

HACKENSACK POLICE DEPARTMENT SPECIAL POLICE OFFICE PROGRAM

The Hackensack Police Special Police Officer Program was created and instituted by Chief Charles Zisa in 1997. It is also called the Hackensack Citizen Officer Partnership, or H-COP for short. The HCOP program is supervised by Captain Robert Wright (201 646 7735) and Captain Dennis Cinque (201 646 7757). The HCOP program is volunteer and members must serve a minimum of 8 hours a month.

The H-COP program is open to all United States citizens who are New Jersey residents, 18 years of age and possessing a driver's license and a high school diploma or GED equivalent. All applicants must complete an H-COP application form and pass a police background check. Upon successful completion of the background check all applicants will be required to complete a psychological exam. After the applicant has been approved for service by the psychiatrist, and has medical approval from their family doctor, the H-COP candidate will be enrolled in the Bergen County Institute for Law and Public Safety's Special Law Enforcement Class. The classes are on Monday and Wednesday nights from 7pm to 11pm. The classes start the first week of September and end the first week in December.

The Special Law Enforcement Class provides each H-COP candidate with police training mandated by the New Jersey Police Training Commission, which will certify each H-COP as a New Jersey State Class 1 Special.

The purchase of the H-COP uniform is the responsibility of each candidate, but upon successful completion of the Bergen County Police Academy and one year service of 8 hours per month, the City of Hackensack will reimburse the H-COP officer for the uniform cost.

The H-COP officer will receive additional training by the Hackensack Police Officers in the areas of: police patrol tactics, rules and regulations, traffic control, pepper spray, nightstick, community relations, handcuffing and report/summons writing.

After graduation, HCOPS go out on patrol. They become the "Eyes and Ears" of the police department. The HCOPS complement the number of sworn officers. HCOPS assist and relieve the sworn officers of their routine duties. HCOPS are empowered to issue motor vehicle summons, and direct traffic. They assist at all emergencies, disasters, major events in addition to patrolling the streets.

Applications can be picked up at the Hackensack Police Department or on line at this website.