

G. PATROL OFFICER

JOB SUMMARY:

Serves as a Patrol Officer performing responsible law enforcement duties, including patrol, investigation, traffic control, and a variety of other duties designed to preserve peace and order and to protect life and property in the Town.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

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.

Negotiates settlements between emotionally upset and often irrational persons involved in domestic disputes, drunkenness, break-ins, larcenies, vandalism, assaults, etc.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Completes and submits all required reports and records in conformance with department regulations and statutory requirements; conducts follow-up investigations on unsolved crimes.

Maintains weapons and equipment in accordance with department policy. Inspects assigned vehicles for defects, missing equipment, contraband and evidence; reports defects, damages or irregularities.

Assists citizens requesting assistance or information when appropriate.

Confers with department Prosecutor, testifies in court and at motor vehicle hearings, assists in the prosecution of cases as necessary.

Operates department equipment such as Intoxilyzer (when certified), traffic radar, cameras, etc.

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.

Performs other related duties as required.

PHYSICAL SKILLS REQUIRED:

Must be able to function as a working police officer, including the ability to make physical custody arrests of forcibly resisting persons, search and handcuff prisoners if required.

Must be able to qualify with service weapon and utilize baton and other self-defense equipment. This includes firing firearm from standing, crouched, kneeling and prone positions and from behind cover, clear weapon malfunctions, fire weapon in dark environment while using flashlight, discharge a shoulder weapon, and clear malfunctions in various firearms.

Must be able to operate a standard police vehicle under both emergency and non-emergency driving conditions. May be required to operate a police mountain bicycle or police motorcycle.

Must be able to use physical force to gain entry to premises and subdue or control persons, break up fights, disarm violent persons, etc.

Must be able to engage in foot pursuits of fleeing suspects, climb up and down stairs, over walls and fences, push motor vehicles and lift and carry heavy objects.

Must be able to hear well enough to distinguish direction and content of conversations in person and over the radio and telephone, even in the presence of background noise.

Must be able to administer first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Must be able to see well enough to read and fill out forms in artificial lighting conditions, and able to aim and fire a weapon without corrective lenses in an emergency.

Must be able to stand or sit for protracted periods of time during surveillance situations, traffic duty, etc.

Must be able to speak English clearly and distinctly enough to use a police radio, speak to groups, or be overheard when giving commands during a crowd control situation.

Must be able to read, comprehend, analyze and explain complex written materials pertaining to law enforcement.

Ability to use a personal computer to produce reports with a word processing system, and to access the database to obtain information on wants and warrants, stolen vehicles, etc.

Must be able to maintain the physical standards required by the department.

Must be able to remain calm and think clearly in emergencies, and to adapt to both long-term and short-term stress.

OTHER KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED:

Knowledge of modern police practices, techniques, and methods; knowledge of controlling laws, ordinances and court decisions. Thorough knowledge of the geography of the Town, and the rules and regulations of the Department. Knowledge of crime scene interpretation, safeguarding and preserving of evidence; ability to obtain information through interview and interrogation; ability to analyze situations quickly and objectively and to determine proper courses of action. Ability to speak and write effectively. Ability to serve as a community or neighborhood catalyst for action and develop and maintain effective working relationships with residents, tourists, Town officials, and officers from other law enforcement agencies. Skill in the use of care of and the ability to utilize a firearm.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

High school diploma or equivalent, with an Associate's degree or 60 matriculated college credits from an accredited college or university or have been honorably discharged from the US armed services (DD214 form required); possession or ability to obtain certification from the Rhode Island Municipal Police Training Academy. Possession of a valid Rhode Island driver's license; experience in law enforcement or public contact work; OR any equivalent combination of education and experience which demonstrates possession of the required knowledge's, skills and abilities.

Must pass an oral interview, a written test administered by the Warren Police Department, and medical and psychological examinations and be capable of passing a physical fitness performance test established by the Rhode Island Municipal Police Training Council, a background check and criminal records check. The Town Manager, upon recommendation of the Chief of Police, makes the appointment.

Must serve a probationary period of up to one (1) year.

PHYSICAL EXERTION/ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS:

Physical effort involves standing and/or walking and occasional strenuous positions when apprehending law violators. Working conditions are disagreeable due to varying climatic conditions, emotional stress, and exposure to hazards, which could result in total disability or even death.