



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Sean Thuilliez, Chief of Police
DATE: October 6, 2020
SUBJECT: **Beaumont Police Department Proposal for Reserve Officer Program**

Background and Analysis:

The primary purpose of the Reserve Police Officer Program is to provide the community with an auxiliary unit of trained, competent police officers. These officers supplement our regular personnel and can be used in the event of an emergency when manpower is critical.

Community involvement and, most of all, support are two vital elements in the operation of any law enforcement agency. A successful Reserve Police Officer Program, being made up of citizen volunteers from within the community, stands as a symbol of the Beaumont Police Department's commitment to partnership and teamwork in preventing crime.

As with most municipal budgets, the City of Beaumont has not been immune from the effects of the recession followed by the COVID-19 pandemic. An anemic general fund results in less funding for the police department which most often results in impacts to the service delivery model of the department. The population of Beaumont continues to grow, and the resources of the department become stretched as a result of growing demands and increasing complexities.

The Police Department recommends the implementation of a Reserve Police Officer Program. A reserve program is a volunteer organization comprised of men and women who are sworn peace officers while on duty. The authority and duties of a reserve officer are outlined in sections 830.6 and 832.6 of the California Penal Code.

Police reserve officers are non-paid volunteers who serve at the will of the Chief of Police. They are professionally trained and duly sworn law enforcement personnel who perform general law enforcement duties including investigations, responding to calls, traffic control, enforcement of laws, special event assignments, and crime prevention

programs. Reserve officers must serve a minimum of 20 hours of service each month to maintain status.

The Reserve Officer Program will be a vital asset to the department. A robust reserve officer program will cultivate a culture of service and partnership within the community and will augment resources which are used for the reduction and prevention of crime in the City. This program is the finest example of true community policing and public safety through partnerships.

There are many benefits to not only the officers, but to the community by ensuring officers remain on the street. The reserves can augment patrol on the weekends and do prisoner transports, and as a result, officers will remain in service, in the field and available to respond to calls and conduct enforcement activities.

The reserve officers are always under the supervision of a regular police officer, but after proper training, they may provide support services such as: prisoner transports—could take up to four hours of time, traffic control, public event security, crime scene and evidence security, patrol with a full-time police officer, crime prevention and other various administrative functions.

What is the difference between designated and non-designated Level I reserve officer?

The authority of a “designated” Level I reserve includes the full powers and duties of a peace officer as provided by a Penal Code section 830.1. A Level I reserve is “designated” by authority of a city ordinance or a county resolution. [Penal Code section 830.6(a)(2)]

The authority of a “non-designated” Level I reserve shall extend only for the duration of assignment to specific police functions. [Penal Code section 830.6(a)(1)]

What is the supervision requirement for Level II reserve officers?

Level II reserve officers assigned to the prevention and detection of crime and the general enforcement of the laws of this state must be under the immediate supervision of a peace officer who has completed the basic training course for deputy sheriffs and police officers (Regular Basic Course) prescribed by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. Level II reserve officers may be assigned, without immediate supervision, to those limited duties that are authorized for level III reserve officers. [832.6(a)(2) PC]

“Prevention and detection of crime and the general enforcement of laws” refers to the peace officer authority of a Level I or Level II reserve officer assigned to investigate crime, or patrol a geographic area and personally handle the full range of requests for police services, and take enforcement action on the full range of law violations for which the reserve’s department has enforcement responsibility.

“Immediate supervision for Level II reserves” means the reserve officer acts under the direction of a peace officer who has completed the basic training course for deputy sheriffs and police officers prescribed by the Commission, and is routinely in the physical proximity of and available to the reserve officer; however, allowance is permitted for necessary temporary separations.

What are the selection requirements to be appointed as a reserve officer?

Reserve officers are required to meet the same selection standards as regular officers. [Commission Regulations 1950-1955]

If a reserve officer wants to become a regular officer with the same department, does POST require the reserve officer to undergo a new background investigation, medical, and psychological evaluation?

No, provided that the department has documentation verifying that the officer has previously met the current minimum selection requirements and have worked continuously for the department since the time of initial appointment.

What are the training requirements for reserve officers?

Level II Reserve Officer

Module III 144 hours

Module II 189 hours

Total: *333* hours

Level I Reserve Officer

Module III 144 hours

Module II 189 hours

Module I 394 hours

Total: *727* hours

The entry-level training requirement for Level I may also be met by successful completion of either the intensive or extended format of the regular basic course.

What are the field training requirements for reserve officers?

All Level I reserve officers, upon completing the regular basic course or its equivalent, shall complete a POST-approved field training program prior to working alone in a

general law enforcement assignment. The field training program shall be delivered over a minimum of 10 weeks (400 hours).

Do reserve officers have to complete Continuing Professional Training?

Level I and II reserve officers shall satisfy the same Continuing Professional Training (CPT) requirement as full-time regular officers.

Are reserve officers required to complete Racial Profiling Training?

Penal Code section 13519.4(f) states that every law enforcement officer in this state shall participate in the training.

Fiscal Impact:

The financial impact of the reserve officer program is straight forward; costs associated with the hiring process is approximately \$3,000.

New officer uniforms are approximately \$2000, including uniforms, ballistic vest, equipment belt and accessories, handcuffs, name plates, flashlights, etc.

In return for providing hours of uncompensated service to the community, the department would provide a uniform cleaning allowance of \$50 a month.

In the rare event their appearance is required in court; a maximum \$100 would be allocated to the reserve police officer for his/her court appearance.

For FY 2021, costs will be covered through asset forfeiture funds. Costs will be budgeted directly through the General Fund for the ensuing years. Some of the costs may be offset by a reduction in overtime and enhanced patrol services.

Recommended Action:

Receive and file.

Attachments:

A. Draft Policy