed

**AMENDED:**  
October 21, 2020

**APPROVED:**   
MARK HUNTER  
SHERIFF, COLUMBIA COUNTY