

**COMPETENCY MODEL FOR  
SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR (2016)  
CLASS CODE 0602**

The following competencies have been identified as those that best separate superior from satisfactory job performance in the class of **SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR**. (Numbers refers to the order of competencies in the Competency Bank.)

- 3. Judgment and Decision Making
- 4. Analytical Ability
- 16. Objectivity
- 20. Job Knowledge
- 29. Fact Finding
- 39. Tact
- 40. Credibility
- 47. Written Communication

On the following pages are descriptions of each competency, including a definition, the level of the competency required for the class (*italicized*, **bolded**, and underlined), examples of behavioral indicators, and satisfactory and superior performance levels.

- 3. JUDGMENT AND DECISION MAKING** – Accurately assesses situations, seeks new information if necessary, and applies all available information to reach sound conclusions/formulate effective response.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Training and guidelines needed to respond to immediate situations within very specific function are provided (or supervisor available to assist).
- Level 2: General information and guidance to assist in responding to a variety of situations across a range of circumstances are provided.
- Level 3: **Little guidance available for responding to a wide range of complex situations with far-reaching and/or enduring consequences.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Obtains the necessary amount of relevant information.
- Effectively responds to atypical situations.
- Asks questions or otherwise obtains additional relevant information to make a decision.
- Formulates a decision and necessary actions based on available facts.
- Correctly infers appropriate response based on information provided and existing policies, personal experience, and/or consultation with others.
- Discusses conclusions/possible responses with others before taking action as necessary.
- Considers impact of decisions on all affected parties.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Correctly assesses routine and unusual situations and reaches appropriate conclusions for actions needed. Obtains additional information and/or consults with others as necessary.

Superior

Evaluates new situations accurately to establish an appropriate response or plan of action. Recognizes the impact on all affected parties, as well as the possible ramifications and/or repercussions of setting a precedent.

**4. ANALYTICAL ABILITY** – Identifies, obtains, and evaluates relevant information to establish relationships or patterns, cite causes, and reach logical conclusions

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Recognize similarities/differences in current situation to those previously encountered and is guided accordingly. Apply existing policies correctly. Ask pertinent questions or otherwise seek additional information to formulate appropriate response
- Level 2: Consider multiple, varied factors when evaluating a situation or issue. Seek additional information to provide further insight. Reach conclusions that logically follow from the information obtained.
- Level 3: **Consider a multitude of diverse factors, their interrelationships, the perspectives of others, alternative courses of action and their likely ramifications when evaluating information to reach a conclusion.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Obtains the necessary amount of relevant information.
- Recognizes the impact of each type of information on conclusions.
- Evaluates the quality/source of information when considering it.
- States the shortcomings of the information and, therefore, the analysis.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Recognizes available relevant information, seeks additional information to consider, and reaches a conclusion. Provides sound, convincing justification for conclusions, citing relevant data and facts.

Superior

Uses a great deal of existing and obtained information and data to develop and evaluate alternatives and arrive at a final conclusion. Provides compelling arguments in support of conclusions.

**16. OBJECTIVITY** – Demonstrates fairness and equity toward others; understands different perspectives; states sides of a conflict non-evaluatively; uses facts and logic.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: **Respond to the situation at hand and its specific circumstances as opposed to being influenced by previous encounters, stereotypes, or biases.**
- Level 2: Appropriately aligns self/organizational interest with objectives to benefit the overall organization and/or citizenry.
- Level 3: Appropriately aligns self/organizational interest with the “common good” (citizens, other public sector agencies, elected officials).

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Notes facts and circumstances specific to the situation.
- Formulates plans for action based on the totality of factual information.
- Gives full attention to each task/issue within areas of responsibility.
- Clearly demonstrates the benefits of actions to the overall organization, citizens, and/or the “common good.”
- Does not take positions or promote actions/causes that reflect blatant self interest.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Focuses on and reacts to all facts and information available for each situation/issue. Disregards personal preferences or biases in appraisal of situation/issue and response to it.

Superior

Strives to serve the “common good.” Responds in a manner contrary to self-interest when appropriate.

**20. JOB KNOWLEDGE** – Knows information required to perform a specific job. Includes both widely available courses of study (for example, chemistry, human resources management, graphic arts) and City-specific information (parking regulation and ticketing practices; purchasing procedures; provisions of the City Charter).

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Knowledge is concrete, factual, and/or procedural and may be defined by the organization. Situations in which it is applied are quite consistent.
- Level 2: **Knowledge is substantive and may be defined by an external trade, field, or profession. Situations in which it is applied vary and, as such, require breadth and depth of understanding.**
- Level 3: Knowledge is abstract, conceptual, and/or complex and may be supported by a well-defined academic discipline or authoritative sources (e.g., laws, ordinances, government guidelines/regulations/codes). Situations in which it is applied may vary greatly or be novel.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Performs work correctly/avoids technical (job content related) errors.
- Answers technical questions about work accurately.
- Asks few technical questions about the performance of routine work activities.
- Offers advice (“coaching”) to new employees regarding their work.
- Develops training programs for other employees.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Sufficient job knowledge to perform work correctly independently. Answers technical questions about work correctly.

Superior

Expertise in technical job information sufficient to serve as a resource to others. May develop training manuals/ programs and/or give internal and/or external presentations related to work.

