XYZ POLICE DEPARTMENT

SECTION 1.11

DEPARTMENT ROLE AND AUTHORITY

SUBJECT: Duty To Intervene		
Issue Date:	**Effective Date:**	**Review Date:**
Amends/Rescinds GO:		**Distribution:** All Personnel
Per Order of: **Name of Police Chief/Sheriff/CEO:**		**TCA:** **CALEA:** **TLEA**:
This General Order is for departmental use only and does not apply in any criminal or civil proceeding. This General Order should not be construed as creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this General Order will only form the basis for departmental administrative sanctions. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting.		

I. PURPOSE

To establish XYZ Police Department's guidelines regarding all employees' duty to intervene and report any act that violates law or policy.

II. DEFINITIONS

Intervene: To come between, verbally or physically, as to prevent or alter a result or course of events.

III. POLICY

Every member of the XYZ Police Department has the legal, ethical, moral, and departmental responsibility to intervene, stop, and report any other member from committing an unlawful or improper act, including but not limited to, acts of brutality, abuses of process, abuses of authority, and any other criminal acts or significant violations of department policies and procedures.

Likewise, every member has the same responsibility to report any unlawful or improper act, which they witnessed but unable to prevent.

IV. PROCEDURES

1. All interventions shall be reported to an appropriate uninvolved supervisor without delay. Appropriate measures should be taken by ranking officers to protect the intervening officer; should the actor be an immediate supervisor. Successful intervention does not negate a duty to report.

2. If medical attention is required by any individual, ensure that medical attention has been provided and/or summoned.

3. Failure to intervene or report may subject a member to disciplinary action, up to and/or including termination.

V. TYPES OF INTERVENTION

Employees shall examine the circumstances surrounding the incident to determine the appropriate form of intervention. Intervention may be verbal or physical, depending on the circumstances.

1. Preventative: Take a preventative approach, whenever possible, if observing behavior that suggests that another member is about to conduct or engage in inappropriate behavior.

2. Active: Take an active approach to intervene; in order to stop any behavior or misconduct that violates policy or law, when such conduct is being committed by another member.

VI. SUPERVISOR ROLE

When an intervention is reported by an employee to a supervisor, the supervisor shall initiate an appropriate inquiry and/or investigation.

VII. TRAINING

All Officers are sworn to an oath of office and abide by a cannon code of ethics that pertain to integrity and moral turpitude. An employee's duty to intervene is a similar obligation that may be included in the agency's code of ethics, but is mandated to preserve agency values and promote organizational integrity. All employees shall receive training on this policy during their initial orientation period and periodically as deemed necessary by the agency CEO or his designee.