



Hackensack Police Department Special Law Enforcement Unit Hackensack Citizen Officer Partnership H-COP

To have greater community involvement for law enforcement within the City of Hackensack, the Police Department instituted the H-COP unit in 1997.

This innovative program provides the Hackensack Police Department with thousands of hours of volunteer assistance by trained Special Police Officers (IB) while allowing citizens to participate in community policing solutions. The citizen-police partnership forged by this program provides the community with a better understanding of the police service's role within the community.

Members of the H-COP Unit are Special Police Officers trained to support our community and Police Department.

By building relationships with the community, this volunteer unit is part of the solution in the equation for a peaceful and safe City.

After completing free training at the Police Academy, they become fully-fledged certified Special Police Officers IB.

The police academy training includes:

- De-escalation tactics
- Domestic violence response
- Traffic and crowd control
- Less lethal weapons use
- Ethics and professionalism
- Crisis intervention
- Motor vehicle stops/motor vehicle law
- State and local laws and State Attorney General directives
- Effective communication and collaboration

Stipends for participating as an H-COP are available through the City of Hackensack. Up to \$1,200 annually is available for providing volunteer services as an H-COP.

Applications for this program can be found [here](#). We accept applications all year and there is only one academy class held per year.

The H-COP unit is open to all New Jersey residents at least 18 years old 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 completing 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 Police and Fire Academy Special Law Enforcement Class.

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 1B Special.

The purchase of the H-COP uniform is the responsibility of each candidate. We can issue uniforms from department stock free of charge. Still, upon completing the Bergen County Police Academy and one year of service of 8 hours per month (volunteer time), the City of Hackensack will reimburse the Special officer for the uniform cost.

The H-COP officer will receive additional training from the Hackensack police officers and online learnings in police patrol tactics, rules, and regulations, traffic control, pepper spray and nightstick utilization, handcuffing, and report/summons writing. In an attempt to prepare them for patrol, each H-COP officer will ride along with experienced Special Officers.

For more information on this unit, call Special Captain Mattalian at 201-646-3932 or dmattalian@hackensackpd.org.