

**CITY OF FERGUSON  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE****Index as:**

Ammunition  
Firearms, Approved use  
Off-Duty, Weapons  
Shotgun  
Training, Firearms  
Weapons, Authorized use  
Weapons, Training

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**AUTHORIZED FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND QUALIFICATION****216.00 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this General Order is to establish the policy and procedure for the use and care of authorized firearms, ammunition, qualification and training. An “Authorized firearm” is a handgun approved by the Ferguson Police Department for full time commissioned officers to carry on or off duty where authorized by law to carry on duty in uniform. Only personnel demonstrating proficiency in the use of agency-authorized weapons will be approved to carry such weapons.

**216.01 POLICY**

Officers on duty will be required to carry a badge, firearm and issued identification card. Carrying of a weapon, badge and department identification card off duty is optional however, if an officer chooses to carry a weapon off duty they MUST carry their department ID and badge.

Police officers are to carry only department approved weapons. Officers assigned to the detective bureau or on special assignment may carry a firearm other than the department issued weapon upon approval of the Chief of Police. Police officers may carry a second weapon while on duty as long as it meets the specifications of this order, is holstered and concealed from public view.

**216.02 DUTY AND OFF-DUTY WEAPONS**

Police officers in uniform will carry the Department issued weapon and ammunition described as:

1. Make – Sig Sauer
2. Model – P229
3. Caliber – 40 Caliber
4. Barrel – 3.9 inches

5. Type – Semi Auto (double/single action)
6. Finish – Black
7. Magazine – 12 Rounds
8. Ammunition – Department issued

Police Officers who desire to carry other than the department issued firearm for an off duty weapon must receive prior written approval from the Chief of Police. To request approval to carry other than department issued firearm for back up, or as an off duty weapon, the following procedures will be followed:

- A. The requesting officer must submit FPD Form "*Application to Carry Privately Owned Firearm*" to the Chief of Police.
- B. At the time of application, the weapon must be inspected by the department armorer to ensure that the weapon is in working order prior to approval.
- C. The officer will be required to qualify with the weapon prior to approval by the Chief of Police.
- D. If the inspection and qualification criteria are satisfactorily completed, the Chief of Police may approve the carrying of the specified firearm, and a copy of the approved request will be maintained in the officer's firearms training file.
- E. The decision to approve or disapprove a weapon will be made on an individual basis.
- F. Firearms that are allowed to be carried off duty by police officers must meet the following criteria:
  1. Have a minimum capacity of 5 rounds.
  2. Only factory loaded ammunition to be used. The specific caliber of handguns that will be authorized for off duty use by officers are as follows:

.45   .357   .9mm   .40   .38   .380   .32   .25
- G. Calibers approved for on duty "back up" firearms are limited to .380 to 9mm.
- H. The on or off duty use of all other caliber handguns or ammunition is prohibited in the performance of police duties in either primary or secondary employment, unless approved by the chief of police.

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1. The following calibers of weapons are expressly forbidden to be carried by commissioned of the department:
  - a. .44 magnum
  - b. .41 magnum
  - c. .22 caliber
2. The following types of ammunition are expressly forbidden to be carried and/or used by members of this department.
  - a. Armor piercing bullets
  - b. Glazer type exploding bullets
  - c. Teflon coated bullets
3. Any ammunition with a foreign substance coated on the projectile to improve penetration is prohibited.

I. Weapons approved for "on duty" use must be carried in a holster. Approved off duty weapons will be carried in a holster as well. Back up or off duty weapons should be carried in such a manner as to be concealed from public view

J. The carrying of a firearm while off duty is discretionary. Firearms carried while in civilian clothing will be concealed from public view.

K. Officers engaged in off duty employment within the City of Ferguson, which requires the performance of police related duties, will be armed with a department approved weapon and ammunition.

**216.03 USE OF SHOTGUN**

Department Issued Shotgun – Specifications

1. Make – Remington 870
2. Gauge - 12
3. Barrel Length - 18 to 20 inches
4. Action - pump
5. Ammunition - .00 buck or slugs or Less-lethal ammunition

It is the responsibility of the officer, upon taking charge of a patrol unit, to thoroughly inspect the shotgun in the vehicle. The officer will inspect the weapon and insure that the magazine is properly loaded will # 00 buckshot shells.

Discrepancies or malfunctions of the shotgun will be reported immediately to the on duty Watch Commander. The watch commander will replace the shotgun if inoperable and forward a report to the Commander of Field Operations.

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When mounted in the patrol vehicle, the chamber will be empty of any rounds of ammunition and the safety will be on. The shotgun will be removed from the police vehicle and locked in the armory locker when the vehicle is being serviced or repaired. When the shotgun is to be secured or brought into the police department, the magazine will be clear of all shells and the slide locked open showing an empty chamber. Shotguns will be loaded and unloaded outside the police department building. The shotgun will not be left unattended without first being properly secured.

Each Sunday the watch commander of the day shift will be responsible for having all shotguns inspected and cleaned as needed. Cleaning will consist of a complete wiping of all metal parts with a lightly oiled cloth, the barrel cleaned with a lightly oiled patch and the action lightly lubricated with oil.

