



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

June 23, 2020

**TO:** All Personnel

**FROM:** Michael R. Barnett, Undersheriff  
Office of the Sheriff

### **DIRECTIVE #2006-01 DUTY TO INTERVENE**

Peace officers have tremendous authority. That authority must be balanced with accountability to meet the high standards of the communities we serve. As a Sheriff's Department employee, you represent our organization and are accountable for upholding Department values to maintain public trust. Although our training, expectation, and practice has always been to intervene and stop inappropriate behavior, it has become necessary to formally memorialize that policy.

Accordingly, every member of the Sheriff's Department who has knowledge of another employee's misconduct, including but not limited to violations of policy, illegal activity, or excessive use of force, has a duty to intervene. An employee witnessing such misconduct shall immediately take necessary action to stop it. The presence of a supervisor does not relieve an employee from their duty to stop misconduct from continuing.

Employees shall report misconduct to a supervisor or directly to Internal Affairs. Supervisors receiving complaints of misconduct shall conduct an appropriate investigation and notify the next level up in the chain of command of the allegation and any and all actions taken since receiving notification.

This directive will remain in effect until an intervention policy that incorporates similar language has been added to the Department's Policies and Procedures Manual.

/s/ Michael R. Barnett, Undersheriff

MRB:mg