

**COMPETENCY MODEL FOR  
PORT POLICE CAPTAIN 2025  
CLASS CODE 3224**

The following competencies have been identified as those that best separate superior from satisfactory job performance in the class of **PORT POLICE CAPTAIN**. (Numbers refer to the order of competencies in the Competency Bank.)

- 3. JUDGMENT AND DECISION MAKING
- 17. INNOVATION
- 20. JOB KNOWLEDGE
- 31. RESULTS ORIENTATION
- 45. ORAL COMMUNICATION
- 47. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION
- 53. LEADERSHIP
- 55. COMMUNITY RELATIONS
- 56. AWARENESS OF THE CITY ENVIRONMENT

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

**3. JUDGMENT AND DECISION MAKING** – Accurately assesses situations, seeks new information if necessary, and applies all available information to reach sound conclusions/formulate effective response.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Training and guidelines needed to respond to immediate situations within very specific function are provided (or supervisor available to assist).

Level 2: General information and guidance to assist in responding to a variety of situations across a range of circumstances are provided.

**Level 3: *Little guidance available for responding to a wide range of complex situations with far-reaching and/or enduring consequences.***

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Effectively responds to atypical situations.
- Asks questions or otherwise obtains additional relevant information to make a decision.
- Formulates a decision and necessary actions based on available facts.
- Correctly infers appropriate response based on information provided and existing policies, personal experience, and/or consultation with others.
- Discusses conclusions/possible responses with others before taking action as necessary.
- Considers impact of decisions on all affected parties.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Correctly assesses routine and unusual situations and reaches appropriate conclusions for actions needed. Obtains additional information and/or consults with others as necessary.

Superior

Evaluates new situations accurately to establish an appropriate response or plan of action. Recognizes the impact on all affected parties, as well as the possible ramifications and/or repercussions of setting a precedent.

**17. INNOVATION** – Seeks out and/or develops drastically different work products or ways of doing work in order to improve services and/or increase productivity.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Identify different means of doing work or suggest changes in work product that significantly improve productivity, work product, or service provided.
- Level 2: *Re-engineer processes and practices to increase efficiency and/or productivity and/or to improve work product or service.***
- Level 3: Re-conceptualize purpose of function and/or how to achieve it in a way that improves efficiency and effectiveness.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Notes inefficiencies/unnecessary steps in work processes for elimination.
- Suggests different, more expedient means of doing work.
- Conducts thorough review of work practices to identify possible points of increased efficiency in work flow and/or product/service quality.
- Identifies opportunities to increase breadth or depth of impact.
- Determines/implements novel means of accomplishing work.
- Reconfigures existing resources to improve work flow, work product, or service.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Maintains constant awareness of ways to improve quantity and quality of work. Identifies and is willing to suggest changes no matter how radical a departure from current practice.

Superior

Deliberately seeks out or develops new and improved ways of doing work and/or alteration of/addition to current work product or service to vastly improve organizational performance and the “bottom line.”

**20. JOB KNOWLEDGE** – Knows information required to perform a specific job. Includes both widely available courses of study (for example, chemistry, human resources management, graphic arts) and City-specific information (parking regulation and ticketing practices; purchasing procedures; provisions of the City Charter).

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Knowledge is concrete, factual, and/or procedural and may be defined by the organization. Situations in which it is applied are quite consistent.

Level 2: Knowledge is substantive and may be defined by an external trade, field, or profession. Situations in which it is applied vary and, as such, require breadth and depth of understanding.

**Level 3: *Knowledge is abstract, conceptual, and/or complex and may be supported by a well-defined academic discipline or authoritative sources (e.g., laws, ordinances, government guidelines/regulations/codes). Situations in which it is applied may vary greatly or be novel.***

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Performs work correctly/avoids technical (job content related) errors.
- Answers technical questions about work accurately.
- Asks few technical questions about the performance of routine work activities.
- Offers advice (“coaching”) to new employees regarding their work.
- Develops training programs for other employees.
- Sought out as a source of information by others.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Sufficient job knowledge to perform work correctly independently. Answers technical questions about work correctly.

Superior

Expertise in technical job information sufficient to serve as a resource to others. May develop training manuals/ programs and/or give internal and/or external presentations related to work.

## **Job Knowledge Areas**

1. Knowledge of the vital elements of crimes, rules of evidence, laws of search and seizure, laws of arrest and custody, and the preparation and admissibility of evidence in court in order to provide direction to subordinates, and to evaluate the effectiveness of Division operations.
2. Knowledge of the principles, practices, and techniques of police science, organization, administration, and operations as they apply to patrol, traffic control and safety inspections/investigations, criminal investigations, custody of person (both adult and juvenile), and other functions of a Police Division sufficient to supervise, direct, evaluate and/or oversee field and administrative personnel performing police duties.
3. Knowledge of Emergency Operations Plans (practices and policies) in order to enact these practices and policies in an emergency and to provide direction to subordinates.
4. Knowledge of Maritime law as it applies to the State of California and the Port of Los Angeles in order to ensure laws are enforced and applied properly and to provide direction to subordinates.
5. Knowledge of laws and regulations governing law enforcement, laws of arrest and the elements of misdemeanor and felony offenses sufficient to supervise, direct, evaluate and/or oversee field and administrative personnel performing police duties.
6. Knowledge of safety principles and practices of fire hazards and fire prevention methods sufficient to ensure the safety of self and others and to minimize physical injuries and property damage.
7. Knowledge of hazards to subordinate personnel, tenants, citizens, and property in emergency and non-emergency situations sufficient to ensure the safety of self and others and to minimize property damage.
8. Knowledge of City personnel rules, policies and procedures relating to discipline, promotion, hiring, vacation, sick time, injured on duty, workers comp, rating reports and grievance handling in order to ensure that personnel matters are handled according to the City personnel policies and in a consistent manner.
9. Knowledge of sound supervisory and management principles and practices including planning, delegating and controlling the work of subordinates, the Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and Equal Employment Opportunity policies as they relate to subordinate personnel.
10. Knowledge of the City and Department's fiscal management processes and budget administration sufficient to prepare and administer the Port Police Division Annual Budget and to provide guidance and direction to staff assisting with the budget process.

