



## TATTOO POLICY

### Body Ornamentation and Body Art (Tattoos)

#### 1. Body Ornamentation

a. No member shall have any visible body ornamentation, with the exception of body art (tattoo).

b. No member shall use gold, platinum or any veneers or caps for the purposes of ornamentation i.e. “grill”, unless prescribed by a dentist as necessary dental work. Teeth, whether natural, capped or veneer, will not be decorated with designs, jewels, initials, etc. No member shall alter their teeth in any abnormal manner such as filing or sharpening, i.e. “vampire teeth.”

c. No Member shall have any visible, intentional/non-medical body mutilation, piercing (including tongue), branding or intentional scarring. Examples of prohibited intentional mutilation include:

- 1) Split or forked tongues;
  - 2) Foreign objects inserted under the skin to create a design or pattern;
  - 3) Enlarged or stretched out holes in the ears (other than normal piercing).
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d. Applicants in the hiring process must sign a form acknowledging they are in compliance with this policy before they may be employed. Photographs of all visible body ornamentation must be properly documented at the time of hire.

#### 2. Body Art (Tattoos)

a. No member shall have any body art that is excessive; obscene; indecent; violent; sexually explicit; sexist; advocates or symbolizes sexual acts or conduct; advocates or symbolizes prejudice or discrimination based on race, color national origin, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or age; or otherwise offensive.



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b. No member shall have any body art on any area of the body that is prejudicial to good order, discipline and morale; or is likely to bring discredit upon the St. Augustine Police Department; or is likely to associate the member with, or be interpreted as the member associated with or advocating the agenda of, any criminal or extremist gang or other group.

c. Any current member who wishes to obtain a new tattoo that would be visible in the Class B, or summer, uniform shall submit a request to their first-line supervisor requesting approval of the tattoo before obtaining any new tattoo(s). The supervisor will forward the request through the chain of command so that the request can be reviewed by the Tattoo Board, which will determine if the tattoo would be in violation of this policy. The request shall include:

1. A full-color depiction of the tattoo and the location it would appear on the member.
2. The meaning of the tattoo, if not obvious, and an attestation that the tattoo has no hidden meaning that would otherwise be a violation of this policy.

d. Once the Tattoo Board has decided by a majority vote of the approval or disapproval of the tattoo, they will compile a memorandum signed by all members with their decision. This memorandum along with the memorandum submitted by the applying member, will be forwarded to the Chief of Police for a final decision. If the tattoo is approved, the applying member will receive written notice and may proceed with the tattoo as submitted to the Tattoo Board. A copy of the documentation related to approval or disapproval of any tattoo will be maintained in the member's personnel file.

e. Head or Neck Tattoos

- 1) Tattoos on the head or neck, including in or around the mouth area, are prohibited.
- 2) The head is defined as the portion of the body above the first cervical vertebrae (C1).
- 3) The neck is defined as the portion of the body above the collarbone in the front area, above the seventh cervical vertebrae (C7) in the back area.



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f. Hand, Finger, and Wrist Tattoos 1) Tattoos on the hands or fingers are prohibited, with the exception of a single band tattoo of P&P 5-5 Dress and Personal Appearance 13 of 13 no more than 3/8 of an inch in width on one finger of one hand. The hand is described as anywhere below the wrist bone.

