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NYPD Wants In On Recruits' Facebook, MySpace Pages
 WPIX NEWS

January 22, 2009

NEW YORK (WPIX) -- The New York City police department wants in on recruits' Facebook and MySpace pages. No, they're not looking into 'friending' the rookies on the social networking sites, it's just a part of the department's policy.

According to the New York Post, the NYPD is now requiring police recruits who have online web pages to watch as an investigator sifts through their most private postings.

It's the department's way of weeding out would-be cops who take on different identities online, posting material deemed objectionable and unbecoming of a New York City police officer.

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According to the policy which has been in effect for over a year, recruits with logins must sign in to their accounts and grant Applicants Processing Division officers full access to their online profile. If the applicant chooses not to log in, only a subpoena would allow the NYPD access to the account, sources tell the Post.

The policy is designed to avoid any embarrassing disclosures from an officer that would surface after joining the force. Sources say the online screening process has successfully alerted the department to a number of questionable applicants, one who posted a photograph on his page of himself pointing a gun at a friend. The photo was probably taken in jest, but it ended up costing the recruit the job.

Other online profiles of would-be cops that raised red flags included pages posted with violent video, explicit photos, and insensitive and racist remarks.

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