

# Memorandum

**TO: ALL DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL**

**FROM:** Paul Joseph  
Acting Chief of Police

**SUBJECT: DUTY MANUAL REVISION – S 1131  
FIREARMS**

**DATE:** June 5, 2024

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APPROVED

Memo #2024-018

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## **BACKGROUND**

Department policy allows members to use personally owned pistols from a variety of manufacturers. Historically, these manufacturers produced pistols with acceptable trigger-pull weights for officers' use. However, in recent years, firearm manufactures have begun to offer various trigger packages on new pistols or as an aftermarket option.

The National Institute of Justice recommends a trigger-pull weight of at least 3.5 lbs. for handguns used by law enforcement officers. Having too light of a trigger-pull weight can be dangerous and lead to negligent discharges by Department members. For this reason, Department policy will now require a trigger-pull weight of no less than 4 lbs. for all handguns carried by officers on and off-duty.

Department members who are unsure of the trigger-pull weight of their handguns are encouraged to have them tested by Range staff.

## **ANALYSIS**

The Duty Manual should be revised to reflect the changes described below. Additions are shown in *italics and underlined*. Deletions are shown in ~~strike through~~ form.

**S 1131**

**FIREARMS:**

*Revised 06-05-24*

Authorized firearms manufacturers, model number and caliber of the weapons are subject to the provisions of the Memorandum of Agreement between the City of San Jose and the San Jose Peace Officers' Association. Authorized colors and finishes for firearms carried by officers are described in the Uniform and Equipment Specifications Manual under the category, Handguns and Ammunition. The provisions detailed in these two documents regarding firearms shall apply to on-duty officers in uniform and in civilian clothes assignments as well as off-duty officers if the firearm is being carried in a law enforcement capacity.

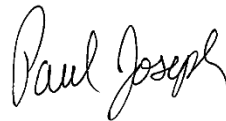
*In addition to and notwithstanding any specifications in the Memorandum of Agreement between the City of San Jose and the San Jose Peace Officers' Association and the Uniform and Equipment Specifications Manual, all handguns carried by officers on or off-duty shall have a trigger-pull weight of no less than 4 lbs. This standard applies to both Department-issued and personally-owned pistols.*

Officers who intend to carry a firearm not issued by the Department must first determine whether such firearm is currently authorized prior to using it. Only authorized firearms, or firearms issued by the City, are carried or otherwise used by officers when involved in a situation requiring the use of police powers and authority.

EXCEPTION: When using or carrying a firearm for private purposes (hunting, private range practice, etc.), use in accordance with state and federal laws. An officer may carry other firearms when the nature of the Department assignment requires such use. However, approval to carry a normally unauthorized firearm must be obtained from the Office of the Chief of Police prior to implementing the use of such a weapon.

## **ORDER**

Effective immediately, all Department personnel shall adhere to the above Duty Manual section.



Paul Joseph  
Acting Chief of Police

PJ:PH:JL