WEST NORRITON TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Subject: Chain of Command Protocol		Policy # 1.4.1
Accreditation 1.4.1		
Effective Date: May 29, 2008	Revised Date: December 30, 2015	
By Authority Of: Chief A. Dale Mabry	Signature: ADMabry	

1.4.1 CHAIN OF COMMAND PROTOCOL

A. PURPOSE

This general order is established to set policy guidelines for direction, chain of command, obedience of orders and agency communication and cooperation.

B. POLICY

It is the policy of the West Norriton Township Police Department to follow the guidelines of this general order.

C. CHAIN OF COMMAND PROTOCOL

1. In the event of an emergency, and until the Chief of Police can be notified, respond, and assume command, the highest ranking officer on the scene shall be responsible for incident command system (ICS) functions.

2. In emergency or exceptional situations when only minimal preparation can occur the sequential order of command will be as follows:

   a. In the absence of the Chief of Police, unless otherwise designated by the Chief of Police, the Deputy Chief of Police will, upon notification, respond to the incident and perform ICS functions until relieved by the Chief of Police.
   b. In the absence of the Deputy Chief of Police, the Administrative Sergeant will, upon notification, respond to the incident and perform ICS functions until relieved by the Deputy Chief or Chief of Police.
   c. In the absence of the Administrative Sergeant, the Patrol Sergeant in charge will, upon notification, respond to the incident and perform ICS functions until relieved by the Administrative Sergeant.
   d. In the absence of a Patrol Sergeant, an on duty-ranking officer will perform ICS functions until relieved by the Administrative Sergeant, the Deputy Chief of Police, or the Chief of Police.
   e. During incidents of responsibility not covered by Departmental Orders or Regulations where equal rank or grade are concerned due to the absence of the Chief of Police, seniority of service in grade will determine the Command Officer in charge.

C. Single operation command involving personnel of different functions.

1. During incidents where personnel of different functions are involved the shift supervisor shall be in command until relieved by a higher ranking officer.

D. Direct command of organizational components.

1. During normal day-to-day operation, command responsibilities will be the responsibility of the Deputy Chief of Police or, in the absence of the Deputy Chief of Police, of a person designated by the Chief of Police.