



Special Events and Demonstrations	Related Policies: Use of Force; Fair and Impartial Policing
<i>This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee's civil liability in any way. The policy should not be construed as creating a higher duty of care, in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party civil claims against employees. A violation of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department for non-judicial administrative action in accordance with the laws governing employee discipline.</i>	
Applicable Vermont Statutes/Rules:	
Date Adopted: May 10, 2021	Date Reviewed:

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the Bennington Police Department (BPD) when managing crowds, protecting individual rights, and upholding the peace during Special Events and Demonstrations.

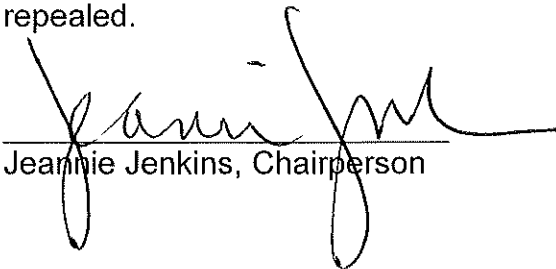
II. POLICY:

- A) It is the policy of the BPD to assist Special Event organizer(s) in planning for a Special Event scheduled to occur on Public Property where more than seventy-five (75) persons are expected to attend utilizing the form(s) attached to this policy including the Fee Schedule for law enforcement services. Nothing in this policy limits the ability of the BPD to maintain peace and protect individual liberty for events occurring on private property. Free Speech Events and demonstrations held on public property are not subject to fee collection by the BPD.
- B) It is the policy of the BPD to protect individual rights related to assembly and free speech; to effectively manage crowds; to prevent loss of life, injury, or property damage; and to minimize disruption to persons who are not involved in the Special Event or Demonstration. The BPD will take appropriate action(s) in response to violations of law(s).
- C) Following a Special Event, the BPD shall create an After-Event Report. The report shall be made, when possible, in cooperation with the Event Sponsor and shall identify: 1) what worked, and 2) areas of opportunity for change. The report shall be shared with the Chief of the BPD and the Town Manager.

III. DEFINITIONS:

- A. Crowd Control: Techniques used to address civil disturbances and to ensure the safety of the public, to include, but not be limited to, de-escalation, a show of force, crowd containment, dispersal equipment and tactics, and preparations for, and, if necessary, carrying out of multiple arrests.
- B. Demonstration: A lawful assembly of persons organized primarily to engage in free speech activity. These may be scheduled events that allow for law enforcement planning. They include, but are not limited to, marches, protests, and other assemblies intended to attract attention. Lawful demonstrations can devolve into civil disturbances that necessitate enforcement action, including Crowd Control.
- C. Event Sponsor: An individual who has primary responsibility for planning and organizing the Special Event. This individual shall be on-site the day of the event and takes primary responsibility to liaison with the BPD before, during and after the event.
- D. Private Property: Property not owned or under the control of the Town of Bennington, State of Vermont, or United States Government. (Special Events on Private Property shall conform with Bennington's Land Use and Development Regulations).
- E. Public Property: Property owned or under the control of the Town of Bennington, State of Vermont, or United States Government.
- F. Special Events: Parades, celebrations, concerts, races and other planned and unexpected events that are open to the public and that can result in a need to schedule additional personnel to properly control the event and ensure the safety and security of the community. In certain circumstances, an event can go beyond the resources of this department and require that mutual aid be invoked.

This Policy is adopted by the Select Board of the Town of Bennington, Vermont, this 10th day of May, 2021 and is effective as of this date until amended or repealed.



Jeannie Jenkins, Chairperson

IV. PROCEDURES:

A. PLANNING:

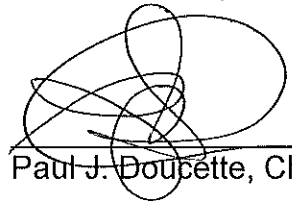
1. The Chief of Police, or their designee, will meet with event organizer(s) and town staff assisting with preparation, planning and assessing of the event or demonstration.
2. Event planners will be provided with instructions on what information and documents they will need to provide the Town of Bennington and the BPD prior to the planning meeting.

B. SECURITY:

1. Security of an event or demonstration should always remain a top priority for the Town of Bennington, Bennington Police Department and the organizer(s).
2. The Town of Bennington and the Bennington Police Department, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to require law enforcement presence in all instances in which the Town of Bennington determines circumstances may warrant law enforcement in order to protect the health, welfare and safety of the citizens of Bennington and /or event participants.
3. The organizer(s) shall be responsible for costs resulting from the use of law enforcement officers from the Bennington Police Department and any required equipment.
 - a. Organizer(s) shall complete a BPD Off-Duty Officer Request form.
4. The Town of Bennington and the Chief of Police, or their designee, shall determine the number of law enforcement officers an event requires. This determination will be based upon the following:
 - event size, number of participants
 - road closures
 - type of event
 - location
 - date and times
5. Law enforcement officers are required for any event in which alcohol is served or sold.
6. Law enforcement may be required, at the sole discretion of the Chief of Police, for any event with admission fees and any event in which the anticipated attendance or the planned activity may affect public safety.

7. In the event the Bennington Police Department is unable to provide law enforcement services, event organizer(s) shall contact another Vermont law enforcement agency requesting law enforcement services. The Chief of Police will be provided with details from organizer(s) in reference to other law enforcement coverage.

The policies and procedures outlined above are hereby adopted by the Chief of Police of the Town of Bennington, Vermont this 12th day of JANUARY, 2022 and is effective as of this date until amended or repealed.



Paul J. Doucette, Chief of Police



**BENNINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
118 SOUTH STREET
BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

**PAUL J. DOUCETTE
CHIEF OF POLICE**

**BENNINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR OFF-DUTY POLICE OFFICER**

I, _____,
(name)

representing _____,
(business, group, school, association, etc.)

request the services of _____ off-duty police officer(s) for _____ hours*
(number) (number)

on _____ starting at _____ ending _____ for the purpose of
(date) (start time) (finish time)

_____ at _____.
(location)

It is understood that I/we will be billed at the rate of \$68.25 per officer/per hour.

It is further understood that in the event the Bennington Police Department is unable to provide law enforcement services, event organizer(s) shall contact another Vermont law enforcement agency requesting law enforcement services. The Chief of Police will be provided with details from organizer(s) in reference to other law enforcement coverage.

PLEASE PRINT

NAME OF PARTY TO BE BILLED:

MAILING ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

PRINTED NAME:

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

**FORM UPDATED: 07/01/2023 *MINIMUM OF THREE HOURS
SPECIAL EVENTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS GENERAL ORDER**