

**COMPETENCY MODEL FOR  
POLICE CAPTAIN  
CLASS CODE (2244)**

The following competencies have been identified as those that best separate superior from satisfactory job performance in the class of **POLICE CAPTAIN**.

- 13. Stress Tolerance
- 14. Composure
- 16. Objectivity
- 40. Credibility
- 42. Resolves Conflict
- 47. Written Communication
- 53. Leadership
- 54. Champions Change
- 55. Community Relations

On the following pages are descriptions of each competency, including a definition, the level of the competency required for the class (*italicized and underlined*), examples of behavioral indicators, and satisfactory and superior performance levels.

**13. STRESS TOLERANCE** – Maintains effective performance when under pressure, confronted with opposition or criticism, and/or when the situation is dangerous.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Assignment may include varied or heavy workload; new tasks may need to be learned; members of the public and, at times, co-workers may be rude.
- Level 2: Insufficient staff or resources may be available to accomplish work. Priorities/objectives may be unclear and/or direction uncertain. Role ambiguity regarding responsibilities may exist. May encounter disagreement or criticism when performing job activities.
- Level 3: *Presentation and defense of position in a public forum, which at times entails facing opposition, may be required. Work environment may be fast-paced and one in which urgent decisions must be made. Making life-or-death decisions may be necessary.***

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Remains composed and focused on the task at hand in the presence of obvious stressors.
- Understands that rudeness or opposition is not typically personal attacks.
- Continues to make good decisions under urgent circumstances or when in danger.
- Soothes others who are more adversely affected by stress.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Continues to perform effectively under stressful circumstances.

Superior

Acknowledges stress, but appears to be unaffected by it. Concentrates extra effort on accomplishing the task at hand. Assists others with effective coping.

#### 14. COMPOSURE – Maintains composure in difficult circumstances.

##### Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Display self-confidence in interactions with others; does not undermine own efforts or immediately succumb to pressure.
- Level 2: *Remain self-assured and calm when challenged or subject to abuse.***
- Level 3: Exude confidence in a wide variety of circumstances made difficult by many potent, diverse factors.

##### Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Maintains calm, composed demeanor in all work situations.
- Restates position when appropriate.
- Asserts viewpoints when others ignore or debase them.
- Acknowledges difficulties, but is not overcome by them.

##### Performance Levels:

###### Satisfactory

Continues work in a calm, self-assured manner under difficult circumstances. Avoids being drawn in to a heated exchange.

###### Superior

Remains poised when confronted with undue complaint or criticism. Confidently defends position when challenged.

**16. OBJECTIVITY** – Demonstrates fairness and equity toward others; understands different perspectives; states sides of a conflict non-evaluatively; uses facts and logic.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Respond to the situation at hand and its specific circumstances as opposed to being influenced by previous encounters, stereotypes, or biases.
- Level 2: Appropriately aligns self/organizational interest with objectives to benefit the overall organization and/or citizenry.
- Level 3: *Appropriately aligns self/organizational interest with the “common good” (citizens, other public sector agencies, elected officials).***

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Notes facts and circumstances specific to the situation.
- Formulates plans for action based on the totality of factual information.
- Gives full attention to each task/issue within areas of responsibility
- Clearly demonstrates the benefits of actions to the overall organization, citizens, and/or the “common good.”
- Does not take positions or promote actions/causes that reflect blatant self interest.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Focuses on and reacts to all facts and information available for each situation/issue. Disregards personal preferences or biases in appraisal of situation/issue and response to it.

Superior

Strives to serve the “common good.” Responds in a manner contrary to self-interest when appropriate.

**40. CREDIBILITY** – Is truthful and sincere; objectively and clearly provides all pertinent information rather than being vague, omitting negative information or only stating what listeners “want to hear.”

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Freely and openly share accurate job-related information with co-workers.
- Level 2: Provide complete, accurate information to other City employees and members of the public.
- Level 3: *Represent department to the Mayors’ Office, City Council, City Commissions, and/or department heads, and/or to external organizations, professional associations, and/or the media.***

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Admits mistakes.
- Information provided is consistent (not contradictory or stating different things to different people).
- Answers questions directly and thoroughly.
- Shares credit for achievements.
- Acts in the best interest of the organization, not self interest.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

“Tells the complete story” from the onset. Is forthcoming with full information when questioned. Statements are consistent. Readily admits mistakes and gives credit to others.

Superior

Information provided is complete and accurate, and includes any negative information or information contrary to self interest. Does not attempt to be vague or put a “spin” on negative information to make it appear more positive.

**42. RESOLVES CONFLICT** – Acknowledges and takes action to eliminate ineffective/disruptive interpersonal relationships.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Recognize that conflict is inappropriate in the workplace; ensure no personal involvement in conflict or promptly seek elimination if such involvement occurs. May try to avert conflict among co-workers or to eliminate it if it occurs.
- Level 2: Monitor staff for possible signs of arising conflict and, when noted, immediately intervene to reconcile. Recognize when the differing perspectives of different organizational units become disruptive and address the issues with involved parties or management, as appropriate.
- Level 3: *Recognize that the purposes/objectives of certain entities are inherently at odds and approach interactions with them with sensitivity and facilitates others' doing so as well. Recognize the debilitating nature of emergent conflict among organizational segments and, when noted, immediately intervene to reconcile.***

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Recognizes when a conflict is emerging or has emerged.
- Mentions the need to resolve conflict to other involved party(ies).
- Brings together parties in conflict and encourages them to resolve/ facilitates resolution.
- Articulates the common objectives of conflicting entities.
- Enlists the participation of conflict resolution specialists when warranted.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Diffuses conflict at work. Uses other means of addressing interpersonal friction, disagreement, or competing goals. Notes and seeks resolve of conflict among others.

