

SUSSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Policy No.: 600.03

Area: Safety & Security

Adopted: February 23, 2016

600.03 Weapons on Campus – Authorization to Carry for Retired Police Officers (RPO)

Introduction: In an effort to reinforce the safety and security of the campus community certain qualified staff members may be approved and directed to carry a firearm on any and all SCCC properties, at the discretion of the college president or designee.

Rationale: With the increase¹ of catastrophic violent crime at institutions of higher education and other public and private areas abroad, Sussex County Community College recognizes the potential for increased casualties associated with timed response by law enforcement. It is the college's intent to mitigate loss and or prevent these type of incidents through immediate intervention by trained and qualified personnel of Sussex County Community College. The New Jersey retired law enforcement officer permit to carry a handgun law was enacted to help make our streets and communities safer. SCCC shall authorize intercession by qualified employees when there exists an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death, and there is an immediate need to act for the protection of life.

The Board of Trustees empowers the College President to approve and provide a written authorization for a law enforcement officer who retired in good standing (RPO), and is an employee of Sussex County Community College, to possess and carry a handgun in any campus building or grounds during his/her workday. The retired police officer (RPO) must have and maintain a valid permit to carry a handgun issued pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4, to possess a handgun in this capacity during his/her workday provided the employee meets the exception to N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5(b.) outlined in N.J.S.A. 2C:39-6(l.). Any authorization will only be for the time period the New Jersey State Police issued identification card is valid.

Eligible Employees

The college employee who is authorized shall be assigned in a position that serves the college in the capacity of safety and security. Those positions shall include, but may not be limited to the following: Director of Campus Safety, Security & Campus Operations, Evening Supervisor, Security Concierge, & Security Officer. This staff member must provide the College President, upon request, documentation supporting compliance with the requirements of N.J.S.A.

¹ A Study of Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 and 2013 - U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation

Note of deference: Any changes or additions to the laws of the State of New Jersey that effect this policy shall prevail in place.

2C:39-6(1.), including but not limited to, a copy of the identification card issued by the Superintendent of the State Police permitting the retired officer to carry a handgun in accordance with N.J.S.A. 2C:39-6(1.4) and any associated training and qualification records. The College President may request additional proofs of capacities and capabilities from the RPO. In addition, the College President may also wish to review these documents with the local Chief of Police or his/her designee. The RPO must also have a valid Security Officer Registration Act (SORA) license issued by the New Jersey State Police.

Written Authorization Required

Upon such approval, the College President shall provide written authorization to the staff member along with any conditions on the authority to carry a handgun on campus property as required by the State of New Jersey. N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5(b.)

Notification to Law Enforcement Jurisdictions

Upon approval by the College President, the College President or designee shall notify any and all law enforcement authorities within the jurisdictions associated, of any person or persons who will be authorized to carry a firearm on college property. This shall include basic pedigree information and current photo. Employees so authorized must also carry photographic identification indicating their authorization as required by New Jersey State law.

Maintenance of Valid Permit

The college shall reimburse or satisfy any associated costs for the maintenance of the RPO's permit to carry and SORA license, including but not limited to, permit to carry fees and ammunition and equipment costs associated with required semi-annual qualifications. In addition, the college shall facilitate and make available any training and qualifications required by the State of New Jersey. This may include utilization and coordination of training at the college's Public Safety Training Academy or other appropriate facility as needed. If the college cannot fulfill the obligation of facilitating training and maintenance, then the RPO shall be reimbursed for any and all associated expenses identified as required to maintain current valid permit to carry and Security Officer Registration Act.

Training and Equipment Requirements

The RPO shall make him/herself available for required training associated with the permit to carry, including firearms qualification and use of force training, as well as SORA training and certification. In addition to semiannual qualification with a handgun, the retired officer must be thoroughly familiar with N.J.S.A. 2C:3-1 et. seq. of the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice which codifies the justified use of deadly force by a civilian.

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The RPO shall provide their own firearm and holster that must conform to the restrictions set forth in the state's handgun qualification course. The college reserves the right to further restrict and/or dictate the type of equipment and attire to be utilized while acting in the RPO capacity. It should also be noted that, as civilians, retired officers cannot legally carry hollow-point ammunition or utilize high-capacity ammunition magazines (capable of holding more than 15 rounds of ammunition) in the handgun they are carrying.

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