

## DISPLAY OF BODY GRAPHICS

General Order

No. 207

Effective Date

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5 DEC 22

### I. POLICY:

It is the policy of the Murfreesboro Police Department to ensure an appearance consistent with professional law enforcement services by prohibiting employees from displaying offensive or excessive body graphics while on duty or acting in an official capacity. The display of body art and/or tattoos while on duty is discouraged; however, if worn, must be in full compliance with all provisions of this General Order.

### II. DEFINITIONS:

“Body Graphics”, for purposes of this General Order, shall mean any body art, including but not limited to, temporary or permanent tattoos, branding, gauging, dental ornamentation, intentional body mutilation or scarification of any type, except for piercing of the ears. Guidelines for earrings and piercings including ear gauges can be viewed in General Order 606 entitled “Personal Appearance”. Body graphics shall not include body marks caused by the administration of a vaccine or by a bona fide medical procedure. Dental ornamentation in no way precludes employees from utilizing clinically necessary devices for the purpose of aligning their jaws or teeth, or from having their teeth capped in such a way as the teeth appear in their natural state.

“Offensive”, for the purposes of this General Order includes tattoos or other body ornamentation that depict, describe, or otherwise refer to sexual conduct, acts, organs, and/or depict, describe or otherwise refer to intolerance of, or discrimination against, any race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, those detrimental to good order and discipline and incompatible with MPD’s purpose.

### III. PROCEDURES:

#### A. Display.

Non-offensive body graphics may be visible on employees while on duty unless prohibited by any of the following restrictions:

1. Body graphics may not be visible on the head, face, chest or neck.

2. The only permissible hand body graphic that may visible is a single band body graphic on one finger which shall not be wider than the width of the thumb of the wearer's opposite hand.
3. The same standards apply to civilian employees.
4. If prior approval has not been granted, all requirements of this General Order must be complied with during training sessions.

B. Method of cover.

1. Body graphics that require covering must be covered with the uniform or other clothing consistent with General Order 608 entitled "Uniform and Attire."
2. Body graphics on the head and neck area may be concealed by an employee's hair so long as the hairstyle is consistent with General Order 606 entitled "Personal Appearance"

C. Exceptions.

1. Officers who are assigned to the CID Special Investigation's Division are exempt from this while actively engaging in undercover operations and not in uniform.
2. Cosmetics (i.e., eyeliner, lips and eyebrows), provided they are natural in appearance, are exempt for this .
3. The Police Chief will consider and may approve accommodations on a case-by-case basis. An officer requesting an exception to this policy should make the request in writing directly to the Police Chief.

D. General.

1. In no way shall this policy be used to eliminate candidates from employment who can comply with its provisions, nor shall it be intended to limit the Constitutional rights of any employee.
2. Employees must comply with all requirements of the courts, other institutions, outside training facilities or agencies requiring body graphics to be covered.