



Bias Based Policing Policy

Policy 200.002

Officers are prohibited from engaging in bias-based profiling or stopping, detaining, searching, arresting, or taking any enforcement action including seizure or forfeiture activities, against any person based solely on the person's race, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, age, cultural group, or any other identifiable group. These characteristics, however, may form part of reasonable suspicion or probable cause when officers are seeking a suspect with one or more of these attributes. (TBP: 2.01)

Investigative detentions, traffic stops, arrests, searches, and property seizures by officers will be based on a standard of reasonable suspicion or probable cause in accordance with the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Officers must be able to articulate specific facts and circumstances that support reasonable suspicion or probable cause for investigative detentions, traffic stops, subject stops, arrests, nonconsensual searches, and property seizures. Except as provided in number 3 below, officers shall not consider race/ethnicity in establishing either reasonable suspicion or probable cause. Similarly, except as provided below, officers shall not consider race/ethnicity in deciding to initiate even those nonconsensual encounters that do not amount to legal detentions or to request consent to search.

Officers may take into account the reported race or ethnicity of a specific suspect or suspects based on trustworthy, locally relevant information that links a person or persons of a specific race/ethnicity to a particular unlawful incident(s). Race/ethnicity can never be used as the sole basis for probable cause or reasonable suspicion. Except as provided above, reasonable suspicion or probable cause shall form the basis for any enforcement actions or decisions. Individuals shall be subjected to stops, seizures, or detentions only upon reasonable suspicion that they have committed, are committing, or are about to commit an offense. Officers shall document the elements of reasonable suspicion and probable cause in appropriate reports.

Officers shall observe all constitutional safeguards and shall respect the constitutional rights of all persons.

As traffic stops furnish a primary source of bias-related complaints, officers shall have a firm understanding of the warrantless searches allowed by law, particularly the use of consent. How the officer disengages from a traffic stop may be crucial to a person's perception of fairness or discrimination.

Officers shall not use the refusal or lack of cooperation to justify a search of the person or vehicle or a prolonged detention once reasonable suspicion has been dispelled.

All personnel shall treat everyone with the same courtesy and respect that they would have others observe to department personnel. To this end, personnel are reminded that the exercise of courtesy and respect engenders a future willingness to cooperate with law enforcement.

Citizens wishing to file a complaint or compliment on a police officer of the Farmersville Police Department can do the following.

1. Inside the City of Farmersville website <https://www.farmersvilletx.com>; Go to the Departments link; select Police Department link; and within the department link, you can select Compliment or Complaint Form. You can fill out the form and either mail, deliver, or email the form to the Farmersville Police Department at 134 N. Washington Farmersville, Texas 75442.
2. We also have Compliment or Complaint forms inside the police station lobby at 134 N Washington Farmersville, Texas 75442. You can fill out the form and give it to office personnel or request to speak to a supervisor. If a supervisor is available you can give the form to them for review and follow-up.
3. Additionally, there are Administrative phone and emails for the Chief and Administrative Lieutenant to contact. Administrative Phone Number 972-782-6141. Chief of Police, Mike Sullivan at m.sullivan@farmersvilletx.com or Administrative Lieutenant, Marsha Phillips at m.phillips@farmersvilletx.com

All complaints and compliments will be fully investigated per policy and written confirmation of findings and conclusions will be forwarded to those who contact the department to file a complaint or compliment form.