

15. PROHIBITION AGAINST IMITATING LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIFORMS

15.1 PURPOSE

The Clatsop County Sheriff has advised that problems have arisen regarding private security personnel imitating the uniforms of public law enforcement officers. The County Sheriff has met with various law enforcement agency administrators in Clatsop County and they have all jointly recommended that Clatsop County adopt an ordinance, which would serve as a model for adoption by other local municipalities. Although ORS 206.355 specifically prohibits imitation of uniforms worn by personnel from the County Sheriff's Department, that Statute does not extend the same prohibition to other local police agencies. This ordinance is intended to prohibit their imitation as well. (Ordinance 93-3, Sec. 2)

15.2 PROHIBITIONS

15.2.1 No person, other than a Clatsop County Sheriff, Municipal Police Chief or Oregon State Trooper, or such persons designated by them, shall wear, use, copy or imitate in any manner the official uniform designed to be worn by officers of that police agency. In addition, no person may wear or display a metal badge or shield as evidence that s/he is a security officer unless and until such metal badge or shield has been approved pursuant to Section 15.2.4. By way of example, this section is intended to prohibit all brown tone and blue stetson hats and all campaign hats, as well as garrison type hats worn by municipal agencies. In addition, this section is intended to prohibit uniforms which are blue, dark blue or a combination thereof and similar in appearance to police agency uniforms.

15.2.2 The word "police" may not be displayed upon any vehicle operated or used by a private security firm nor may the word "police" be displayed upon any uniforms or identification badges used or worn by private security personnel.

15.2.3 No vehicle may display color schemes, logos or exterior lighting which copy or in any manner imitate a police or emergency vehicle used by a police agency operating in Clatsop County.

15.2.4 Any person or entity proposing to provide, or currently providing, security services within Clatsop County shall submit to the Clatsop County Sheriff on forms supplied by the Sheriff a request for approval of all uniforms, color schemes, logos, metal shields or badges and vehicles used or proposed to be used.

The Sheriff shall grant or deny approval within ten (10) days of receipt of an approval request. (Ordinance 93-3, Sec. 3)

15.3 (This section repealed by Ordinance 96-15)

15.4 SCOPE OF AUTHORITY

15.4.1 The provisions of this ordinance shall apply throughout Clatsop County including inside the corporate limits of any municipality or political subdivision of the State of Oregon. The provisions of this ordinance may be enforced by any State or local police agency operating within the boundaries of Clatsop County.

15.4.2 Except with regard to uniform colors, the provisions of this ordinance shall not apply to any public entity security service staffed by public employees. (Ordinance 93-3, Sec. 5).