I. Introduction
A. Social media provides valuable assistance to Division personnel with meeting community outreach, solving problems, conducting investigations, and preventing crime.
B. The Division endorses the exchange of information via social media to enhance communication, encourage collaboration, and foster productivity. This policy establishes the Division’s position on the management of social media while providing guidance on its administration. This policy is not meant to address one particular form of social media, rather social media in general, as technology changes.
C. The Division recognizes the role that these tools play in the personal lives of some Division personnel. The personal use of social media can have bearing on Division personnel in their official capacity. This policy provides prohibitions on the use of social media by Division personnel.
D. Division personnel are free to express themselves as private citizens on social media sites to the degree that their speech does not:
   1. Impair working relationships within the Division.
   2. Demean, ridicule, or personally attack employees of the Division of Police and the City of Columbus.
   3. Impede or interfere with their own or that of another Division employee’s ability to perform their job requirements.
   4. Violate any other Division Rule of Conduct, Policy, or Directive or City Work Rule.

II. Definitions
A. Page
   The specific portion of a social media website where content is displayed and managed by an individual or individuals with administrator rights.
B. Post
   Content an individual shares on a social media site or the act of publishing content on a site.
C. Social Media
   A category of internet-based resources that integrate user-generated content and user participation. This includes, but is not limited to, social
networking sites (Facebook, MySpace), microblogging sites (Twitter, Nixle),
photo and video-sharing sites (Flickr, YouTube), wikis (Wikipedia), blogs,
and news sites (Digg, Reddit).

D. Speech
Expression or communication of thoughts or opinions in spoken words, in
writing, by expressive conduct, symbolism, photographs, video, or related
forms of communication.

III. Policy Statements
A. On-Duty Use Representing the Division
1. For Division purposes, all social media sites or pages shall be approved
by the Chief of Police or his or her designee and shall be administered
by the assigned bureau commander or his or her designee.
   a. Social media pages shall clearly indicate they are maintained by the
      Division and shall have Division contact information prominently dis-
      played.
   b. Social media content shall adhere to applicable laws, regulations, and
      policies, including all information technology policies.
2. Social media pages shall state that the opinions expressed by visitors
to the page(s) do not reflect the opinions of the Division.
   a. Pages shall clearly indicate that posted content will be monitored and
      that the Division reserves the right to remove any content for reasons
      including, but not limited to, comments that contain obscenities, off-topic
      comments, and personal attacks.
   b. Pages shall clearly indicate that any content posted or submitted for
      posting is subject to public disclosure.
3. Personnel representing the Division via social media outlets shall identify
themselves as a member of the Division.
4. Division personnel shall observe and abide by all copyright, trademark,
and service mark restrictions in posting materials to social media.
5. Personnel representing the Division via social media outlets shall not
conduct private business on the social media site.

B. Personal Use
1. Prohibitions
   a. Personnel shall not post pictures or otherwise identify other Division
      personnel assigned to covert assignments if the posting could identify
      the covert personnel as an officer.
   b. Division personnel shall not engage in speech which may undermine
      or impeach a Division employee’s testimony in criminal proceedings.