

	BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT	Distribution ALL PERSONNEL	General Order Number 8.14
	POLICY AND PROCEDURE GENERAL ORDER	Original Issue Date 2/18/20	Reissue/Effective Date 06/12/2020
Order Title: SPECIAL OFFICER PROGRAM		Accreditation Standard: POSTC: 1.11.4	Section 8
		Section Title PERSONNEL	
Rescinds:		Armando J. Perez, Chief of Police	

This General Order is for departmental use only and does not apply in any criminal or civil proceeding. This General Order should not be construed as creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this General Order will only form the basis for departmental administrative sanctions. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to outline the Bridgeport Police Department's Special Officer Program.

II. POLICY

The Bridgeport Police Department supports a Special Officer Program to supplement the operational aspects of the agency and provide a recruitment resource for full-time officer selection. Special Police Officers may have arrest powers, may be issued a firearm, and may wear the same uniform as full-time officers. The Chief of Police or designee is responsible for maintaining the Special Officer Program consistent with the general laws of the State of Connecticut, the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC), and Department directives.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Program Description

1. The Special Officer Program provides full-time, sworn personnel to assist with the operational functions of the Department.
2. The Chief of Police or designee will schedule Special Police Officers when necessary to provide additional personnel to compliment operational needs. Special Police Officers will not be utilized to replace a bonified police officer position, unless there is an emergency or exigent circumstance.

3. A Special Officer Police Officer may also function in the position of Animal Control Officer.

B. Selection and Training

1. Only those candidates that have successfully completed a POSTC – sanctioned Academy will be used as Special Police Officers.
2. Special Police Officers will receive the full FTO training program with a certified FTO before being assigned to other duties including details.
3. Special Police Officers, depending on their assignments, will be qualified with all issued weapons and ammunition by a certified instructor before being assigned to duties other than Field Training and shall receive the same use of force training as full- time officers.
4. Special Police Officers will attend the same in-service training program as full-time officers. The Department will cover the costs of training and Special Officer Police Officers will be paid their regular pay rate for attending these classes. Special Officer Police Officers will receive the same level of training in lethal and less- lethal weapons as regular officers

C. Indemnification

Special Police Officers will receive the same indemnification protections as full-time sworn personnel.