

Pelican Rapids PD Policy Manual

Law Enforcement Policy

CHIEF'S PREFACE

Pelican Rapids Police Officers are not separate from the citizens of Pelican Rapids. We draw our authority from the will and consent of the people. The police are the instrument of the people to achieve and maintain order. Our efforts are founded on the principles of public service with an ultimate responsibility to the public.

Police officers are accountable to the people for their decisions and the subsequent consequences. A substantial percentage of police work is done in direct response to citizen complaints. This underscores the frequently unrecognized fact that members of the public are an integral part of the criminal justice system. Though many factors play a role in the success of the system, citizen participation is preeminent. Public confidence in the criminal justice system depends primarily on the trust that the people have in their police.

Policing in America involves a special trust given to us by the public to uphold and enforce the law. It is the duty of all employees of this department to uphold this trust and not act or behave in a manner which could erode this trust. As mentioned, there is no single set of rules that encompass or provide direction for every situation we as a police department will encounter. To that end it is the duty and obligation of every employee of this department to ascribe to and adopt the following cannon as a code of conduct in the performance of their duties- "We will strive to do the right thing, the right way, for the right reasons and at the right time."

The fundamental purpose and role of the police in a free society is the protection of constitutional guarantees, maintenance of public order, crime prevention and suppression, and dutiful response to the needs of the community.