


<b>OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF</b>	
Terry L. Thompson	
<b>General Order</b>	

**To:** All WCSO Staff

**From:** Sheriff Thompson

**CC:**

**Date:** 29-September-2012

**Re:** Personal Firearms

**#12-06**

#### Rationale

There is no act in law enforcement more critical than the use of a firearm in the protection of the deputy or the public. The importance of a deputy having confidence in his or her individual gun handling and marksmanship skills is essential. It is difficult to provide a single firearm which will satisfy each individual preference and provide this confidence.

#### Purpose

In an attempt to provide a deputy with the confidence in the firearm he or she is carrying, effective immediately, Weber County Deputies will be allowed to carry a personal choice firearm as a part of their duty uniform gear. The following conditions will apply:

1. A deputy wishing to carry a personal firearm must provide a designated Weber County Sheriff's Office armorer with a written request describing the make, model, caliber and condition (new, used, any alterations from original) of the firearm. If the firearm is a new purchase for the deputy, the deputy is encouraged to complete this approval process prior to purchase. Acceptance will be based on manufacturer history and quality, design, and applicability to use.
2. If the firearm is used or of a manufacturer not familiar to the armorer, the armorer will perform an inspection prior to approval or rejection.  
***(The decision of the armorer to accept or reject the firearm for on duty patrol use will be final.)***
3. The firearm must be one of the following calibers: 9mm, 40 S&W, 357 sig, and 45 ACP.
4. The firearm must be a semi-automatic with a minimum barrel length of 3".  
***(Consideration should be given to barrel length. A shorter barrel is inherently more difficult to shoot accurately and produces increased recoil.)***
5. Prior to the deputy being allowed to carry the firearm:
  - a. The deputy must qualify with the firearm to current qualification standards and policy required for on duty patrol. An off-duty/backup qualification does not meet this standard.
  - b. The deputy must demonstrate proficiency in the use and handling of the firearm.

6. The deputy requesting to carry a personal firearm will understand and agree:
- a. All ammunition for the firearm will be provided by the deputy for all training and qualification, unless the caliber of the firearm is consistent with Sheriff's Office issued firearms. If the caliber is consistent with office issued firearms, ammunition will be provided for training and qualification as per current policy.
  - b. Duty ammunition will be determined by the armorer. The armorer will provide a list of the on duty approved ammunition for each caliber. The approved ammunition will be the ONLY ammunition allowed to be used while on duty.
  - c. The deputy will be responsible for the purchase and maintenance of a duty holster. The holster must meet current policy standards in regards to color, duty assignment, and type and design, i.e. black basket weave, black cordura nylon, etc. The holster must have at least one manually operated retention device and be approved by a designated armorer.
  - d. The firearm may not be altered in any way without the written approval of the armorer.
  - e. The firearm condition will be consistent with the condition requirements of an office issued firearm, in regards to care and cleaning. All maintenance and care of the firearm will be provided by the deputy.
  - f. The firearm and related equipment will be subject to inspection at any time by a Sheriff's Office armorer or firearms instructor.