### **Job Knowledge Areas**

1. Knowledge of various rules, regulations, policies, and ordinances such as Civil Service Rules and Penal Code as they relate to City employees, contractors, or vendors doing business with the City in order to identify potential violations.
2. Knowledge of techniques and policies pertaining to maintaining confidentiality of testimony and evidence such as not discussing sensitive information with other individuals, storing files in a secure database in order to preserve the integrity of the investigation, and/or City record retention policies.

**29. FACT FINDING** – Obtains required information through questioning, review of existing materials, or securing new materials to answer a question or address a problem.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Look up information available in the workplace (including use of the internet) or by asking questions of co-workers or supervisor.
- Level 2: Interview individuals and/or obtain necessary information from files, the library, and/or the internet.
- Level 3: **Conduct in-depth interviews/interrogations or depositions. Locate obscure reference material containing germane information by correctly identifying needed information, making logical inferences regarding where it might be available, and discerning from newly acquired information relevant additional materials.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Asks a series of insightful questions in a logical order.
- Correctly identifies persons most likely to have the needed information.
- Listens carefully to responses from others to discern all relevant information stated.
- Makes logical assumptions about where certain types of information might be found; or asks others who are likely to know.
- Persists in locating relevant information until a sufficient amount is available to permit answering question or addressing the problem fully.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Obtains necessary information through scrutiny of existing files and other resources, correctly identifying and obtaining other sources of information, and/or asking questions.

Superior

Exhibits great insight in identifying who would have certain information, or in what materials it might be located. Carefully crafts questions to extract needed information. Persists until sufficient information is gathered to formulate a logical conclusion.

### **Fact Finding Areas**

1. Uses proper investigative techniques and procedures for identifying and obtaining evidence such as document review, investigative interviews, and surveillance in order to conduct comprehensive investigations involving City employees, officers, vendors, or contractors in a manner that complies with applicable local, state, and federal laws, rules and regulations.
2. Uses interviewing techniques and strategies for gathering information, assessing the credibility of a witness and/or the quality of witness statements such as evaluating consistency with prior statements and other evidence in order to conduct an investigation.



- 39. TACT** – Considerate and pleasant in interactions with others, even in situations that involve controversy, disagreement, or represent other emotional strain.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Pleasant in interpersonal interactions with co-workers and/or members of the public when cooperating to accomplish a goal or to provide service.
- Level 2: **Courteous and considerate in interactions with a wide variety of others during times of controversy or conflict or in the face of negative reaction.**
- Level 3: Diplomatic when addressing sensitive matters with the media, elected/appointed officials, and/or a large public audience. Remain considerate and sensitive in times of crisis.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Listens actively; conveys understanding.
- Displays sensitivity of others' circumstances and viewpoints.
- Displays empathy by smiling, nodding, etc. when appropriate to do so.
- Recognizes others' points of view when communicating information.
- Expresses information in a manner that does not offend individuals with differing points of view.
- Conveys even a negative message with positive tone and words to the extent possible.
- Anticipates audience reaction to negative or controversial information to be provided.
- Recognizes when to defer to those of higher status or for other reason.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Courteous and considerate in interactions with others. Provides information in as positive a manner as possible.

Superior

Accommodates the needs/desires of others in interactions with them to the extent possible. Maintains a positive approach in the face of adversity or criticism.

**40. CREDIBILITY** – Is truthful and sincere; objectively and clearly provides all pertinent information rather than being vague, omitting negative information or only stating what listeners “want to hear.”

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Freely and openly share accurate job-related information with coworkers.
- Level 2: **Provide complete, accurate information to other City employees and members of the public.**
- Level 3: Represent department to the Mayors’ Office, City Council, City Commissions, and/or department heads, and/or to external organizations, professional associations, and/or the media.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Admits mistakes.
- Information provided is consistent (not contradictory or stating different things to different people).
- Answers questions directly and thoroughly.
- Shares credit for achievements.
- Acts in the best interest of the organization, not self interest.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

“Tells the complete story” from the onset. Is forthcoming with full information when questioned. Statements are consistent. Readily admits mistakes and gives credit to others.

Superior

Information provided is complete and accurate, and includes any negative information or information contrary to self interest. Does not attempt to be vague or put a “spin” on negative information to make it appear more positive.

## 47. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION – Communicates effectively in writing.

### Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Write notes/e-mails. Completes forms with some open-ended responses (sentences).
- Level 2: **Write letters, articles/reports, and/or detailed descriptions of activities/occurrences.**
- Level 3: Write lengthy reports, instruction manuals, in-depth analyses/reviews of complex issues and/or articles for publication. Reviews the written work of others.

### Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Writing includes the necessary information to convey the intended message.
- Sufficiently few errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar to not interfere with the intended message or distract the reader.
- Little editing or re-writing needed to produce a final product.
- Composes materials efficiently.
- Information is presented in a well organized manner.
- Tone and degree of formality are appropriate to the purpose and audience.

### Performance Levels:

#### Satisfactory

“Tells the complete story” from the onset. Is forthcoming with full information when questioned. Statements are consistent. Readily admits mistakes and gives credit to others.

#### Superior

Information provided is complete and accurate, and includes any negative information or information contrary to self interest. Does not attempt to be vague or put a “spin” on negative information to make it appear more positive.