

PROVIDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

 HEADQUARTERS
 COLONEL OSCAR L. PEREZ
 CHIEF OF POLICE

TYPE OF ORDER	NUMBER/SERIES	ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
General Order	340.01	10/20/2025	10/20/2025
SUBJECT TITLE		PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DATES	
Wearing and Care of Body Armor		6/2/2022; 4/21/2019; 1/6/2016; Amends G.O. #9 Series 2011, 7/07/2011	
REFERENCE		RE-EVALUATION DATE	
CALEA 41.3.5, 41.3.6		4/21/2028	
SUBJECT AREA		DISTRIBUTION	
Law Enforcement Operations		All Sworn Personnel	

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide law enforcement officers with guidelines for the wearing and care of body armor.

POLICY

It is the policy of the Providence Police Department that all sworn officers are provided with body armor in order to maximize officer safety. It should be noted that although body armor provides a significant level of protection it is not a substitute for the observance of sound officer safety protocols and procedures.

DISCUSSION

For the purpose of this General Order, the following definitions shall apply:

Body Armor: An item of personal body protection worn on the torso that helps absorb the impact from firearm-fired projectiles. Also commonly referred to as a ballistic vest, bullet-proof vest, or bullet-resistant vest.

Field Activities: Duty assignments and/or tasks that place or could reasonably be expected to place officers in situations where they would be required to act in enforcement rather than administrative or support capacities.

High-Risk Operations: Any situations in which an officer reasonably anticipates the use of force and/or danger of imminent harm to himself/herself, to other officers, or to the public at large.

PROCEDURE

I. ISSUANCE OF BODY ARMOR

- A. All body armor issued must comply with protective and related requirements prescribed under the current standards of the National Institute of Justice.
- B. All officers shall be issued agency-approved body armor.
- C. Body armor that is worn or damaged shall be replaced by the agency. Body armor that must be replaced due to misuse or abuse by the officer shall be paid for by the officer.

II. USE OF BODY ARMOR

- A. Officers shall wear only the agency-approved body armor that has been issued to them by the Providence Police Department.
- B. All officers are required to wear body armor while engaged in field activities. Exceptions are allowed as follows:
 - 1. When an agency-approved physician determines that an officer has a medical condition that would preclude wearing body armor, and the physician has provided written certification to the Department;
 - 2. When an officer is involved in undercover or plain clothes work that his/her supervisor determines could be compromised by wearing body armor; or
 - 3. When a Division Commanding Officer determines that circumstances make it inappropriate to mandate wearing body armor.
- C. All personnel engaging in pre-planned, high-risk operations must wear body armor. High-risk operations include, but are not limited to, the following types of activities:
 - 1) High-Risk Warrant Service.
 - 2) Drug Raids.
 - 3) Search Warrants.
 - 4) Gang Operations.
 - 5) Buy/Bust Operations.
 - 6) Hostage/Barricade Incidents.
 - 7) Civil Disturbance/Mass Arrest Situations.
 - 8) Tactical Operations.

- D. All personnel shall wear body armor when they are at the firing range.

III. INSPECTIONS OF BODY ARMOR

- A. Supervisors shall be responsible for ensuring that body armor is worn as required by this policy through routine observation of their subordinates.

IV. CARE, MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT OF BODY ARMOR

- A. Officers shall routinely inspect personal body armor for signs of damage and for general cleanliness.
- B. As dirt and perspiration may erode ballistic panels, each officer shall be responsible for cleaning personal body armor in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- C. Officers are responsible for the proper storage, maintenance and care of body armor in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- D. Officers are responsible for reporting damage or excessive wear to the ballistic panels or cover of their personal body armor to their supervisor and to the Commanding Officer of the Human Resources Bureau.
- E. Body armor will be replaced in accordance with guidelines and protocols established by the National Institute of Justice.

APPROVED:



**COLONEL OSCAR L. PEREZ
CHIEF OF POLICE**