

CHAPTER 8
WEARING OF THE UNIFORM–PROGRAM OF ENTERTAINMENT
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CHAPTER 8

WEARING OF THE UNIFORM—PROGRAM OF ENTERTAINMENT

1. POLICY.

a. Written Requests. The Commissioner may grant approval to reputable firms, corporations, groups, or individuals presenting written requests for the wearing of a uniform substantially similar to the official California Highway Patrol (CHP) uniform provided.

(1) All requests are submitted directly to, or forwarded to, the Office of Community Outreach and Media Relations (COMR).

(2) A complete script is attached to the request for the Commissioner's review.

b. Departmental Responsibility. Employees of the CHP shall not undertake the responsibility of reviewing and editing scripts or scenarios in conjunction with requests for wearing the official CHP uniform.

c. Petitioner Responsibility. The petitioner is responsible for the portrayal of individuals represented or depicted as wearing a uniform substantially similar to the official CHP uniform in accordance with the conditions of the approval. If changes occur in the script at any time, a new request must be submitted with the new script to COMR for approval.

2. GENERAL.

a. Vehicle Code Requirements. California Vehicle Code Section 2261 states: "A uniform substantially similar to the official uniform of members of the California Highway Patrol shall not be worn by any other law enforcement officer or by any other person except duly appointed members of the California Highway Patrol and persons authorized by the Commissioner to wear such uniform in connection with a program of entertainment. A uniform shall be deemed substantially similar to the uniform of the California Highway Patrol if it so resembles such official uniform as to cause an ordinary reasonable person to believe that the person wearing the uniform is a member of the California Highway Patrol."

b. Program of Entertainment, Defined. A program of entertainment shall include, but not be limited to, stage plays, television and motion picture productions, or other media intended to submit presentations to public view.

- c. Departmental Intent. The Department does not intend to be overly restrictive with the entertainment industry by impeding productions sponsored by firms, groups, or individuals which obtain technical authenticity through the wearing of a uniform substantially similar to the official CHP uniform.
- d. Applicant Agreement. The uniform of the CHP is symbolic of the dignity and sovereignty of the State of California, and it is essential that it be worn in a manner which will command respect and cast honor and esteem toward the Department and the State of California. Therefore, a firm, group, or individual submitting a formal request for any representative or employee to wear a uniform substantially similar to the official CHP uniform agrees to the aforementioned conditions.

3. PROCEDURE FOR AUTHORIZATION.

- a. General. The applicant should submit their request to COMR to wear the CHP or similar uniform.
- b. Approval Authority. Approval to represent the likeness of the CHP will come directly from the Commissioner's office.
- c. Notification. The Office of COMR will notify the petitioner in writing of the approval or denial of the request.
- d. Distribution. Approved requests shall be distributed as follows:
 - (1) Original letter is sent to the petitioner.
 - (2) A copy shall be retained by COMR.
 - (3) Retention period shall be two years plus current.