

Chapter 17

Law Enforcement

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Article I, In General

Sec. 17.1 Law Enforcement on Contract Basis

Law enforcement services are provided by the Lexington County Sheriff's Department, under a contract basis with the town.

Article II, Powers and Duties

Sec. 17.10 Powers Generally.

Each law enforcement officer shall be invested with all the powers of constables within the corporate limits of the Town. Each law enforcement officer also shall have the power to carry out all duties assigned to him/her by statute, ordinance, resolution, directive, rule or regulation as is necessary, specifically or by implication.

Sec. 17.11 Power to Arrest.

Every law enforcement officer, when required by state statute or ordinance of the Town shall have the power and the duty to arrest any person, who, within the corporate limits of the Town, shall be engaged in any breach of the peace, riotous or disorderly conduct, open obscenity, public drunkenness, theft, profane swearing or any other conduct which may be disorderly or calculated to produce disorder or shall be indecent or dangerous to the good order of the Town.

Sec. 17.12 Power to Require Assistance.

Every law enforcement officer is hereby authorized and empowered to call upon any bystander to assist in making any arrest when such assistance is necessary. Any person responding to such call and assisting in an arrest shall be protected as fully in his actions as a law enforcement officer of the Town. It shall be unlawful for any citizen to refuse to assist when called upon.

Sec. 17.13 Power to Arrest for Resistance.

Every law enforcement officer shall have the power and authority to arrest any person violating the laws of the state and ordinances of the Town and shall be empowered to further charge them with the resisting of any arrest. Said resisting shall be a misdemeanor.

Sec. 17.14 Approaching within Twenty Feet of Person Being Arrested.

It shall be unlawful for any person or persons willfully to approach nearer than the twenty (20) feet to any law enforcement officer who is making an arrest or attempting to do so, or while on his way to jail with a prisoner. All law enforcement officers are empowered to order all persons away from the vicinity of the site of arrest or the jail while any person is being placed therein or being held for custody. Refusal to obey this section shall be a misdemeanor.

Sec. 17.15 Obstruction of Streets, Sidewalks; Crowds.

Each member of the law enforcement agency shall be empowered to use any reasonable means to prevent the obstruction of the sidewalks or streets, and to disperse all crowds of a riotous nature, or those disturbing the peace and quiet of the Town.

Sec. 17.16 Cursing or Abusing Law Enforcement Officers.

It shall be unlawful for any person to curse or abuse any law enforcement officer while such law enforcement officer is on duty. The continued cursing or abuse after arrest shall also be an offense under this section.

Sec. 17.17 Reserved

Sec. 17.18 Reserved

Article III, Traffic Enforcement

Sec. 17.20 Authority of Chief Law Enforcement Officer

The chief law enforcement officer shall have the power and the duty to enforce the rules, regulations, laws and ordinances of the city as set forth generally in this code and as enumerated specifically within the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Swansea.

Sec. 17.21 Parking of Vehicles, Etc.

The chief law enforcement officer is authorized hereby to regulate the operation and parking of vehicles within the Town by the erection or placing of proper signs or markers indicating prohibited or limited parking, restricted speed areas, one-way streets, through streets, stop streets, "U" turns, play streets, school areas, hospital zones, loading and unloading zones, quiet zones, and other signs and markers indicating the place and manner of operation and parking of vehicles within the Town.

Sec. 17.22 Pedestrians.

The chief law enforcement officer is empowered to regulate the movement of pedestrians upon the streets and sidewalks of the city by the erection or placement of proper signs or markers indicating the proper flow of pedestrian traffic.

Sec. 17.23 Taxi Stands, Bus Stops, Truck Routes.

The chief law enforcement officer is empowered to designate bus stops and taxicab stands and to erect signs so indicating and thereby prohibiting the parking of vehicles other than buses or taxicabs in such stands. He\she will be authorized to designate truck routes and to regulate the parking of vehicles of various sizes and weights.

Sec. 17.24 Traffic Lanes, Street Signs.

The chief law enforcement officer hereby is empowered to mark off traffic lanes on streets and parts of streets indicating and directing the flow of traffic when, in his judgment, such action is necessary. He\she may secure all signs and markers necessary to implement his directions and place them on any street or part of a street when he\she deems it necessary.

Sec. 17.25 Prima Facie Evidence.

The existence of all signs and markers at any place within the city shall be prima facie evidence that such signs were placed or erected by and at the direction of the chief law enforcement officer and in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 17.26 Orders in Writing.

All orders issued under this article shall be in writing, signed by the chief law enforcement officer.

Sec. 17.27 Duty of Law Enforcement Officers.

It shall be the duty of every law enforcement officer of the Town and each shall have the power to enforce the provisions of this article. Each law enforcement officer is authorized to use visible and/or audible signals in his directing of traffic as conditions may require.

Sec. 17.28 Obedience by Public Employees; Exceptions.

The provisions of this article shall apply to all drivers of all vehicles owned or operated by the United States, this state or any city, town, district or any other political subdivision of the state except as set forth with reference to authorized emergency vehicles. It shall apply to members of town council, and all other employees of this Town.

The provisions shall not apply to persons, vehicles and other equipment while actually engaged in work upon the surface of a street.

Sec. 17.29 Failure to Comply.

It is the duty of all citizens to comply with any lawful order or direction of any law enforcement officer invested by law to direct, control or regulate traffic and a willful failure or refusal to comply shall be a misdemeanor.