

IRVING POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS 711.00 FACIAL HAIR
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711.00 FACIAL HAIR

711.01 PURPOSE

This policy regulates the facial hair of employees that represent the department¹.

711.02 POLICY

The Irving Police Department requires that employees project a professional image, always while conducting official department business, to promote citizen respect and confidence.

711.03 DEFINITIONS

- A. ***Perpetual State of Growth:*** Facial hair that is in continual state of growth where the individual grows facial hair for several days and then shaves and then regrows facial hair, never growing out to a full beard or goatee. (e.g. continual five o'clock shadow, shaving every 4 to 5 days and immediately starting to grow a beard to avoid being clean shaven).
- B. ***Traditional Style:*** The accepted style of facial hair authorized in this policy as it relates to sideburns, mustaches, beards, and goatees.

711.04 FACIAL HAIR GUIDELINES

- A. This section applies to all employees of the police department.
- B. Employees shall be clean-shaven except for mustaches, goatees with mustaches, or beards with mustaches. All facial hair must be well groomed and maintained.
- C. Beards:
 - 1. A beard is hair grown on the chin and lower cheek area on the face.
 - 2. Beards shall be maintained at or below the cheekbone. Facial hair may be trimmed lower to allow for a neat and uniform appearance.
 - 3. Beards shall be maintained with a neatly groomed neckline above the Adam's apple and be cleanly shaved below the groomed neckline.

¹ Texas Law Enforcement Best Practices Accreditation Standard 2.13

4. The bulk of the beard (distance that the mass of facial hair protrudes from the skin of the face) must not exceed one-half inch (1/2").
5. No portion of the beard may be exceptionally longer than the rest.
6. Beards shall not be worn without a mustache.

D. Goatees:

1. A goatee is hair that is grown on the chin but not the facial cheek area or neck area and is usually attached to the mustache.
2. The bulk of the goatee (distance that the mass of facial hair protrudes from the skin of the face) must not exceed one-half inch (1/2").
3. The cheeks, jawline, and neck must be clean shaven.
4. Goatees shall not be worn without a mustache.

E. Mustaches:

1. A mustache is hair grown below the nose and above the upper lip.
2. Mustaches should be neatly trimmed and shall not extend or straggle over or below the upper lip.
3. Mustaches shall not extend more than one-quarter inch (1/4") beyond the corner of the mouth.
4. Mustache lengths shall not be extended unless they are connected to a natural beard or goatee.
5. Waxed or twisted mustaches are not allowed.

F. Sideburns:

1. Sideburns are hair that is grown down the side of the face in front of the ears, often connected to a full beard.
2. If sideburns are worn, they must be neatly trimmed and tapered in the same manner as the general haircut.
3. Sideburns must not extend below the lowest part of the ear, must be of even width (not flared), and must end in a clean-shaven horizontal line unless they are connected to a natural beard.
4. Sideburns shall not connect with the mustache.
5. Mutton chops or bushy sideburns are prohibited.

6. The maximum width of the sideburns will not exceed one inch.

G. Prohibitions:

1. Facial hair that is uneven or displays patchy growth.
2. Facial hair that is bushy or unkept.
3. Facial hair that is in a perpetual state of growth.
4. Non-traditional styles of facial hair, including but not limited to soul patches, Fu Manchu, mutton chop sideburns, handlebar mustaches, and chin strap beards.
5. A beard or goatee without a mustache.
6. Shaving any kind of design in facial hair/beards.
7. Facial hair may not have any decorations including but not limited to ornaments, jewelry, or glitter while on duty or representing the department in any manner.
8. Grooming, sculpting lines, or styling that results in an unnatural look.
9. Coloration or dye of the facial hair will be of naturally occurring colors.

H. Special Units/Assignments.

1. Employees in special units or assignments, where it is likely a gas mask (or other required sealed face covering) may be required, may choose to have facial hair. These special units or assignments include but are not limited to Gang Unit, SWAT, SRT or K9.
2. Employees in these special units or assignments may be required, whether directly by their supervisors or indirectly by the circumstances of the scene, to shave during specific critical incidents in order to perfect the seal on their face covering for their own protection.
3. Employees in these special units or assignments with facial hair who refuse to shave on scene when required will be prohibited from participating and may be subject to disciplinary action or removal from the special unit or assignment.
4. Employees in these special units or assignments who are required to shave on scene, may regrow their facial hair if they desire.

Reviewed: 06/18/2024
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