
Recruitment and Selection

1000.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides a framework for employee recruiting efforts and identifying job-related standards for the selection process. This policy supplements the rules that govern employment practices for the Vail Police Department and that are promulgated and maintained by the Department of Human Resources.

1000.2 POLICY

In accordance with applicable federal, state, and local law, the Vail Police Department provides equal opportunities for applicants and employees regardless of actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and any other classification or status protected by law. The Department does not show partiality or grant any special status to any applicant, employee, or group of employees unless otherwise required by law.

The Department will recruit and hire only those individuals who demonstrate a commitment to service and who possess the traits and characteristics that reflect personal integrity and high ethical standards.

1000.3 RECRUITMENT

The Investigations Division Commander shall employ a comprehensive recruitment and selection strategy to recruit and select employees from a qualified and diverse pool of candidates.

The strategy shall include:

- (a) Establishment of a written recruitment plan.
 1. The plan shall include an outline of steps for recruiting candidates who are representative of the community. This should include candidates who live in or are from the community, if appropriate and consistent with applicable laws and memorandums of understanding or collective bargaining agreements.
- (b) Identification of racially and culturally diverse target markets.
- (c) Use of marketing strategies to target diverse applicant pools.
- (d) Expanded use of technology and maintenance of a strong internet presence. This may include an interactive department website and the use of department-managed social networking sites, if resources permit.
- (e) Expanded outreach through partnerships with media, community groups, citizen academies, local colleges, universities, and the military.
- (f) Employee referral and recruitment incentive programs.
- (g) Consideration of shared or collaborative regional testing processes.

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The Investigations Division Commander shall avoid advertising, recruiting, and screening practices that tend to stereotype, focus on homogeneous applicant pools, or screen applicants in a discriminatory manner.

The Department should strive to facilitate and expedite the screening and testing process, and should periodically inform each candidate of their status in the recruiting process.

1000.4 SELECTION PROCESS

The Department shall actively strive to identify a diverse group of candidates who have in some manner distinguished themselves as being outstanding prospects. Minimally, the Department shall employ a comprehensive screening, background investigation, and selection process that assesses cognitive and physical abilities and includes review and verification of the following:

- (a) A comprehensive application for employment (including previous employment, references, current and prior addresses, education, military record)
- (b) Driving record
- (c) Personal and professional reference checks
- (d) Employment eligibility, including U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9 and acceptable identity and employment authorization documents. This required documentation should not be requested until a candidate is hired. This does not prohibit obtaining documents required for other purposes.
- (e) Information obtained from public internet sites
 1. This review should include the identification of any activity that promotes or supports unlawful violence or unlawful bias against persons based on protected characteristics (e.g., race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability).
- (f) Financial history consistent with the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) (15 USC § 1681 et seq.)
- (g) Local, state, and federal criminal history record checks
- (h) Polygraph or voice stress analyzer examination (when legally permissible)
- (i) Medical and psychological examination (may only be given after a conditional offer of employment)
- (j) Review board or selection committee assessment
- (k) Relevant national and state decertification records, if available, including the National Decertification Index

The Department shall not seek the wage history of applicants, rely on the wage rate history of a prospective employee, or otherwise engage in wage discrimination (CRS § 8-5-102).

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1000.4.1 VETERAN'S PREFERENCE

Veterans and spouses of veterans of the United States Armed Forces shall receive preference as applicable (CRS § 29-5.5-104; Colo. Const. art. XII, § 15(1)).

1000.4.2 CANDIDATES PREVIOUSLY EMPLOYED BY GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY

The Investigations Division Commander shall ensure that a waiver is included in the application for applicants employed or previously employed by a law enforcement or governmental agency that authorizes disclosure of all files, including the candidates' internal affairs files.

The Investigations Division Commander shall submit the waiver to the agency after giving a conditional offer of employment and at least 21 days prior to making a final hiring decision regarding the candidate (CRS § 24-33.5-115).

The Investigations Division Commander shall determine if a new hire, appointee, or transfer has a record contained in the Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board misconduct database created pursuant to CRS § 24-31-303, and notify the POST Board if the Department employs the individual in a POST-certified position (CRS § 24-31-305).

1000.4.3 EXAMINER AND INVESTIGATOR QUALIFICATIONS

If a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination is administered, the examiner should be appropriately licensed or certified and a copy of the license or certification should be maintained by the accreditation coordinator.

