

# Mason Police Department now accepting applications for Reserve Police Officer Program

The Mason Police Department is pleased to announce it will be implementing a reserve police officer program in the Fall of 2015.

In the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Police Department's budget appropriation, Mason City Council approved funding for two officers and their necessary equipment. The Department's overall plan is to eventually staff a reserve unit with five officers augmenting its allocated patrol force of nine officers and two supervisors.

Reserve police officers have two primary functions in today's law enforcement agency. First, they augment patrol and help staff major events which require additional personnel resources. Second, they are a possible resource to cultivate future police officer candidates. The latter becomes more viable as the organization and the reserve officers become more familiar with each other.

Using reserve officers is not uncommon in policing; it is how the reserves are used that varies. The vision is that Mason reserve police officers will work individually with and under the direction of a sworn Mason police officer or supervisor during regular shift hours, conducting patrol duties as a team.

It is crucial for each reserve officer to be trained and equipped to be prepared for the challenges and hazards of modern policing. This includes the use of weapons and restraints, use of force, vehicle operation and other skill sets required for the safety and protection of the reserve, the sworn officer and the community. Sworn officers must be able to trust the reactions of the reserve in crucial situations to not be burdened with the safety of both the officer and the reserve.

The Mason Police Department (MPD) has entered into an agreement with the Jackson Police Department to train MPD reserve officer candidates in their fall academy at the Jackson Police Department — at no cost except for the trainee's equipment. The successful trainees will then receive additional in-the-field training under the tutelage of a Mason Field Training Officer until they have satisfactorily achieved regular reserve officer status. Reserve officers are then required to volunteer a certain minimum number of hours per month to maintain their status.

Reserve officers are volunteers, but all of their equipment, including firearms, less-lethal tools and the requisite training to use them, are provided by the Mason Police Department so the reserve's only cost is time. Reserve officers will be subject to the same minimum requirements of a regular officer, which will certainly give a leg up to those who decide to seek a career in law enforcement, even perhaps as a future Mason police officer.

If you would like to apply for this program, please complete a Mason Employment Application (available at <http://mason.mi.us/2014/052914employment%20application%202014.pdf>) and mail it, along with a cover letter stating your interest, to Mason City Police, 201 West Ash, Mason MI 48854-0370.