

Gig Harbor Police Department

Personal Appearance Standards

HAIR

Hairstyles of all members shall be neat in appearance. For male sworn members, hair must not extend below the top edge of the uniform collar while assuming a normal stance.

For female sworn members, hair must be no longer than the horizontal level of the bottom of the uniform patch when the employee is standing erect, worn up or in a tightly wrapped braid or ponytail.

FACIAL HAIR

Facial hair other than sideburns, mustaches and eyebrows shall not be worn, unless authorized by the Chief of Police or their designee.

TATTOOS

Professionalism in appearance is the highest priority while in uniform.

- (a) Tattoos will be reviewed on an individual basis for conformity to this policy. The Chief of Police shall review and determine if an employee's exposed tattoo is inappropriate or offensive.
- (b) The following tattoos are considered inappropriate or offensive and shall not be allowed to be visible while representing the department in uniform or plain clothes:
 - (a) Extremist: Tattoos affiliated with, depicting, or symbolizing extremist philosophies, organizations, or activities, including those advocating racial, gender, or ethnic intolerance, or illegal discrimination based on race, color, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual or gender orientation, or national origins and/ or tattoos advocating violence or other unlawful means of depriving individual rights under the U.S. Constitution and Federal or State law.
 - (b) Indecent: Tattoos that are offensive to modesty, decency, propriety, or professionalism.
 - (c) Sexist: Tattoos advocating a philosophy that degrades or demeans a person based upon gender.
 - (d) Racist: Tattoos advocating a philosophy that degrades or demeans a person based on race, ethnicity, or nationality.
 - (e) Violent: Tattoos displaying obvious weapons or depicting acts of violence.
 - (f) Political: Tattoos representing any particular political party, public official, or controversial organization or belief via depiction or reference.
- (c) Tattoos shall not be visible on the neck (above a crew neck t-shirt line), head (to include ears), face, or scalp.
- (d) Tattoos shall not be visible on the hands, fingers, or wrists (below where a watch would ordinarily be worn).
- (e) Tattoos shall not be visible when a uniformed officer is wearing the Class A uniform.

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BODY PIERCING OR ALTERATION

Body piercing or alteration to any area of the body visible in any authorized uniform or attire that is a deviation from normal anatomical features and which is not medically required is prohibited except with prior authorization of the Chief of Police. One pair of single, non-distracting stud earrings worn on the lobe of the ear are authorized for female employees while in uniform. Such body alteration includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Tongue splitting or piercing.
- (b) The complete or transdermal implantation of any material other than hair replacement.
- (c) Abnormal shaping of the ears, eyes, nose or teeth.
- (d) Branding or scarification.