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## RHODE ISLAND POLICE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

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Narragansett Police Dept.

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Chief Richard Ramsay  
West Greenwich Police Dept.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Chief Sidney Wordell, Ret.

### MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

#### Non-Emergency Police Powers

#### *RIGL§ 45-42-2*

In 2021, the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association worked with members of the General Assembly to amend the non-emergency police powers (*RIGL§ 45-42-2*) legislation to meet the growing needs of modern policing. The goal was to allow all Rhode Island municipal police agencies to share services and partner during non-emergency situations (e.g., parades, graduations, festivals, traffic details and other community events) as the previous version of the legislation only allowed adjoining communities to provide mutual aid (share services).

Notably, under an emergency there was never a restriction to provide mutual aid. In essence, this agreement will allow each respective Chief of Police to enter an agreement to collaborate on non-emergency situations and supplement our work forces to achieve desired outcomes for our communities. To meet the current tenets of the legislation we need each municipality and higher education institution to adopt a resolution in support to activate this important public safety tool.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Executive Director, Chief Sidney Wordell (ret.) at [swordell@ripolicechiefs.org](mailto:swordell@ripolicechiefs.org) who will gladly provide any support necessary.

Sincerely,

Chief Sean Corrigan, President (RIPCA)

TOWN COUNCIL

JUN - 1 2022

MEETING

**Title 45**

**Towns and Cities**

**Chapter 42**

**Emergency Police Power**

**R.I. Gen. Laws § 45-42-2**

**§ 45-42-2. Nonemergency police power.**

(a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, and consistent with the provisions of chapter 40.1 of this title entitled "Interlocal Contracting and Joint Enterprises," the **chiefs of police of any city or town** or **any police department of a higher education institution** may enter into an agreement, which is subject to **approval by the appropriate city or town council by adoption of a resolution in support of it** or by approval by the president of the higher education institution, by which the chief may request that the other city, town, or higher education institution police force provide assistance in a nonemergency situation for all those police services prescribed by law within any portion of the jurisdiction of the city or town, or campus of the chief granting the authority.

(b) The officers responding to the request and agreement shall have the same authority, powers, duties, privileges, and immunities for jurisdictional purposes as a duly appointed police officer of the city, town, or higher education institution making the request.

(c) All wage and disability payments, pension, workers' compensation claims, medical expenses, or other employment benefits will be the responsibility of the employing agency, unless the requesting agency is reimbursed for those costs from any other source. Each agency shall be responsible for the negligence of its employees to the extent specified by law.

(d) A copy of any agreement entered into pursuant to this section shall be provided to the superintendent of the Rhode Island state police.

(e) The governor shall have the authority to suspend an agreement entered into pursuant to this section upon a finding that the suspension is in the interest of public safety.

**History of Section.**

P.L. 2002, ch. 142, § 1; P.L. 2002, ch. 293, § 1; P.L. 2021, ch. 107, § 1, effective July 1, 2021; P.L. 2021, ch. 108, § 1, effective July 1, 2021.