

Somerville Police Department 	TYPE: GENERAL ORDER		POLICY NUMBER: 110	
	Subject: Special Police Officers: Retired Somerville Police Officers and Somerville Housing Authority Police			
	Issuing Authority: David Fallon Chief of Police		Signature:  Number of Pages: Page 1 of 4	Effective Date: July 24, 2018
Accreditation Standards (5th Edition)		<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revised <input type="checkbox"/> Amended		
Revision & Reissued Dates:	4/3/2014	6/12/2015		

Purpose:

The purpose of this Policy is to establish the terms and conditions for which retired Somerville police officers may be appointed as Special Police Officer for the purpose of performing police detail work. This Policy also describes the process by which the City grants police powers to Somerville Housing Authority Officers.

Enabling Legislation:

[Acts of 2006 Ch. 184](#), AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS IN THE CITY OF SOMERVILLE, as amended by the Acts of 2018, Chapter 92, was enacted in order to establish the criteria for appointment, as well as the rules and regulations for which retired Somerville Police Officers may perform police detail work, as follows:

- A. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Mayor of the City of Somerville may appoint Special Police Officers as he deems necessary for the purpose of performing police details or any police duties arising therefrom or during the course of police detail work, regardless of whether or not related to detail work. The Mayor may appoint current Somerville Housing Authority (SHA) Police Officers as Special Police Officers for the purpose of performing police duties in the context of their employment with the SHA.

Unless changed by law or agreed to by the City, Special Police Officers so appointed shall not have reached the age of 69 years old. A Special Police Officer shall have passed a medical examination, by a physician or other certified medical professional chosen by the city, to determine that the Officer is capable of performing the essential duties of a Special Police Officer, the cost of which examination shall be borne by the Special Police Officer prior to performing police details or any police duties. A Special Police Officer

must be a former City of Somerville police officer retired for superannuation pursuant to [Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 32 Sec. 5](#) or a current SHA Police Officer.

- B. Unless otherwise set forth in this act, [Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 31](#), [Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 32](#), [Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 41 Sec. 99A](#), [Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 41 Sec. 100](#) and [Sec. 111F](#), [Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 152](#), and rules promulgated under such laws, shall not apply to Special Police Officers appointed under this act, except that current SHA Police Officers appointed as Special Police Officers under this act shall be entitled to the benefits provided in said [Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 152](#) under insurance coverage provided by or through the SHA and such appointment as a Special Police Officer shall not be effective without such coverage.
- C. Special Police Officers shall, when performing the duties pursuant to section A above, have the same power to make arrests and to perform other police functions as regular police officers of the City.
- D. Special Police Officers may be appointed for a term of 1 year or less and may be suspended, removed or discharged at any time by the Mayor with 14 days written notice.
- E. Special Police Officers shall also be subject to the rules and regulations, policies and procedures and requirements of the Somerville Police Department, including the Detail policy, requirements regarding medical examinations to determine continuing capability to perform the duties of a special police officer, requirements for training, requirements for firearms licensing and qualifications, and requirements regarding uniforms and equipment. Special Police Officers who are retired Somerville Police Officers shall not be subject to [Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 41 Sec. 96B](#)
- F. Special Police Officers shall be sworn before the City Clerk who shall keep a record of all such appointments.
- G. Appointment as a Special Police Officer does not entitle any individual appointed as such to assignment to any detail or details.
- H. Special Police Officers appointed pursuant to this act who are retired Somerville Police Officers shall be subject to the limitations on hours worked and on payments to retired City employees pursuant to paragraph (b) of [Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 32 Sec. 91](#).

Application Process:

Any retired officer wishing to be appointed to perform police details shall first submit his or her request to the Chief for consideration. The SHA Chief of Police may make a request to the Chief for consideration of new hires of the SHA Police Department. The Chief or a designee will assess each candidate based on the following criteria:

1. All Special Officers must receive Medical Clearance from their personal physician indicating that they are able to perform the duties of a Special Officer.
2. All Special Officers must meet all M.P.T.C. In Service Training Requirements.
3. All Special Officers must pass the annual M.P.T.C. Firearms Qualification Course.
4. All Special Officers must possess a Mass. L.T.C.
5. All Special Officers must be under the age of 69.
6. All non-SHA Special Police Officers must sign and comply with SPD Policies and Procedures, Rules and Regulations. All SHA Officers must comply with the Somerville Police [General Order 406 - Detail Policy](#).
7. All Special Officers retired from the Somerville Police Department must pass an Internal Affairs review.
8. In the case of SHA Police Officers, the candidate must be a current paid employee of the SHA.

Annual Renewal:

On or about March 1st of each year, the Chief or a designee will complete an assessment of each Special Officer and SHA Police Officer and renew each appointment as appropriate, consistent with the following criteria:

1. In order to be eligible for reappointment, the non-SHA Special Officers must satisfy items 1 through 6 in the preceding section. SHA Officers must comply with items 1 through 5 in the preceding section.
2. All non-SHA Special Police Officers must have performed a minimum of 50 detail hours in the prior 12-month period.
3. In the case of SHA Police Officers, the Police Chief of the SHA must specifically request each Special Police Officer's renewal. The SPD will conduct a renewed background investigation on current SHA Officers prior to such renewal of appointment.

Appointment:

The Chief will recommend to the Mayor a list of candidates for initial appointment or renewal as Special Police Officers and SHA Police Officers. After a review, the Mayor may, in his or her discretion, appoint the Special Police Officers.

Once appointed, it is the responsibility of each appointed Officer to follow all swearing-in procedures as required by the City Clerk.

Removal:

The Chief or a designee can suspend the appointment of any Special Police Officer. The Chief shall provide the reasons for such suspension in writing to the Special Police Officer. The Mayor may revoke the appointment of any Special Police Officer, including SHA Officers. The Mayor shall provide the reasons for revocation in writing to the Special Police Officer. Such revocation shall be in the sole discretion of the City.

The SHA shall immediately notify the Chief upon any SHA Police Officer's separation, suspension or leave from the SHA.

Provision of Departmental Equipment:

The SPD will issue to all appointed retired SPD Special Officers equipment for the purpose of performing authorized police duties. This equipment will be issued and inspected annually by the SPD Academy Director, or a designee. Equipment inspection will occur during the Special Officers' annual Firearms Qualification. Equipment may include, but is not limited to: Police Badge, Hand Gun, Holster, Police Radio, Hand Cuffs, Collar Pins, Baton, and Pepper Spray.