Superior

Recognizes interpersonal, intra-organizational, and internal-external organizational interactions with conflict potential, and seeks to avoid. When signs of emerging conflict noted, immediately takes steps to eliminate.

## 47. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION – Communicated effectively in writing.

### Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Write notes/e-mails. Completes forms with some open-ended responses (sentences).

**Level 2: *Write letters, articles/reports, and/or detailed descriptions of activities/occurrences.***

Level 3: Write lengthy reports, instruction manuals, in-depth analyses/reviews of complex issues and/or articles for publication. Reviews the written work of others.

### Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Writing includes the necessary information to convey the intended message.
- Sufficiently few errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar to not interfere with the intended message or distract the reader.
- Little editing or re-writing needed to produce a final product.
- Composes materials efficiently.
- Information is presented in a well organized manner.
- Tone and degree of formality are appropriate to the purpose and audience.

### Performance Levels:

#### Satisfactory

Writes material that clearly communicates the necessary information; needs little editing.

#### Superior

Precisely uses words and organizes information in a way that enhances presentation of the message. Virtually no editing needed.

### 53. LEADERSHIP – Influences others toward goal accomplishment.

#### Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Assume responsibility for operations or a situation when necessary. Direct the actions of others or otherwise ensure required actions are taken. Remain responsible until relieved or situation is resolved.
- Level 2: Motivate others to continual activity focused on goal accomplishment. Provide clear objectives and articulate individual activities necessary to achieve them; ensure resources necessary to do so are available. Monitor work progress and provide feedback; assess results.
- Level 3: *Articulate a vision, convey it to others, and assign responsibilities (or assure they are assigned) for achieving it. Monitor progress, make adjustments as necessary, and evaluate results.***

#### Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Evaluates circumstances, determining what needs to be done, and ensuring individual responsibility for performing specific actions is assigned.
- Follows-up to ensure that specific actions have been taken and overall objective has been accomplished.
- Clearly communicates objectives and responsibility/individual actions necessary to achieve them.
- Monitors work in progress, provides feedback to those involved, and makes adjustments to work plans/processes to ensure goal attainment.
- Evaluates completed work for quality, thoroughness, and effectiveness to determine whether re-work or additional work is required to meet intended objectives and to provide learning for future assignments

#### Performance Levels:

##### Satisfactory

Assumes responsibility for work of others when required or necessary. Ensures actions taken to achieve objectives, and evaluates results to determine any follow-up needed.

##### Superior

Articulates vision/states clear objectives and assigns responsibility/motivates others toward achievement. Monitors progress; gives feedback; evaluates results; ensures follow-up.



**54. CHAMPIONS CHANGE** – Encourages others to identify means of improving existing processes and provides support for required changes.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Listen to and consider suggestions of co-workers for improving efficiency; accepts and uses suggestions when appropriate. Support imposed changes, and encourages others to do so.

Level 2: Solicit ideas for improvement, evaluate them, and implement those with merit. Gain support for changes by describing their benefits to all involved parties.

**Level 3: *Establish continuous improvement as a job requirement of staff. Assist in securing necessary resources to make changes. Foster an environment of calculated risk taking without fear of failure to encourage radical change.***

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Acknowledges and carefully considers all suggestions for improvement.
- For changes that appear promising, determines how to implement (or approves implementation).
- Encourages others to suggest changes/accept changes.
- Secures resources necessary to implement change; conducts cost-benefit analysis when possible to demonstrate return on investment.
- Presents plans for change with enthusiasm and detailed explanation as a means of promoting staff acceptance.
- Rewards staff for suggesting/implementing change that proves effective.
- Ensures there are no punitive consequences for failure of proposed changes that appeared promising and were approved.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Recognizes that vigilance with respect to identifying possible opportunities for improvement is expected of self and others. Freely makes suggestions and accepts imposed changes, and encourages others to do so.

Superior

Challenges self and others to think creatively and to identify novel approaches that have improvement potential. Persuades others to accept suggestions and enthusiastically embrace their implementation. Does not fear failure of an improvement effort made in good faith.

**55. COMMUNITY RELATIONS** – Communicates/Interacts with members of the public in a way that elicits positive response and participation.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Interact with members of the public, usually one-on-one, to meet their immediate need.
- Level 2: Interact with several to many members of the public at a time to present information, persuade, solicit input, and/or one-on-one in varied situations, some of which may be likely to arouse hostility.
- Level 3: *Interact with large segments of the community and/or community leaders in varied situations, some of which involve addressing sensitive issues or in which hostility may arise.***

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Speaks in a manner clearly understood by community members.
- Listens actively to what community representatives say and conveys understanding.
- Responds fully and accurately to questions raised.
- Effectively addresses the issues/resolves the situation at hand.
- Achieves the desired objective of the interaction.
- Obtains participation from community members.
- Elicits a favorable reaction from members of the community.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Listens carefully to concerns and responds to all of them. Speaks in a manner appropriate to the audience. Maintains pleasant/positive demeanor.

Superior

Conveys information fully and responds thoroughly to all concerns. Draws community members into the interaction if needed. Receives a positive response from members of the community.