General Order

Houston Police Department

ISSUE DATE:	NO.
July 16, 2019	300-28

REFERENCE: Supersedes all prior conflicting Circulars and Directives, and General Order 300-28, dated May 18, 2010

SUBJECT: USE OF INTOXICANTS

POLICY

Employees shall not use, purchase, consume, or transport *intoxicants* in a manner prohibited by this General Order.

This General Order applies to all employees.

DEFINITIONS

Intoxicant. Any drug, medicine, alcoholic beverage, or substance that affects the normal use of mental or physical faculties.

Intoxicated. Not having the normal use of mental or physical faculties by reason of the introduction of alcohol, a controlled substance, a drug, a dangerous drug, a combination of two or more of those substances, or any other substance into the body; or having an alcohol concentration at or above the concentration level as set by Section 49.01 of the Texas Penal Code.

Under the Influence of Alcohol. Having any measurable concentration of alcohol in one's blood, breath, or urine.

1 RESTRICTIONS FOR ALL EMPLOYEES

Employees shall not:

a. Consume any alcoholic beverage or other intoxicant regardless of assignment (plainclothes or uniformed) while on duty (see section 3).

b. Report for or stay on duty while under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicant.

c. Bring an alcoholic beverage into any police facility (unless it has been confiscated for destruction or evidence, or is intended to be used as a prop for undercover operations).

d. Allow an alcoholic beverage container in any City vehicle (unless it is being confiscated for destruction or evidence, or is being used or transported as a prop for undercover operations).

e. Purchase an alcoholic beverage while on duty unless it is intended to be used as a prop for undercover operations.

f. Enter or visit an *alcoholic beverage establishment* as defined in General Order 300-14, **Extra Employment**, while on duty unless the purpose of the visit is to perform official duties (see General Order 600-24, **Deconflicting Covert and Narcotics Related Operations**.)

In addition, employees who are off duty *AND* wearing a department issued uniform or wearing or displaying indices of the Police Department (e.g., displaying police identification), or who are otherwise readily identifiable as a Police Department employee, shall not:

g. Consume any alcoholic beverage or other intoxicant in public view.

h. Be *intoxicated* in public view.

i. Purchase an alcoholic beverage.

j. Enter or visit an *alcoholic beverage establishment* as defined in General Order 300-14, **Extra Employment**, unless the employees are currently working approved extra employment at that location.

2 RESTRICTIONS FOR POLICE OFFICERS

Officers shall not exercise police authority while under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicant whether on or off duty.

3 EXCEPTIONS

Division commanders may make reasonable exceptions to this General Order if the normally prohibited behavior falls within the scope of the employee's duties or responsibilities (e.g., undercover vice operations at *alcoholic beverage establishments*). Such exceptions must be documented in the division's standard operating procedures and monitored by the division commander.

Art Acevedo
Chief of Police