

Commendations and Awards

1014.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides general guidelines for recognizing commendable or meritorious acts of members of the Merced Police Department and individuals from the community.

1014.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Merced Police Department to recognize and acknowledge exceptional individual or group achievements, performance, proficiency, heroism and service of its members and individuals from the community through commendations and awards.

1014.3 COMMENDATIONS

Commendations for members of the Department or for individuals from the community may be initiated by any department member or by any person from the community.

1014.4 CRITERIA

A meritorious or commendable act may include, but is not limited to:

- Superior handling of a difficult situation.
- Conspicuous bravery or outstanding performance.
- Any action or performance that is above and beyond typical duties.

1014.4.1 DEPARTMENT MEMBER DOCUMENTATION

Members of the Department should document meritorious or commendable acts. The documentation should contain:

- (a) Identifying information:
 1. For members of the Department - name, division and assignment at the date and time of the meritorious or commendable act
 2. For individuals from the community - name, address, telephone number
- (b) A brief account of the meritorious or commendable act with report numbers, as appropriate.
- (c) The signature of the member submitting the documentation.

1014.4.2 COMMUNITY MEMBER DOCUMENTATION

Documentation of a meritorious or commendable act submitted by a person from the community should be accepted in any form. However, written documentation is preferred. Department members accepting the documentation should attempt to obtain detailed information regarding the matter, including:

- (a) Identifying information:

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1. For members of the Department - name, division and assignment at the date and time of the meritorious or commendable act
 2. For individuals from the community - name, address, telephone number
- (b) A brief account of the meritorious or commendable act with report numbers, as appropriate.
- (c) The signature of the person submitting the documentation.

1014.4.3 PROCESSING DOCUMENTATION

Documentation regarding the meritorious or commendable act of a member of the Department should be forwarded to the appropriate Division Captain for his/her review. The Division Captain should sign and forward the documentation to the Chief of Police for his/her review.

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee will present the commendation to the department member for his/her signature. The documentation will then be returned to the Administration secretary for entry into the member's personnel file.

Documentation regarding the meritorious or commendable act of an individual from the community should be forwarded to the Division Captain. The documentation will be signed by the Division Captain and forwarded to the Chief of Police for his/her review. An appropriate venue or ceremony to acknowledge the individual's actions should be arranged. Documentation of the commendation shall be maintained in a file designated for such records.

1014.5 AWARDS

Awards may be bestowed upon members of the Department and individuals from the community. These awards include:

- Medal of Bravery.- (Blue bar with 3 stars)
 - Awarded for individual acts of extraordinary bravery intelligently performed in the line of duty at imminent and personal danger to life. Specifically, the Department Medal of Bravery is awarded for acts of gallantry and valor performed with knowledge of the risk involved, above and beyond the call of duty.
- Medal of Valor - (Red, white, and blue bar with Medal)
 - Awarded for acts of outstanding personal bravery intelligently performed in the line of duty at imminent personal hazard to life under circumstances evincing a disregard of personal consequences.
- Medal of Lifesaving - (Lifesaving bar). Awarded at Chief's discretion.
- Medals for Meritorious Conduct include:
 - Honorable Mention -(Blue bar with 2 stars)
 - Awarded for an act of extraordinary bravery intelligently performed in the line of duty at imminent and personal danger to life.
 - Exceptional Merit - (Blue bar with 1 star)

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- Awarded for an act of bravery intelligently performed involving personal risk of life.
- Integrity - (Blue bar with 1 star)
 - Awarded for grave personal danger in the performance of duty, OR a highly creditable, unusual police accomplishment.
- Community Service - (Solid blue bar)
 - Awarded for an act which demonstrates devotion to Community service or an idea implemented that improves conditions within a Community.
- Meritorious Police Duty - (Solid blue bar)
 - Awarded for an act of intelligent and valuable police service demonstrating special faithfulness or perseverance, OR high creditable acts of police service over a period of time.

Criteria for each award and the selection, presentation and display of any award are determined by the Chief of Police.