

ELIZABETH POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



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SUBJECT: DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 19, 2020	ACCREDITATION STANDARDS: N/A
BY THE ORDER OF: Chief Giacomo Sacca	
BY AUTHORITY OF: Police Director Earl J. Graves	

SUPERSEDES ORDER #: G.O. #45 and G.O. #77

PURPOSE The purpose of this general order is to provide for various gradations of departmental awards or creditable mentions as forms of departmental recognition. Five departmental awards are adopted and procedures established for making these awards.

POLICY It is the policy of the Elizabeth Police Department to recognize officers for acts of valor and service that extend beyond the requirements of daily operations. Awards may be issued for individual acts or operations as a group or unit.

PROCEDURES

I. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Supervisor:

1. After receiving a report of an incident, which may be worthy of receiving an award, a supervising officer (preferably the involved officers' primary supervisor) will investigate the incident.
2. If the investigation shows such action to be warranted of a departmental award, the supervising officer will prepare and forward a *Recommendation for Commendation Report* to the Chief of Police through the chain of command.
3. Commendations should be based only upon firsthand knowledge and presented with supporting written reports. Supervisor recommendation reports should not suggest the gradation of the departmental award. The Chief of Police shall decide the gradation of all awards and shall forward all reports to the personnel bureau for filing.

B. Personnel Bureau:

1. The personnel bureau supervisor shall ensure that approved commendation reports are placed in each officer's personnel file and shall maintain a separate commendation tally record listing total commendations to date for each officer. Such record shall be continuously updated.
2. The personnel bureau shall issue commendation bars and numbers for multiple awards.

C. Commendation Recipients:

1. Commendation bars may be displayed above an officer's breast shield in descending gradation order on both daily and Class A uniforms.
2. Accepted optional commendation bars include the following:
 - a. Above the departmental award bars officers may display an American Flag commendation bar.
 - b. Officers who are the recipients of the Union County 200 Club may wear that organization's bar.
3. Understanding that officers may complete other police achievements and be recognized by additional civic associations that award commendation bars, the Chief of Police may grant permission for individual officers to wear bars not listed in this order. If an officer wishes to display a commendation bar not listed, permission must first be obtained from the Chief of Police, through the chain of command.

II. DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

- A. VALOR (Gradation 2.00) – is an award to any member of the department for an act of outstanding heroism in which the member has demonstrated in great degree the characteristics of selflessness, personal courage and devotion to duty, involving risk of life. A departmental citation bar with a green enameled background superimposed with twelve (12) gold stars will be issued to recipients of this award. Multiple awards of this type will be designated by adding the numerals 2, 3, 4, etc. to the center of the bar.
- B. MERIT (Gradation 1.00) – is an award for outstanding performance in a specific incident, which in kind or degree is clearly beyond the requirements of the job, but is not of the caliber that would qualify the recipient for the Award of Valor. A two-color enamel departmental citation bar (green and white) will be issued to recipients of this award. Multiple awards of this type will be handled in the same manner as the Award of Valor.
- C. EXCELLENT POLICE SERVICE (Gradation .75) – is an award granted to any member of the department for exceptional performance, which is not of the caliber to qualify the member for either the Award of Valor or the Award of Merit. A three-color enamel departmental citation bar (blue, white, and green) will be issued to recipients of this award. Multiple awards will be handled in the same manner as the Award of Valor.
- D. ADMINISTRATIVE POLICE SERVICE AWARD (Gradation .50) – is an award granted to any member of the department for an outstanding accomplishment, which has resulted in improved administration, improved operation, or substantial savings in staffing or operation costs, where a member has gone beyond the requirements of his normal assignments to contribute to a more effective and efficient police service. A three-color enamel departmental citation bar (green, white, blue) will be issued to recipients of this award. Multiple awards of this type are to be handled in the same manner as the Award of Valor.
- E. COMMENDATION (Gradation .25) – is an award granted to any member of the department for exceptional performance, but which is not of the caliber to qualify for the higher awards. A three-color enamel departmental citation bar (red, white, and yellow) will be issued to recipients of this award. Multiple awards of this type are to be handled in the same manner as the Award of Valor.
- F. MILITARY SERVICE BAR- is an award granted to any member of the department who has served and has been honorably discharged, or is still currently serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, in a combat theater of operation, or in direct support of that operation. A four-color enamel citation bar (blue, yellow, red, green, blue, green, red, yellow, blue) will be issued to the recipients of this award.
1. To qualify for this award, members must meet the criteria for veteran's preference in accordance with the NJ Civil Service Commission and New Jersey state law PL. 2007, Chapter 115.
 2. Veterans eligible to be compensated by the United States Veterans Administration for a service-related disability from war service in accordance with New Jersey state law PL 2007, Chapter 115 shall be eligible to wear the Military Service Bar with one (1) gold star indicator. The gold star indicator shall be placed in the center of the Military Service Bar.