



FAILING TO PROTECT AND SERVE: POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICIES TOWARDS TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

Availability of Policy on Transgender Interactions ■

Department policies are available online, but fail to address interactions with transgender individuals.

Nondiscrimination Based on Gender Identity ■

Policy fails to explicitly prohibit the use of gender identity or expression as a basis to stop, question, search, or arrest any individual, as a sole basis for initiating contact, or as evidence of a crime. Policy does not explicitly prohibit harassment or use of language that is demeaning or derogatory to transgender people. Policy fails to explicitly prohibit asking invasive questions of transgender and gender-nonconforming people that are not relevant to the police interaction.

Nondiscrimination Based on Sexual Orientation ■

Department's Prohibition Against Biased-Based Policing 4/103.26 prohibits profiling, harassment and discrimination based on sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation.

Non-Binary Recognition ■■

Department Manual fails to mention individuals with non-binary gender identities or how search, lockup, or other policies apply to them.

Use of Respectful Communication ■■

Policy generally prohibits members from using “harsh, coarse, violent, profane, insolent, indecent, suggestive, sarcastic, or insulting language,” and requires members to “treat all persons with the courtesy and dignity inherently due every person as a human being.” However, policy does not require use of correct names and pronouns.

Department Forms ■■

Policies do not address how to record name, gender or pronoun.

Search Procedures ■■

Department’s policy states that all searches and pat downs should be performed by officers of the “same sex,” but fails to address how this applies to transgender individuals. (Searches and Pat Downs of Persons 5/200.02)

Transportation ■■

Department’s policy requires members document mileage when transporting prisoners of the “opposite sex.”. However, the policy fails to provide clear guidelines or protections for transporting transgender individuals.

Officer Sexual Misconduct ■■

Policy states that “there shall be a zero-tolerance regarding sexual abuse and sexual harassment as mandated by the PREA,” but does not clearly define officer sexual misconduct, establish prevention or oversight mechanisms, or fully incorporate PREA Lockup Standards.

Placement in Temporary Lockup ■

Department does not have temporary holding facilities.

Access to Medical Care in Lockup ■

Department does not have temporary holding facilities.

Removal of Appearance-Related Items ■■

Department policies do not address the removal of appearance related items.

Bathroom Use ■■

Department policy fails to prohibit police from monitoring public restroom use or address bathroom use in stations.



Use of Condoms as Evidence for Sex Work ■■

Policies fail to prohibit the confiscation or use of condoms as evidence.

Trainings ■■

Department policies do not require training on interactions with transgender people as part of officer training.

Cooperation with Immigration ■■

Department policy explicitly prohibits members from detaining or arresting someone based on their immigration status. However, the policy requires members to immediately notify ICE “if suspected that the person maybe a deportable alien.”

Civilian Oversight ■■

The Department’s Citizens Review Board is an independent committee that reviews complaints, and provides recommendations to the Department. However, the CRB does not produce annual reports, initiate investigations, or impose discipline.

About the National Center for Transgender Equality

The National Center for Transgender Equality advocates to change policies and society to increase understanding and acceptance of transgender people. In the nation's capital and throughout the country, NCTE works to replace disrespect, discrimination, and violence with empathy, opportunity, and justice.



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