

Subject: <b>Kinston Police Department</b>	Document #:		Effective Date:	Page:
<b>Body Armor</b>	<b>200 – 17</b>		<b>07-01-2019</b>	<b>1 of 2</b>
Approval: <b>Chief of Police</b>	Manual: <b>Policy and Procedure</b>			

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines on the issuance and use of body armor by the Department.

## II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Body Armor: A ballistic vest worn by Kinston Police Department personnel to protect against gunfire.

## III. POLICY

- A. The Kinston Police Department maximizes officer safety through the use of body armor in conjunction with sound safety procedures. While body armor provides a significant level of protection, it is not a substitute for sound, basic safety procedures.
- B. The Kinston Police Department issues National Institute of Justice certified bullet resistant vests (Body Armor) to all officers, regardless of assignment. As with all issued equipment, each officer is responsible for the care, control, and custody of the body armor issued to them. Department guidelines will be reviewed and body armor shall be issued to all police officers prior to the beginning of uniform field duty in the field training program. Acknowledgment of review will be documented using the approved department form.
- C. Officers who are assigned to uniformed functions are required to wear the issued body armor when engaged in field activities. During periods of extremely high temperatures, the team supervisor may allow team members to remove their body armor if the team member chooses to do so. The body armor not worn by team member shall be kept immediately available in the officer's police vehicle so that it can be put on at will or upon notice.
- D. Officers who are assigned to non-uniform duties are not required to wear body armor unless the officer is directly involved in field activity such as, but not limited to, the serving of any warrant; field follow-ups that may require contact with suspect(s); responding to holdup alarms.
- E. When performing police related functions, whether on or off-duty, officers shall wear body armor unless exempted as follows:
1. When an agency approved physician determines that an officer has a medical condition that would preclude the use of body armor;
  2. When the officer is involved in undercover or plain clothes work that the officer and the officer's supervisor determines would be compromised by the use of body armor; or,
  3. When the officer is assigned to perform an administrative function.

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F. Mandatory - Regardless of Exemptions or Weather

1. Due to the inherent danger of certain police activities, some situations occur which dictate that any officer, uniformed or not, shall wear body armor regardless of any previously stated exemption or weather condition. These activities include but are not limited to: pre-planned raids; hostage negotiations when suspect is within firing range; rapid entry; barricaded gunman; arrest of a known fugitive; arrest of an unlawful flight; manhunts; search warrant execution; SWAT call outs; escalating situations; on-range police firearms training.