

PATROL OFFICER

GENERAL SUMMARY:

Under the general supervision of the Shift Supervisor/Assistant Shift Supervisor, the patrol officer shall perform preventive patrol and other law enforcement functions aimed at protecting life and property, preserving the peace, reducing opportunities for the commission of crimes, and identifying and apprehending offenders. The patrol officer shall provide emergency and non-emergency services, while creating and establishing a sense of security in the community.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED:

Works under the general supervision of the Police Chief, Lieutenant or Sergeant who make general assignments as to the area to be covered, specific cases to be investigated, etc. duties are performed independently and Officer must exercise independent judgment in meeting emergencies and determining lawful and appropriate courses of action.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

1. Patrols in an assigned area of the Town; checks overall security of vacant homes and buildings; periodically checks business establishments and public places for violations of the law and takes appropriate enforcement action; confronts suspicious person and situations and determines appropriate action.
2. Negotiates settlements between emotionally upset and often persons involved in domestic disputes, drunkenness, break-ins, larcenies, vandalism, assaults, etc.
3. Receives dispatch orders and responds to calls for service, emergency situations and serious crimes; takes charge of crime scenes until relieved by higher authority; exercises knowledge of State laws, Federal laws, Supreme Court decisions, and Town ordinances in determining legal justification for arrest, search and seizure, protective custody, etc.
4. Directs activities at accidents and disaster areas rendering first aid and restoring traffic to normal; investigates traffic accidents to determine cause. Periodically directs traffic to assure steady flow. Stops motor vehicles, contacts drivers and issues citations for violations; makes physical arrests when laws have been violated; administers Intoxilyzer tests to determine the degree of blood alcohol in possible drunk driver situations.

5. Assists in the investigation of crimes and/or suspected criminal acts to identify, locate, apprehend and prepare prosecution of persons charged with committing crimes. Examines crime scenes to collect evidence; interviews and interrogates witnesses and suspected offenders; determines the extent of criminal activity and need for further police assistance.
6. Exercises considerable discretion in identifying police problems on the beat and working with private citizens and community groups to develop and implement innovative, non-traditional solutions, particularly to quality of life issues.
7. Completes and submits all required reports and records in conformance with department regulations and statutory requirements; conducts follow-up investigations on unsolved crimes.
8. Maintains weapons and equipment in accordance with department policy. Inspects assigned vehicles for defects, missing equipment, contraband and evidence; reports defects, damages or irregularities.
9. Assists citizens requesting assistance or information when appropriate.
10. Confers with department Prosecutor, testifies in court and at motor vehicle hearings, assists in the prosecution of cases as necessary.
11. Operates department equipment such as Intoxilyzer (when certified), traffic radar, cameras, etc.
12. Enforces municipal ordinances and State laws pertaining to the regulation and control of dogs and other animals through patrol and investigation of complaints. May have to perform these physical functions in the absence of an Animal Control Officer.
13. Performs other related duties as required.