

# GENERAL ORDER



Title  
**Command Succession to Acting Chief of Police**

Topic/Number  
**GO-OMA-101.08**

Effective Date  
**June 4, 2004**

Distribution  
**A**

Rescinds/Replaces  
**GO-OMA-101.8 (Command Succession to Acting Chief of Police) dated May 6, 2002**

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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## I. BACKGROUND

Police Departments are paramilitary organizations whose operations are dependent on command and control. Certainty and clarity is necessary at all times about who has the authority to direct the members of the Metropolitan Police Department. 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 the death, serious injury, or catastrophic event, causing the Chief of Police to be unable to perform the duties of his/her office shall be the following:

1. Executive Assistant Chief;
2. Assistant Chief in charge of the Special Services Command;
3. Senior Two-Star Assistant Chiefs and then in order of succession;
4. Senior One-Star Assistant Chiefs and then in order of succession;
5. Commander of the Special Operations Division;
6. Senior Commander and then in order of succession;
7. Senior Inspector and then in order of succession.

Note: Civilian Senior Executive Directors shall continue in their present positions.

- B. Seniority in grade shall determine the order of succession when there are multiple members in a category, as indicated on the official "Seniority Roster by Rank and Time in 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 Department and to its members.
- D. The Acting Chief of Police shall keep the delegated authority until the Chief of Police returns to duty. In the event that 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. Each Assistant Chief and Senior Executive Director shall establish and submit to the Chief of Police, by organizational title, a rotating line of succession among Commanders and Directors to serve as Acting Assistant Chief or Senior Executive Director when the Assistant Chief or Senior Executive Director is absent on annual or extended sick leave or otherwise unable to perform his/her duty. The Chief of Police shall be notified in writing of any rearrangement to the line of succession.

// SIGNED //  
Charles H. Ramsey  
Chief of Police

CHR:NMJ:MAR:njg