



Authority and Jurisdiction

.01 Policy

It is the policy of the Bladensburg Police Department to delineate its members' duties, limits of authority, and responsibilities for those situations where sworn members are required to act in an official capacity or are performing official duties.

.02 Terms

N/A

.03 Governing Legislation and Reference

Governing Legislation:

Maryland Code, Criminal Procedures Article, Title 2.

Maryland Code, Transportation Article, §§ 25-111 and 26-201.

Maryland Code, Public Safety Article, § 3-201.

Forms: N/A

Reference:

General Order 113, Mutual Aid.

General Order 114, Limited Extra Jurisdictional Authority.

.04 Procedure

A. Limits on Authority and Jurisdiction

The legally authorized geographical area for law enforcement services by members of the Bladensburg Police Department is limited to the corporate town limits as identified by the Town of Bladensburg Municipal Charter.

The courses and distances establishing the corporate limits of the Town are filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, the Director of the Department of Legislative Services, and the Town Clerk.

Members may inquire through Communications to confirm if a specific location is within the corporate limits.

Members are responsible for being familiar with the general boundaries of the Town of Bladensburg. Citizens with requests for law enforcement services outside the town limits

are to be referred to the appropriate agency having jurisdiction, unless a request for assistance is received from another law enforcement agency.

Officers are responsible for:

- The enforcement of all State of Maryland criminal and traffic laws or local ordinances within their jurisdiction;
- Preservation of the public peace;
- The protection of life and property;
- The prevention of crime; and,
- Detection, apprehension, and prosecution of violators of the law.

Members shall familiarize themselves with and have a working knowledge of all laws of the State of Maryland and ordinances of the Town of Bladensburg, which they are required to enforce. Members are authorized to make only those arrests, searches, and seizures which they know or should know are legal and in accordance with departmental procedures.

Members shall employ every lawful means at their disposal in the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of any person observed or known to be violating or to have violated any statute or any ordinance pertaining to criminal matters or traffic offenses.

Members are to act together and assist each other in the maintenance of law and order. Members will take appropriate police action toward aiding a fellow member exposed to danger or in a situation where danger might be impending. Members assigned to specialized duties or assignments are not relieved from taking proper action outside the scope of their specialized assignment when necessary.

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B. Alternatives to Arrest

Not all arrestable offenses require the offender to be immediately incarcerated. In those instances involving certain misdemeanors and municipal ordinance violations, officers are authorized to issue a citation in lieu of arrest, as set forth in Maryland law and the Maryland Rules of Criminal Procedure.

There may be other instances wherein justice may be best served by officers filing a complaint for review by the State's Attorney's Office in lieu of an immediate arrest. In these situations, officers should consult with a supervisor to determine the most appropriate course of action.

C. Prisoner Transportation

Law enforcement officers may transport prisoners outside the boundaries of the Town and if prisoners escape while being transported, officers may pursue escapees.

HISTORY: Adopted July 1 2014

This General Order supersedes all other orders and memoranda in conflict therewith.

Authority:



Charles L. Owens
Chief of Police