11. Knowledge of the organization, functions, and jurisdiction of the Port of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles Fire Department, the City of Los Angeles, and the interrelationships with local municipal, state and federal law enforcement agencies, and other regulatory, licensing, and human services agencies sufficient to work with these groups on problems and to know where to get support and information on particular problems and who has jurisdiction over certain crimes and/or activities.
12. Knowledge of the organization, functions, operations and field activities of the Harbor Department.
13. Knowledge of the rights of citizens, as set out in city, state, and federal laws, rules and regulations in order to ensure that those rights are protected and mitigate risk management.
14. Knowledge of local, state, and federally mandated security and emergency management plans.
15. Knowledge of project coordination and multi-tasking methods in order to delegate and supervise subordinate members handling complex projects and reports.

**31. RESULTS ORIENTATION** – Maintains a focus on objectives to be achieved and acts accordingly to ensure their accomplishment.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Remain focused on the task at hand and its purpose. May alter activities if the same result will be achieved. Does not become distracted by extraneous information, events, or details.
- Level 2: Remain focused on the objectives to be achieved and take all reasonable actions necessary to achieve them. If initial activities to achieve objectives are unsuccessful, tries other approaches.
- Level 3: *Remain focused on outcome and not process, when possible, in the monitoring and evaluation of staff work. Encourage staff to maintain focus on the objectives of their work and not to be overly affected by nuisances or frustration.***

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Clearly understands the purpose/objectives of work assignments.
- Recognizes that there are typically many ways to achieve the same objective.
- Makes multiple attempts to achieve objectives when necessary.
- Does not become distracted by unimportant or irrelevant issues.
- Ignores distracters in order to maintain pursuit of the desired outcome.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Maintains a focus on desired outcomes and makes every reasonable attempt to achieve them. Always recognizes the purpose or objective of work activities.

Superior

Maintains a clear focus on desired results, and is persistent in attempts to achieve them. Insistent that all work activities lead to goal accomplishment; expresses dissatisfaction with activities that have no apparent impact

**45. ORAL COMMUNICATION** – Communicates orally in a clear, concise, and effective manner.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Exchange specific, job-related information orally with others in the immediate work environment or via telephone and/or radio.
- Level 2: *Obtain/provide/present general and/or job-specific information orally to a variety of others in various situations.***
- Level 3: Obtain/provide/present a diverse array of information orally at varying levels of complexity to a wide range of others across many different situations and circumstances.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Audience clearly understands the intended message.
- Rarely must repeat information in response to questions.
- Refrains from use of unnecessary words, phrases, or jargon.
- Provides a level of detail appropriate to the situation (avoids too much or too little detail).
- Speaks at a level appropriate to the audience in terms of terminology, sentence structure, and simplicity/complexity of ideas expressed.
- Uses words with precision (vocabulary) to convey exact information.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Speaks clearly and audibly, providing the appropriate information and level of detail. Typically conveys the message on the first attempt. Answers questions accurately and directly.

Superior

Speech is direct and to the point. Speaks convincingly and with authority when appropriate. Maintains sensitivity to the audience while providing thorough information with the appropriate level of detail through the use of precise language.

**\_47. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION** – Communicates 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.

**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.

**56. AWARENESS OF THE CITY ENVIRONMENT** – Identifies and keeps current on local economic, political, and social trends that affect the work of the City.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Knows (can identify) top local government officials and pressing or highly relevant issues.
- Level 2: *Knows (can identify) City Council members, often due to Committee assignment, and/or members of City Commissions/Boards, and some of their views and background. Maintains awareness of major trends in the internal City organization and the entire City of Los Angeles.***
- Level 3: Knows members of the Mayor's office and City Council members' staff and department heads. Maintains considerable knowledge of social, economic, and political issues affecting area of responsibility.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Discerns from media news information of relevance.
- Maintains awareness of local elections and their outcome.
- Meets with appropriate parties to obtain relevant, timely information.
- Incorporates current social, economic, and/or political issues into work plan and priorities.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Through the news and/or discussion at work, knows local government officials and their views if pertinent to work. Identifies and notes information regarding major trends in the City.

Superior

Seeks information on current events relevant to areas of responsibility or the City as a whole. Knows elected officials influential in relevant areas and who to contact regarding the effects of current events. Incorporates discussion of current events into formulation of plans