

APPEARANCE REQUIREMENTS

General Appearance Requirements

Members who are on duty, whether in uniform or civilian clothes, shall be neat and clean in appearance.

Members shall maintain their uniforms and equipment in serviceable condition.

Appearance at Courts and Hearings

When wearing a uniform, members shall wear the uniform of the day or the Class "A" uniform, as prescribed by G.O. PER-110.11.

Any member attending any court or hearing shall not wear casual sportswear, shorts, jeans, or tennis shoes.

Male police officers

Male police officers attending court or hearings in civilian dress shall wear the following attire at all times.

A dress shirt, necktie, tied in a knot of the member's choice and drawn to cover the top button of the shirt, with the collar fastened, suit or sport coat, slacks, socks, and dress shoes.

Female police officers

Female police officers attending court or hearings in civilian dress shall wear the following attire at all times.

A dress, skirt and blouse, or pants suit and dress shoes. Skirts or dresses shall be no higher than three (3) inches above the knees. Splits or vents in skirts or dresses shall not exceed three (3) inches in length.

Appearance at Adult Papering, Witness Conferences and Administrative Proceedings.

When papering adult cases, attending witness conferences or, handling administrative matters requiring check-in at Court Liaison, members may appear in conservative casual attire such as:

Casual slacks (e.g. "Dockers, khaki type pants); Collar or collar-less sport or casual shirts (e.g. Polo, Henley, mock neck, turtleneck, sweater shirt);

Pullover or button type casual or sport shirt;

Casual jackets (i.e. "Members Only," "Eisenhower" type jackets);

Split skirts,

Socks or stockings, and

Casual/dress shoes.

Members shall not wear the following attire:

Denim jeans;

Shorts or cut off pants of any length, torn, ripped, or cut out pants, painter pants; bib overalls, or denim jumpsuits;

Tee shirts, sweat shirts or sweat suits, thermal shirts, "muscle shirts," halter, tube, midriff, see-through or fish-net woven type tops, athletic attire of any type, leggings, spandex pants or skirts;

Sandals, flip-flop type shoes, tennis shoes of any type;

Any article of clothing, visible to the public, that contains language of a social, economic or political nature that might be considered as an advocacy statement, or which might create controversy;

Sundresses or backless dresses.

GROOMING OF MALE POLICE OFFICERS

Hair

Hair shall be neat, clean, and trimmed to present a groomed appearance.

It shall be worn at a length that will permit the uniform hat to fit securely on the head and in conformity with this order.

Hair on the sides of the head may touch the top of the ears, but shall not cover any portion of the outside surface of the ear.

Hair on the back of the head may touch, but shall not extend below, the mid-point of the shirt collar in the rear.

Hair shall be groomed so that, when the member wears the uniform hat or helmet, the hair does not fall below the eye-brows or bunch out to the front, side, or rear of the headgear.

Extreme or fad style haircuts, such as the following, are prohibited:

Mohawks, tracks, designs, or sculptures cut into the hair, decorations, or ducktails, ponytails, or pigtails.

Cornrows, braids or dreadlocks are permitted as long as they conform to the above length and are neat in appearance.

Hair color shall consist of only natural hair colors. Extreme or fad type artificial hair colors (e.g., purple, pink, green, etc.) are prohibited.

Sideburns

Male police officers who choose to wear sideburns shall ensure that they:

Are neatly trimmed,

Do not extend more than three-quarters (3/4) of an inch beyond the lower edge of the ear,

End with a clean shaven horizontal line, and

If flared, are no wider than one and one-half (1-1/2) inches at the bottom.

Facial Hair

The face shall be left clean shaven, except as provided below:

A well trimmed mustache is permissible on the condition that:

The mustache shall not extend more than one-quarter (1/4) of an inch below or beyond the line of an individual's upper lip; and

Handlebar mustaches and goatees are prohibited.

A full beard is only permissible with a medical waiver. It shall not exceed one-quarter (1/4) of an inch in length and it must be well trimmed.

GROOMING OF FEMALE POLICE OFFICERS

Hair

Female police officers shall keep their hair clean, neat, and styled to present an attractive appearance consistent with the type of duty performed.

It shall be worn at a length that will permit the uniform hat to fit securely on the head and in conformity with this order.

Hair shall be groomed so that, when the member wears the uniform hat or helmet, the hair does not fall below the eye-brows or bunch out to the front, side, or rear of the headgear.

When in uniform, female police officers shall arrange their hair so that it does not extend below the mid-point of the shirt collar.

Cornrows, braids or dreadlocks may be worn as long as they don't interfere with the proper wearing of the hat or helmet, conform to the above length and are neat in appearance. Wigs or hairpieces may be worn if they conform to the standards for natural hair.

Extreme or fad type hairstyles or colors, as listed above for policemen, are prohibited.

Hair Ornaments

No decoration (e.g. bows, ribbons, and decorative clips) shall be worn in the hair.

Items used to hold hair in place will be of a plain design and concealed as much as possible. These items will be of a natural color that blends with the hair.

Makeup

Makeup, if worn, shall be subdued and natural looking.

Cosmetics shall be applied so that colors blend with natural skin tone and enhance natural features.

Exaggerated or faddish cosmetic styles are prohibited.

Fingernails

If fingernail polish is worn, only light color, skin color or clear, polish shall be used.

While on duty, members shall not have any object affixed to their fingernails.

Female police officers shall not allow their fingernails to extend more than one-quarter (1/4) of an inch beyond their fingertips.

Fingernails shall be kept clean.

GENERAL GROOMING OF MALE AND FEMALE POLICE OFFICERS

Members may groom themselves according to their own personal preference, provided that such grooming conforms to the standards for, and does not interfere with or detract from, the proper wearing of uniforms or equipment.

Tattoos

Whenever possible tattoos shall be covered when in uniform.

Tattoos that cannot be covered shall not contain language or characterizations that are derogatory or offensive to any social, economic or ethnic group.

Eyewear

Conservative design prescription eyeglasses may be worn.

Eyeglasses or sunglasses that are faddish in style or color, or have lenses or frames with initials or other adornments, shall not be worn (Faddish colors are those such as, but not limited to, bright, iridescent or fluorescent yellow, orange, red, etc.).

Sunglasses may be of green, gray, brown, or other conservative tint, and shall have undecorated frames.

Mirrored or opaque "designer" sunglasses are prohibited for on duty use.

Jewelry

Pins, insignias, or buttons, which are not specifically issued by the department or authorized by Title 6A of the DCMR or this order, shall not be worn or attached to any portion of the uniform so that they are, or may become, visible to the public.

Male police officers shall not wear earring(s) while on or off duty and in uniform.

Female police officers in uniform:

May wear small, plain button earrings of gold, silver, diamond, or pearl not to exceed one-half (1/2) in diameter;

Shall not wear loop, ring, or dangle earrings; and

Shall not wear more than two (2) earrings per ear.

Jewelry displayed as a result of body piercing, in areas other than the ears, shall not be worn on or off duty while in uniform.

Members are additionally prohibited from wearing the following jewelry items that are considered excessive:

More than one bracelet (not to exceed one [1] inch in diameter) per arm;

More than one necklace or neck chain (not to exceed one-quarter [1/4] of an inch in width or diameter). Attachments such as charms, medallions, etc., shall be covered by the member's uniform and/or undergarment;

More than two rings per hand (note: wedding and engagement ring combinations are considered one ring).