

PORT HURON POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURAL ORDER

		ORDER NO: 01-05
SUBJECT: Endorsements		
EFFECTIVE DATE: April 24, 1992	DISTRIBUTION: A	REVIEWED: 12/16/19 REVISED:
REQUIREMENTS:		
ISSUED BY: Chief Joseph A. Platzer	FORMS:	

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to establish guidelines for the department and its members in respect to endorsements for commercial brand name products, political candidates and partisan political parties.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Port Huron Police Department not to endorse any commercial products, political candidates, or political parties.

The department has a professional interest in curbing endorsement activities by its employees. The department must balance the individual liberties that the employee enjoys as a citizen of the United States and the interests of public employers in providing service. It is important that the public view the department and its members as apolitical. Department members will not make any endorsements under the cloak of their employment with the department.

III. LEGAL BASIS

A. Federal law

The Political Activities Act of 1939 (Hatch Act) and its subsequent rulings and modifications.

B. State Law - MSA 4.1702(3) and 4.1702(4)

IV. POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS

A. Department

The department will not endorse any political parties or candidates.

B. Members

Department members, as private citizens, have the right to express their opinions and to participate in political activities; however, the right to associate or participate in political activities is not absolute. The member must accept the principle that government employment requires the abandonment of some of the political participation that is available to other citizens.

The department has a duty to promote efficiency and integrity in public service. Therefore, department members will not endorse any political party or political candidate in their official capacity as a member of the Port Huron Police Department. Any reference of a member's affiliation with the department, contained in an endorsement, is to be strictly prohibited.

C. Collective Bargaining Units/Associations

The department does not have the authority to restrict the endorsement activities of the collective bargaining units; however, the units should be aware of their responsibility, and the impact and the implications of their endorsements. They may not use the name "Port Huron Police Department" in connection with political endorsements.

V. PRODUCT ENDORSEMENTA. Department

The Port Huron Police Department will not endorse any specific commercial products.

B. Members

Members are prohibited from endorsing any specific commercial products in their official capacity as members of the Port Huron Police Department; however, members may in the course of their employment, make recommendations on general products such as locks, alarms, or safety equipment.

For example, an officer may suggest a complainant buy a dead bolt lock to better secure their home, but may not suggest the person buy a specific brand name lock.

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