PURPOSE:

To provide standardized procedures for processing U and T visa applications and certifications by the Vineland Police Department.

POLICY:

It is the policy of this department that all applications and requests for U and T visas shall be processed in accordance with federal law (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(T) and 1101(a)(15)(U)) and New Jersey Attorney General Directive 2018-6.

PROCEDURES:

A. Definitions

1. U nonimmigrant status (U visa) is set aside for victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and are helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity.

2. T nonimmigrant status (T visa) is a temporary immigration benefit that enables certain victims of a severe form of human trafficking to remain in the United States for up to 4 years if they have assisted law enforcement in an investigation or prosecution of human trafficking. T nonimmigrant status is also available for certain qualifying family members of trafficking victims.

B. All applications or requests for U and T visas shall be immediately forwarded directly to the Chief of Police. Only the Chief of Police, or designee, may complete U and T visa applications for the Vineland Police Department.

C. The Chief of Police or designee shall review each request for a U or T visa consistent with federal law and the Department of Homeland Security U and T Visa Law Enforcement Resource Guide. Review shall include a determination of the following:

1. For U visa certifications: whether, pursuant to the standards set forth in federal law and instructions to USCIS Form I-914 Supplement B, the requester:
   a. Is a victim of a qualifying criminal activity; and
   b. Was, is, or is likely to be, helpful in the investigation or prosecution of that activity
2. For T visa certifications: whether, pursuant to the standards set forth in federal law and instructions to USCIS Form I-914 Supplement B, the requester:

   a. Is or has been a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons; and

   b. Has complied with requests for assistance in an investigation or prosecution of the crime of trafficking.

D. Requests for U and T visa certifications from victims of crime or human trafficking, or their families, shall be processed within 120 days of the request being made.

E. The U and T visa can be a key tool to support a criminal case, can help certain crime victims feel safer reporting crimes, and make them willing to work with police even if they do not have lawful immigration status. Employees may also encounter victims who could qualify for a U or T visa but do not know about it. Providing them with information about the U or T visa may enable them to feel more comfortable working with police. As such, employees are authorized to do the following:

   1. Provide information to victims and their family members on the U and T visa programs. This may include the Department of Homeland Security U Visa Immigration Relief for Crime Victims Overview.

   2. Accept applications for U and T visas and forward them directly to the Chief of Police for review.

F. Subject to New Jersey Attorney General Directive 2018-6, employees may ask any questions necessary to complete a U or T visa certifications. They may generally not disclose the immigration status of a person requesting U or T visa certifications except to comply with state or federal law or legal process, or if authorized by the visa applicant. However, nothing in this order shall be construed to restrict, prohibit, or in any way prevent a state, county, or local law enforcement agency or official from sending to, maintaining, or receiving from federal immigration authorities, information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual. See 8 U.S.C. 1373, 1644.