

Electronic Mail

204.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the proper use and application of the electronic mail (email) system provided by the Department. Email is a communication tool available to employees to enhance efficiency in the performance of job duties. It is to be used in accordance with generally accepted business practices and current law.

204.2 EMAIL RIGHT OF PRIVACY

All email messages, including attachments, transmitted over the department networks or through a web browser accessing the department system are considered department records and therefore are the property of the Department. The Department reserves the right to access, audit and disclose for any lawful reason, all messages, including attachments, transmitted or received through its email system or placed into its storage.

The email system is not a confidential system and therefore is not appropriate for confidential communications. If a communication must be confidential, an alternate method to communicate the message should be used. Employees using the department email system shall have no expectation of privacy concerning communications transmitted over the system.

Employees should not use personal accounts to exchange email or other information that is related to the official business of the Department.

204.3 RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF EMAIL

Sending derogatory, defamatory, obscene, disrespectful, sexually suggestive, harassing or any other inappropriate messages on the email system is prohibited and may result in discipline.

Email messages addressed to the entire department are only to be used for official business-related items that are of particular interest to all users. All email is subject to review and scrutiny with regard to appropriate content or violation of any prohibitions. In the event that a user has questions about sending a particular email communication, the user should seek prior approval from the Chief of Police or a Division Commander.

It is a violation of this policy to transmit a message under another user's name or email address or to use the password of another to log into the system. Users are required to log off the network or secure the workstation when the computer is unattended. This added security measure would minimize the misuse of an individual's email, name and/or password.