

- I. Policy
- II. Procedures

- I. Policy

The responsibility of officers of the Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County Division, is to protect and secure that property within Montgomery County which is owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (hereinafter "M-NCPPC"), owned by Montgomery County and managed or operated by the M-NCPPC, or areas owned by private entities or individuals and leased or otherwise utilized by M-NCPPC (i.e. leased office space, areas governed by use agreements with other agencies, etc.) all within Montgomery County.

Officers of this Division may exercise police authority off park property in accordance with the procedures outlined in the 2007 Reciprocal Enforcement and Mutual Aid Agreement entered into between the Commission and Montgomery County for the coordination of law enforcement responsibilities.

The Reciprocal Enforcement and Mutual Aid Agreement are in effect because of legislation that allows *Montgomery* County and the Park Police to enter into a mutual aid agreement. For the purposes of this Agreement, when a Park Police officer who is in an approved Park Police uniform or operating a marked Park Police vehicle witnesses certain criminal or traffic offenses, as defined below, may take the necessary police actions.

This Agreement applies to those areas off of park property in Montgomery County but not within the boundaries of any municipality, such as Rockville, Gaithersburg, Takoma Park, etc.

- II. Procedures

- A. Criminal Violations

1. Officers of this Division may, under certain circumstances, enforce the criminal laws of this state off park property. This Directive explains when Park Police officers may make arrests and what chain of command will be followed when an arrest is made under the terms of the 2007 Reciprocal Enforcement and Mutual Aid Agreement. Officers shall direct their criminal law enforcement activities to park properties and not actively seek out criminal activity off of park property. However, officers will take reasonable and necessary action to protect the public from the actions of criminal offenders, subject to the following criteria:
 - a. Park Police officers who are *dressed* in an approved Park Police uniform or operating a marked Park Police vehicle, may make an arrest off park property in accordance with Maryland Criminal Code regarding warrantless arrests; however the officers should have articulable justification for the enforcement action taken.
2. Officers will not conduct follow-up investigations of any criminal activities that occur off park property; however, officers must comply with the following reporting requirements:

- All reports, charging documents, etc. must be completed by the end of the officer's tour of duty and should be filed with the county police within twenty-four hours.

3. It will be the responsibility of all supervisory officers to continually review the criminal law enforcement actions of their subordinates to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Directive. Supervisors will routinely counsel and instruct their subordinates as to their criminal law enforcement responsibilities.

B. Traffic Violations

1. Officers will direct their traffic law enforcement activities to park property and will not actively seek out traffic law violations off park property. Park Police officers who are *dressed* in an approved Park Police uniform *or* operating a marked Park Police vehicle, have jurisdiction off park property to issue citations or statement of charges for traffic offenses which occur in their presence, however the officer should have articulable justification for the enforcement action taken.

2. Officers will not conduct follow-up investigations of traffic law violations that occur off park property, however, officers must comply with the following reporting requirements:

- All reports, charging documents, etc. must be completed by the end of the officer's tour of duty and should be filed with the county police within twenty-four hours.

3. Officers will investigate any traffic *collision*, which occurs off of Commission property that involves any Commission Vehicle.

4. It will be the responsibility of all supervisory officers to continually review the traffic law enforcement actions of their subordinates to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Directive. Supervisors will routinely counsel and instruct their subordinates as to their traffic law enforcement responsibilities.

C. Special Patrol Jurisdiction

1. Special Patrol Areas: Activities shall be limited to routine and/or scheduled patrol by sworn uniformed officers mounted on horseback and other activities incidental and reasonably related to conducting Mounted Patrols.

2. Investigation of Crimes: The Mounted Patrols shall not initiate routine investigations of crimes occurring within a Special Patrol Area, except and only to the extent, an investigation may be initiated when it is incident to a Mounted Patrol at the scene of a crime, reported crime or possible crime and it is reasonable in scope and duration under the circumstances.

- All reports, charging documents, etc. must be completed by the end of the officer's tour of duty and should be filed with the county police within twenty-four hours.

3. Park Property Reserved: Special Patrol Jurisdiction shall not limit or otherwise impair the exercise by the Park Police jurisdiction within any Park Property within the Special Patrol Area.
4. Arrests in the exercise of its Special Patrol Jurisdiction conferred under the 2007 Reciprocal Enforcement and Mutual Aid Agreement, subject to the command authority of the *Montgomery* County Police, the Park Police shall have full and complete authority to make arrests within the Special Patrol Areas.

D. Miscellaneous Incidents

1. Officers will confine their patrol activities to park properties unless otherwise directed. This section is not intended to prohibit or restrict an officer from conducting a Commission related investigation or providing assistance to another police agency off Commission property.
2. Regardless of park boundaries, officers will take immediate action to assist any officer in trouble and provide assistance in emergency situations, such as, but not limited to, a crime in progress, a serious traffic collision, etc.

E. Certified Agreement Copies

All officers attending court for any case covered by the 2007 Reciprocal Enforcement and Mutual Aid Agreement with Montgomery County will obtain a certified copy of the Agreement from the Records Section, along with the case file, and take it with them to court. Upon returning from court, the certified copy and case file will be promptly returned to the Records Section. If, during the trial, the court, defense attorney or state's attorney desire a copy of the Agreement they may photocopy the certified copy but it must be returned with the report. If the court enters the original certified copy as an exhibit the officer will notify Records personnel.

**Approved Park Police Document
Signed Original on File**

End of Directive