
Organizational Structure and Responsibility

200.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The organizational structure of this department is designed to create an efficient means to accomplish our mission and goals and to provide for the best possible service to the public.

200.2 DIVISIONS

The Chief of Police is responsible for administering and managing the Merced Police Department. There are three divisions in the Police Department as follows:

- Administration Division
- Patrol Division
- Investigation Division

200.2.1 ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

The Administration Division is commanded by a Captain whose primary responsibility is to provide general management direction and control for the Administration Division. The Administration Division consists of Technical Services and Administrative Services.

200.2.2 OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Operations Division is commanded by a Captain whose primary responsibility is to provide general management direction and control for that Division. The Operations Division consists of Uniformed Patrol and some Special Operations, which includes Traffic, Communications Center, Animal Control/Code Enforcement and Police Aides/Assistants.

200.2.3 INVESTIGATION DIVISION

The Investigation Division is commanded by a Captain whose primary responsibility is to provide general management direction and control for the Investigation Division. The Investigation Division consists of the Investigations Bureau, Crime Analysis Unit, Property Bureau, Forensic Services, and some Special Operations.

200.3 COMMAND PROTOCOL

200.3.1 UNITY OF COMMAND

The principles of unity of command ensure efficient supervision and control within the Department. Generally, each employee shall be accountable to one supervisor at any time for a given assignment or responsibility. Except where specifically delegated authority may exist by policy or special assignment (e.g., K-9, SWAT), any supervisor may temporarily direct any subordinate if an operational necessity exists.

200.3.2 ORDERS

Members shall respond to and make a good faith and reasonable effort to comply with the lawful order of superior officers and other proper authority.