


<p style="text-align: center;">STRATFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT</p> 	Type of Directive: Policy and Procedure	Updated: 06-07-2019
	Title: Off Duty Action	No. 7.26
	Issuing Authority: Chief Joseph McNeil	Issued: 06-07-2019
	Reference:	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines to officers who must make an off-duty arrest or intervene in a crime in progress.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Stratford Police Department that all sworn officers may affect an arrest while off duty when absolutely necessary.

PROCEDURE:

Officers have police/arrest powers (24) twenty-four hours a day throughout the jurisdiction. As such, officers may choose to carry departmentally authorized firearms when out of uniform in an off-duty status. However, when armed, Officers shall carry their badge and credentials with them at all times. (ref. Stratford Police Firearms Policy)

Authorized Off-Duty Arrests

The following protocols are intended to define when off-duty, non-uniformed enforcement action is authorized, and how it should be conducted. Limit unnecessary enforcement action by off-duty officers.

When off duty and within the legal jurisdiction of this department, an off-duty officer may make an arrest when:

- There is an immediate need to prevent a serious crime, or apprehend a suspect connected with a serious crime
- The crime requires a full custodial arrest
- The arresting officer is adequately prepared and equipped to handle the situation

Use of Force

Absent exigent circumstances, off-duty officers shall notify on-duty officers before taking official actions which may result in the use of force, so that they may respond with appropriate personnel and resources to handle the problem.

In the event an off duty officer uses force or otherwise intervenes in a criminal incident he/she shall be responsible to adhere to policy and procedure.

Reporting Off-duty Incidents

When off-duty officers are responsible for reporting any suspected or observed criminal activity to the authorities responsible for the jurisdiction in which the activity occurred.

- This may include a call to 9-1-1 or to the jurisdictions regular telephone number. Officers are permitted to participate in an off-duty incident except to the restrictions delineated in this policy.

The officer involved in an off-duty incident shall notify the Shift supervisor on duty either in person, by radio, or by telephone, or via 9-1-1, of the incident. At a minimum, the following shall be provided;

- Type of incident
- Date and time incident occurred
- Type and degree of officer involvement
- Location where the incident occurred

Depending on the seriousness of the incident, the on duty supervisor notified may direct the off-duty officer to remain at the scene, and wait for further instructions. Further instructions may include, but are not limited to:

- Remain at the scene and await the arrival of a supervisor or other on duty official
- Respond to the nearest police facility or other applicable location (i.e. hospital, etc.)

The on-duty supervisor notified must assess the incident to determine if further immediate departmental notifications are necessary. Serious or sensitive incidents will usually require an immediate command level notification to the Chief and Deputy Chief. Off-duty incidents requiring immediate command notifications include, but are not limited to:

- When an off-duty incident results in death or injury to any party
- When an off-duty incident involves a crime
- When an off-duty incident involves the use of force by the involved officer
- When an off-duty arrest involves a custodial arrest of any party
- When an off-duty incident has the potential for high publicity

All officers participating in an off-duty incident (in accordance with this policy) must submit the applicable reports thoroughly documenting the incident. All officers involved will submit a use of force form if applicable.