

Somers Point Police Department Recruitment and Selection Process

GOAL:

The goal of the Somers Point Police Department Recruitment Plan is to attract qualified individuals to pursue a career with the agency with a special emphasis on recruiting underrepresented minorities and woman

DEMOGRAPHICS OF SOMERS POINT, NJ:

Based upon the official recording of the 2020 United States Census Bureau, the City of Somers Point has a total of 10,465 residents, these residents are represented as follows: Caucasian 75.4% of the city's populace, Hispanic or Latino 13.8% of the city's populace, African American 10.7% of the city's populace, Asian 3.9% of the city's populace.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE SOMERS POINT POLICE DEPARTMENT:

The Somers Point Police Department is comprised of 29 sworn personnel and is represented as follows: Caucasian Officers (24) or 83% of the work force, African American Officers (1) or 3% of the work force, Hispanic or Latino (2) or 7% of the work force, Asian (2) or 7% of the work force. This data was generated from the 2023 Annual Report of Diversity in Law Enforcement Recruitment and Hiring submitted to the Attorney General's Office.

GENERAL:

The Somers Point Police Department is subject to the provisions of New Jersey State Statues, Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the departments directive on Recruitment and Selection Policy in all facets of the recruitment and selection process. Based upon the demographics of our agency we have underrepresentation with African Americans, Hispanics and Females.

The Somers Point Police Department seeks its sworn applicants from one of three applicant tools.

- a. Civil Service Examination Certified List
- b. Police Training Commission (PTC) candidates.
- c. Non-PTC certified candidates and alternate route candidates.

The City of Somers Point is an Equal Opportunity Employer in all facets of the personnel selection process.

REVIEW:

The Chief of Police shall cause an annual review to be done of the agency's Recruitment Plan. The following data shall be minimally reviewed.

- a. Number of applicants vs. the number of targeted applicants.
- b. Number of applicants hired vs. the number of targeted applicants hired.
- c. Number of career days attended by the agency.
- d. Review of social media.
- e. Objectives met.

The agency's Recruitment Plan is subject to revision as needed.

OBJECTIVES and ACTIVITIES:

Objective #1: Recruit underrepresented members of minorities (race), ethnicity and gender categories (LGBTQ+) from current state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies, and police academies. Activities include, but are not limited to:

*Contact the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police to obtain current mailing lists of all member agencies in the State of New Jersey.

* Draft, Print, and distribute informational brochures that may attract qualified candidates to the agency.

*Make effective and maximum use of all appropriate websites to attract qualified candidates to the agency.

*Notify all regional, county, and municipal police academies of this agency's goal to recruit minority candidates and minority alternate route candidates, and to effectively utilize established liaisons with these academies.

Objective #2: Identify, establish and maintain contact with state, county, and municipal-based identified minority organizations and social media groups including but not limited to educational, religious, ethnic, racial and gender-based organizations with special attention to previously identified underrepresented minorities, those organizations include but are not limited to local and state chapters of the NAACP, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), the New Jersey Woman in Law Enforcement, the National Coalition of Latino Officers, and the Committee for Multi-Cultural Understanding.

The following are contacts and locations for potential career/job fair candidates:

1. Mainland Regional High School
Oak Ave.
Linwood, NJ
2. CharterTech High School
Route 9
Somers Point, NJ
3. Stockton University
101 Vera King Farris Blvd.
Galloway Twp. NJ
4. Atlantic Cape Community College
5100 Black Horse Pike
Mays Landing, NJ
5. Police Exposition.
6. National Night Out
7. Police Academies.
 - a. Atlantic County Police Academy
5033 English Creek Ave.
Egg Harbor Twp. NJ
 - b. Cape May County Public Safety Training Center
171 Crest Haven Road
Cape May Court House, NJ
 - c. Gloucester County Police Academy
1400 Tanyard Road
Sewell, NJ
8. Social Media. All hiring opportunities will be posted on the agency's webpage (somerspointgov.org/police), Facebook, the New Jersey Chiefs of Police webpage (www.njsacop.org) and policeOne.com

Objective #3 Identify, establish, and maintain contact with a of minority-serving institutions, available at (<http://cmsi.gse.rutgers.edu/content/msi-directory>).

Prior to a hiring process, the agency will utilize objectives #1 and #2 to notify underrepresented minorities in an attempt to get them to apply for the hiring process. This notification process will include but is not limited to the internet, agency webpage, local news outlets, and college job fairs.

SUMMARY:

The Somers Point Police Department instituted a very proactive recruitment and community outreach program to attract underrepresented groups identified in this report. Our agency partners with community organizations, faith-based institutions, colleges, and universities to address the shortcomings of hiring those underrepresented groups, particularly African Americans, Hispanic and Asians. In the coming years the Somers Point Police Department will continue to have a very robust recruiting effort to attract those underrepresented groups for possible employment with our agency. It should be noted that hiring underrepresented groups into a career in law enforcement is an ongoing process that requires a sustained commitment from our agency and the communities we serve. We will continue to build transparency and trust while trying to create a truly representative agency. This process takes time, effort, and a willingness to continue the effort to recruit underrepresented groups, which the Somers Point Police Department is committed to.