



**YARMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDER
YPD G.O. 2020-02**

SUSPICIOUS PERSONS

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Chief Frank G. Frederickson

TO: All Personnel

One function of the police is to investigate activity that may be predictive of a crime about to occur. With most calls from citizens, they report behavior that is indicative of criminal behavior or about people who may be in need of police service. However, people occasionally report someone is suspicious merely because they are unfamiliar to a particular area or neighborhood. Reports of this nature can be driven by implicit bias and have sometimes focused on people of various ethnic groups, particularly people who are African American or Latinx.

On one hand, the Department must investigate suspicious behavior, and encourage citizens to report it, but we must also be careful not to contribute to the cumulative effect on people who have been repeatedly questioned by police for no wrongdoing.

When a dispatcher receives a call from a citizen concerning activity that is behavior-based, the dispatcher shall ask specific questions about the behavior and a unit should be assigned to investigate. But should a caller merely report someone in their neighborhood who is unknown to them, the dispatcher should ask additional questions to discern whether the person's behavior is in fact suspicious. Where there is no suspicious behavior described, the dispatcher shall communicate with a supervisor and advise them of the nature of the call. Supervisors should consider any other additional factors that may require response, such as recent criminal activity in a specific area. Supervisors have the authority to direct that no unit be assigned in those cases where the activity is not behavior-based.

Frank G. Frederickson,

Chief of Police