Outside Employment

1020.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To avoid actual or perceived conflicts of interest for department employees engaging in outside employment, all employees shall initially obtain written approval from the Chief of Police prior to engaging in any outside employment. Approval of outside employment shall be at the discretion of the Chief of Police in accordance with the provisions of this policy.

Additional guidance, provisions, changes or additions may be contained in the employment agreement.

1020.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Outside employment - The employment of any member of this department who receives wages, compensation or other consideration of value from another employer, organization or individual not affiliated directly with this department for services, products or benefits rendered. For purposes of this section, the definition of outside employment includes those employees who are self-employed and not affiliated directly with this department for services, products or benefits rendered.

1020.2 MILITARY EXCEPTION

This policy does not pertain to an employee's military service commitment or obligation to any National Guard or Reserve component.

1020.3 OBTAINING APPROVAL

No member of this department may engage in any outside employment without first obtaining prior written approval of the Chief of Police. Failure to obtain prior written approval for outside employment or engaging in outside employment prohibited by this policy is grounds for disciplinary action.

To obtain approval for outside employment, the employee must complete an application that shall be submitted to the employee's immediate supervisor. The application will then be forwarded through the appropriate chain of command to the Chief of Police for consideration.

If approved, the employee will be provided with a copy of the approved application within 30 days of submitting the application. Unless otherwise indicated in writing on the approved application, an approved application will be valid through the end of the calendar year in which it is approved. Any employee seeking to continue outside employment shall submit a new application in a timely manner.

Any employee seeking approval of outside employment whose application has been denied shall be provided with a written reason for the denial of the application at the time of the denial and within 30 days of submitting the application.

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1020.3.1 APPEAL OF DENIAL OF OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

If an employee's application is denied or rescinded by the Department, the employee may file a written notice of appeal to the Chief of Police within 10 days of the date of denial.

1020.3.2 REVOCATION/SUSPENSION OF AN APPROVED OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION

Any approved outside employment application may be revoked or suspended after the employee has received written notification of the reasons for revocation or suspension. Additionally, revocation or suspension will only be implemented after the employee has exhausted the appeal process.

The outside employment may be revoked:

(a) If an employee's performance declines to a point where it is evaluated by a supervisor as needing improvement to reach an overall level of minimum acceptable competency, and the outside employment may be related to the employee's performance. The Chief of Police may, at the Chief of Police's discretion, notify the employee of the intent to revoke any previously approved outside employment application. After the appeal process has concluded, the revocation will remain in force until the employee's performance directly related to the outside employment has been re-established to the minimum level of acceptable competency.

(b) If, at any time during the term of an approved outside employment application, an employee's conduct or outside employment conflicts with the provisions of department policy, or any law.

(c) The outside employment creates an actual or apparent conflict of interest with the Department or the City.

1020.4 PROHIBITED OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

The Department expressly reserves the right to deny any application submitted by an employee seeking to engage in any activity that:

(a) Involves the employee's use of department time, facilities, equipment, or supplies, the use of the department badge, uniform, prestige, or influence for private gain or advantage.

(b) Involves the employee's receipt or acceptance of any money or other consideration from anyone other than this department for the performance of an act that the employee, if not performing such act, would be required or expected to render in the regular course or hours of employment or as a part of the employee's duties as a member of this department.

(c) Involves the performance of an act in other than the employee's capacity as a member of this department that may later be subject directly or indirectly to the control, inspection, review, audit, or enforcement of any other employee of this department.

(d) Involves time demands that would render performance of the employee's duties for this department below minimum standards or would render the employee unavailable for reasonably anticipated overtime assignments and other job-related demands that occur outside regular working hours.

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1020.4.1 OUTSIDE SECURITY EMPLOYMENT
Due to the potential conflict of interest, no member of this department may engage in any outside or secondary employment as a private security guard, private investigator, or other similar private security position.

1020.5 USE OF DEPARTMENT RESOURCES
Employees are prohibited from using any department equipment or resources in the course of or for the benefit of any outside employment unless approved by the Chief of Police. This shall include the prohibition of access to official records or databases of this department or other agencies through the use of the employee's position with this department.

1020.6 CHANGES IN OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT STATUS
If an employee terminates his/her outside employment during the period of an approved application, the employee shall promptly submit written notification of such termination to the Chief of Police through the appropriate chain of command. Any subsequent request for renewal or continued outside employment must thereafter be processed and approved through normal procedures set forth in this policy.

Employees shall also promptly submit in writing to the Chief of Police any material changes in outside employment including any change in the number of hours, type of duties or demands of any approved outside employment. Employees who are uncertain whether a change in outside employment is material shall report the change.

1020.6.1 ANNUAL REVIEW
All members who have been approved for outside employment shall resubmit the requests on an annual basis, no later than December 1st of the year in which they were approved. Any changes or updates to the outside employment shall be submitted along with any new requests. The Professional Standards Division commander shall ensure compliance with this subsection.

1020.7 OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT WHILE ON DISABILITY OR ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE
Department employees who are engaged in outside employment who are placed on disability or administrative leave or modified/light-duty shall inform their immediate supervisor in writing within five days whether they intend to continue to engage in outside employment while on such leave or light-duty status. The immediate supervisor shall review the duties of the outside employment along with any work-related doctor's orders and make a recommendation to the Chief of Police whether such outside employment should continue or the approved application be suspended or revoked.

In the event the Chief of Police determines that the outside employment should be discontinued or if the employee fails to promptly notify the supervisor of his/her intentions regarding the employment application, a notice of intent to revoke the employee's application will be forwarded to the involved employee and a copy attached to the original employment application. The revocation process outlined in this policy shall be followed.

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Criteria for revoking or suspending an approved outside employment application while on disability status or administrative leave includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(a) The outside employment is medically detrimental to the total recovery of the disabled employee, as indicated by the City's professional medical advisers.

(b) The outside employment performed requires the same or similar physical ability, as would be required of an on-duty employee.

(c) The outside employment is not compatible with the reason the employee is on administrative leave.

(d) The employee failed to make timely notice of his/her intentions to their supervisor.

When the disabled employee returns to full duty with the Fargo Police Department, a written request may be made to the Chief of Police to restore the permit.

1020.8 REVISION DATE 09/03/2024

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