**216.04 INSPECTION**

All weapons intended for use by each employee in the performance of duty will be reviewed and inspected prior to carrying, by a qualified weapons instructor or armorer. This inspection shall be documented on Form 039 for off-duty weapons and in the internal database for department owned and issued weapons. Weapons found to be unsafe will not be authorized for use. Department owned weapons found to be unsafe will be removed from service until their repair can be made. Any weapon removed from service will be identified in a memo to the Chief of Police.

**216.05 INVENTORY**

The department armor shall maintain a computer database inventory on each authorized weapon to include type, description, identifying model, serial number, inspection dates as well as the identity of the owner or assignee. The record will also include the name of the official making the approval, the date of approval, the course fired, and all scores used to qualify the user on the demonstration of proficiency. All approvals should be conditional upon periodic re-qualification pursuant to procedures established to comply with section 216.06. This database will include both department owned and privately owned weapons approved for use by the department

**216.06 LOSS OR THEFT OF FIREARM:**

Immediately following the loss or theft of a department or personally owned firearm, a police report containing all facts and circumstances will be prepared by the jurisdiction where the loss or theft occurred. A copy of the report will be forwarded through the chain of command. The concerned employee will also immediately notify their immediate supervisor. The involved employee will insure that the serial number, make and caliber of the missing weapon are placed in the REJIS and NCIC computer systems.

**216.07 PROHIBITED POSSESSION OF FIREARMS WHILE INTOXICATED**

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The Missouri Revised Statutes states under 571.070.1 A person commits the crime of unlawful possession of a firearm if such person knowingly has any firearm in his or her possession and: (2) Such person is habitually in an intoxicated or drugged condition,

All officers authorized to use or carry weapons shall not possess a firearm in an intoxicated condition.

**216.07 FIREARMS QUALIFICATION AND TRAINING**

A. All officers authorized to use and carry weapons will be required to receive in-service training and demonstrate proficiency with all approved lethal weapons that the employee is authorized to use. The department will establish proficiency levels with input from certified weapons instructors. A qualified weapons instructor will conduct the training.

B. The training shall be conducted on the following schedule:

1. Duty weapon (.40 caliber) annually
2. Off-duty or backup weapons, annually
3. Shotgun, annually

C. The criteria required for qualification for the “on duty” weapon is identified as the Qualification Course A. It will consist of 36 rounds of duty ammunition or duty equivalent practice ammunition. In order to pass, shooters must score 70% of possible 180 points. The type of target used is the standard full size police silhouette target (B-21). The distances, rounds and times are as follows:

3 yds – 3 rds - 8 sec (x2), 7 yds – 3rds – 8 sec (x2), 10 yds – 6 rds – 16 sec,

15 yds – 6 rds - 25 sec, 25 yds – 6 rds – 30 sec – 30 sec, 25 yds – 6 rds – 35 sec.

D. The criteria required for qualification of the shotgun is a familiarization course where five rounds are successfully discharged from the 7 yard line and five rounds are successfully discharged from the 15 yard line.

E. Annually each commission officer may be required to complete a written test on policy and basic operation of the pistol. Successful qualification will require completion of the actual firing of the weapon and a passing score on a “what, when, where, and how” type of written test (if administered) based on the training provided.

F. Demonstrated proficiency with less than lethal weapons is outlined in General Order 410.06.C - *Use of Force*.

G. Remedial training will be conducted for all officers not qualifying with department weapons. Any officer not qualifying with a duty weapon will not be able to resume

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official duties until qualifying with the weapon. Officers unable to qualify will be identified to the Chief of Police for administrative action.

F. The department firearms instructor shall maintain a computer database to record all sworn officers' firearms training. This database will include dates of training, duty and personal weapons authorized.

By order of:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colonel Thomas Jackson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Colonel" written in a smaller circle above "Thomas Jackson".

COLONEL THOMAS JACKSON  
Chief of Police

Distribution

All Department Personnel

Attachments

FPD Form 039 - Application to Carry Privately Owned Weapon

MPCCF Reference 9.3 9.4

## FERGUSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

## APPLICATION TO CARRY PRIVATELY OWNED FIREARMS

DATE:

TO:

FROM:

Sir,

I respectfully request permission to carry the following described weapon:

This weapon is a \_\_\_\_\_, Caliber \_\_\_\_\_ with a \_\_\_\_\_ inch  
barrel bearing serial number \_\_\_\_\_.

It is understood that this weapon is not to be carried in lieu of the Department issued primary  
firearm unless approved for such purpose by the Chief of Police.

 **ON DUTY PRIMARY WEAPON** **ON DUTY SECONDARY WEAPON** **OFF DUTY WEAPON**

OFFICER

SIGNATURE:

Date:

**THIS WEAPON HAS BEEN INSPECTED, APPROVED AND THE OFFICER HAS QUALIFIED WITH  
THE WEAPON:**

DEPARTMENT ARMOROR

SIGNATURE:

Date:

 APPROVED DISAPPROVED

TITLE: CHIEF OF POLICE

SIGNATURE:

Date: