



Grades and Ranks - Amended

This rule is issued to establish the several grades of uniformed Department personnel, it is effective immediately, superseding all written directives previously issued and replacing Rule No. 4 of the 1950 Department Manual.

Sec. 1 – The Boston Police Force is organized under the following grades, ranking in the order that they are listed:

Superintendent-In-Chief

Superintendent

Deputy Superintendent

Captain – Captain Detective

Lieutenant – Lieutenant Detective

Sergeant – Sergeant Detective

Police Officer – Detective

Sec. 2 – In the absence of the Police Commissioner, or upon the vacancy of his/her office without a temporary Police Commissioner having been appointed, the Superintendent-In-Chief, as the highest- ranking police officer, will serve as Acting Police Commissioner.

Sec. 3– If the Superintendent-In-Chief is absent or otherwise unavailable to perform this duty, the Superintendent of the Bureau of Field Services will serve as Acting Police Commissioner.

If both the above Superintendents are absent or otherwise unable to perform this duty, the remaining Superintendents will serve as Acting Police Commissioner by seniority, according to their date of appointment to the grade of Superintendent.

Sec. 4 - In the absence of authorization from the Police Commissioner to the contrary, and subject to the provisions of the succeeding sections of this rule and of further rules, the senior officer of the highest grade who is present for duty at any place, or on any occasion, shall command.

Sec. 5 – For a special service, or for a specified period of regular service the Police Commissioner may designate an officer to take command without regard to seniority in the same grade.

Sec. 6 – When service is to be performed wholly within an Area, but with the assistance of details from other Areas, an officer of rank attached to the home Area and present for duty, shall have authority over an officer of the same grade, even though senior by appointment, who is detailed from another Area or Unit.

Sec. 7 – Nothing in this rule, or elsewhere, shall authorize an officer below the grade of Deputy Superintendent to take command without authorization from the Police Commissioner in an office, Bureau, District, Area, Division or Unit to which he/she is not regularly assigned; but an officer detailed by the Police Commissioner, a Superintendent or Deputy Superintendent, to a special duty in any part of the City shall be free to carry out his/her instructions without regard to the authority of any other officer, even though such officer is his/her superior officer.

An officer with a special duty to perform may request specific action by Superior Officers and direct specific action by subordinates. He/she shall be prepared to justify such action if subsequently called upon to do so. Superior Officers and/or subordinates shall justify their failure or refusal if they have failed to comply with such requests or directions.

Joseph M. Jordan
Police Commissioner