

Summary of Proposed Regulations on Special Police Officers and Security Officers

The proposed regulations would modify the eligibility and training requirements for commissioned special police officers and licensed security officers, and creates requirements for approved individuals to provide the training.

The proposed regulations will be published in the D. C. Register later this month for 30 days of public comments. They will then be submitted to Council for a 45-day period of review, which will likely be after Council's summer recess ends in mid-September.

Eligibility

- Strengthens applicant eligibility requirements so that a person convicted of misdemeanor sexual abuse is prohibited from applying to be a special police officer for ten years and a security officer for two years.
 - This doubles the current length of time of ineligibility for SPOs and SOs, and is consistent with prohibitions for felonies.
 - Given the violation of trust between parties in sexual abuse cases and the trust expected of SPOs and SOs in the community, it is important that any applicant convicted of misdemeanor sexual abuse remains ineligible for an extended time before being put in a position of responsibility.

Approved Trainers

- A qualified SPO training instructor must have demonstrated relevant knowledge and experience.
 - Can meet that requirement as a resigned or retired full-duty status officer in good standing or having served as a special police officer for at least four years.
 - Alternatively, an instructor may have specific knowledge of the District demonstrated through two years as in full-duty status resigned or retired or as a current member of the District of Columbia Bar.

Training Requirements

- Increases training requirements for both incoming and current SPOs.
 - Increases pre-assignment training to at least 80 hours, which is double the current requirement
 - Training expanded to include active shooter, emergency response, individuals in health or mental health crisis, de-escalation procedures, and biased-based policing.
 - Use of force curriculum will specify the types of force to be addressed (e.g., carotid neck restraint techniques, knees in back, and positional asphyxia).
- Newly-assigned SPOs will be required to meet an increased standard of 24 hours of on-the-job training

within their first 80 hours with a special police officer who has at least one year experience.

- Annual in-service training from the current 8-hour requirement to 24-hours will ensure SPOs are regularly informed and updated as to changes in laws and procedures.
- Requires at least 40 hours of firearms training and at least 8 hours of requalification training twice a year.
 - This is same amount of annual firearms requalification as MPD officers.
- Security agencies would have to pay for the costs of the training and maintain records of all training provided to their SPO and SO employees.

The chart below provides a comparison of the current training requirements and the training requirements from this rulemaking.

| | Current | Rulemaking proposal |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Pre-assignment Training | 40 hours total | 80 hours total |
| Part I | 16 hours covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrest powers • Search and seizure • D.C. Official Code • Use of force | 32 hours covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrest powers • Search and seizure • D.C. Official Code • Use of force, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carotid neck restraint techniques • Knees in back • Positional asphyxia |
| Part II | 24 hours covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrorism awareness, including building evacuation, unattended packages, and unknown substances • Emergency procedure, including evacuation and first-aid; and • Customer service and interaction with tourists | 48 hours, covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrorism awareness, including building evacuation, unattended packages, and unknown substances • Emergency procedures, including evacuation, cardio-pulmonary (CPR) and automated external defibrillator (AED) training, and a First Aid program • Cultural competency and individual rights, including the D.C. Human Rights Act and Bias-Related Crime Act • Active Shooter • Police interaction with persons with health or mental health crisis issues, including substance abuse • De-escalation procedures • Biased-based policing • MPD's records and arrest management systems |
| On-the-Job Training | 16 hours of on-the-job training within 90 working days | 24 hours of on-the-job training within the first 80 hours of work and while paired with a special police officer who has at least 1 year of experience |
| Annual In-Service Training | 8 hours annually | 24 hours annually |
| Armed SPOs | 40 hours initially and 8 hours annually | 40 hours initially and 8 hours twice a year |