Medical and psychological examinations should be administered by appropriately licensed professionals. Examination results should be securely maintained in accordance with Colorado law and the established records retention schedule (see the Personnel Records and the Records Maintenance and Release policies).

Only members who have received department-approved training should conduct background investigations.

1000.5 BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION

Every candidate shall undergo a thorough background investigation to verify his/her personal integrity and high ethical standards, and to identify any past behavior that may be indicative of the candidate's unsuitability to perform duties relevant to the operation of the Vail Police Department.

1000.5.1 NOTICES

Background investigators shall ensure that investigations are conducted and notices provided in accordance with the requirements of the FCRA (15 USC § 1681d).

1000.5.2 REVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

Due to the potential for accessing unsubstantiated, private or protected information, the Investigations Division Commander should not require candidates to provide passwords, account information or access to password-protected social media accounts.

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The Investigations Division Commander should consider utilizing the services of an appropriately trained and experienced third party to conduct open source, internet-based searches and/or review information from social media sites to ensure that:

- (a) The legal rights of candidates are protected.
- (b) Material and information to be considered are verified, accurate and validated.
- (c) The Department fully complies with applicable privacy protections and local, state and federal law.

Regardless of whether a third party is used, the Investigations Division Commander should ensure that potentially impermissible information is not available to any person involved in the candidate selection process.

1000.5.3 DOCUMENTING AND REPORTING

The background investigator shall summarize the results of the background investigation in a report that includes sufficient information to allow the reviewing authority to decide whether to extend a conditional offer of employment. The report shall not include any information that is prohibited from use, including that from social media sites, in making employment decisions. The report and all supporting documentation shall be included in the candidate's background investigation file.

1000.5.4 RECORDS RETENTION

The background report and all supporting documentation shall be maintained in accordance with the established records retention schedule.

1000.5.5 BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION CONSIDERATIONS

Background investigators shall verify a candidate's qualifying credentials. Background investigations should involve a home visit with the candidate and his/her family and interviews with neighbors and at least three personal references of the candidate. Personal references should include at least one employer if the candidate has an employment history.

1000.6 DISQUALIFICATION GUIDELINES

As a general rule, performance indicators and candidate information and records shall be evaluated by considering the candidate as a whole, and taking into consideration the following:

- Age at the time the behavior occurred
- Passage of time
- Patterns of past behavior
- Severity of behavior
- Probable consequences if past behavior is repeated or made public
- Likelihood of recurrence
- Relevance of past behavior to public safety employment

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- Aggravating and mitigating factors
- Other relevant considerations

A candidate's qualifications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, using a totality-of-the-circumstances framework.

1000.7 EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

All candidates shall meet the minimum standards required by state law (CRS § 24-31-305; 4 CCR 901-1:10). Candidates will be evaluated based on merit, ability, competence and experience, in accordance with the high standards of integrity and ethics valued by the Department and the community.

Validated, job-related and nondiscriminatory employment standards shall be established for each job classification and shall minimally identify the training, abilities, knowledge and skills required to perform the position's essential duties in a satisfactory manner. Each standard should include performance indicators for candidate evaluation. The Department of Human Resources should maintain validated standards for all positions.

1000.7.1 STANDARDS FOR OFFICERS

Candidates shall meet the following minimum standards established by the POST Board (CRS § 24-31-305; 4 CCR 901-1:10):

- (a) Have completed basic training and passed a POST-administered examination, as applicable (CRS § 24-31-305)
- (b) Have submitted to both a physical and a psychological evaluation (CRS § 24-31-303)
- (c) Have a high school diploma or equivalent (CRS § 24-31-305)
- (d) Possess a current first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation certificate (CRS § 24-31-305)
- (e) Have submitted to a fingerprint-based criminal history record check (CRS § 24-31-303)
- (f) Unless granted an exemption by the POST director, have no disqualifying incidents, as defined in 4 CCR 901-1:1 and CRS § 24-31-305.

1000.8 PROBATIONARY PERIODS

In the absence of a collective bargaining agreement stating otherwise, entry-level training and a probationary period of at least 12 months are required before members are considered for regular employee status.

1000.9 NOTIFICATION TO POST REGARDING ELIGIBLE IMMIGRANTS

If the Department employs an eligible immigrant to attend a POST-approved training academy, the Investigations Division Commander or the authorized designee should notify the POST Board of the eligible immigrant's compliance with the department's written firearms policy (CRS § 16-2.5-101).