

## Oath of Office

### 104.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that oaths, when appropriate, are administered to Department members.

#### 104.1.1 RESPECT FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

No person has a constitutional right to violate the law; neither may any person be deprived of his/her constitutional rights merely because he/she is suspected of having committed a crime. The task of determining the constitutionality of a statute lies with an appellate court of proper jurisdiction, not with an officer who seeks to properly enforce the law as it exists. Therefore, an officer may enforce any federal, state or local statute which is valid on its face without fear of abrogating the constitutional rights of the person violating the statute. An officer who lawfully acts within the scope of his/her authority does not deprive persons of their civil liberties. The officer may within the scope of his/her authority make reasonable inquiries, conduct investigations, and arrest on probable cause. However, when an officer exceeds his/her authority by unreasonable conduct, the officer violates the sanctity of the law which he/she is sworn to uphold.

### 104.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Barstow Police Department that, when appropriate, Department members affirm the oath of their office as an expression of commitment to the constitutional rights of those served by the Department and the dedication of its members to their duties.

### 104.3 OATH OF OFFICE

All Department members, when appropriate, shall take and subscribe to the oaths or affirmations applicable to their positions. All sworn members shall be required to affirm the oath of office expressing commitment and intent to respect constitutional rights in discharging the duties of a law enforcement officer (Cal. Const. Art. 20, § 3; Government Code § 3102). The oath shall be as follows:

“I, (employee name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which I am about to enter.”

### 104.4 MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

The oath of office shall be filed as prescribed by law (Government Code § 3105).