

Are you “Cops” and what authority do you have?

Parma Special Police Officers are appointed pursuant to Parma Town Law and are designated as Peace Officers as provided by NYS Criminal Procedure Law, Section 2.10(54) and Section 2.20. This means, when on duty, we have the same statutory rights and RESPONSIBILITIES as a traditional Police Officer. We also have the added limitations and protections of a Peace Officer, meaning we need to be on duty, in uniform, in order to take (or be obligated to take) any actions.

Are you paid as a Special Police Officer?

The Parma Special Police was organized in 1962 as a volunteer organization and is funded by the Town of Parma to assist the public and authorities during community events, natural disasters and emergencies. A majority of the unit's function is of a volunteer nature and meant as a cost savings mechanism to Town residents. Last year the Department provided over 1,000 hours to the Town of Parma, at no additional cost to residents, beyond a minimal operational budget.

Do you want to replace the Monroe County Sheriff in Parma?

No. The Parma Special Police Department is especially cognizant of our partnership with the Sheriff's Office and holds them as the “benchmark” we work towards. We exist only as a mechanism to supplement the excellent services by the Sheriff's Office. In the area of law enforcement there never seems to be enough resources and the Special Police will often take on more “mundane” responsibilities that allow the Sheriff's Deputies the opportunity to concentrate on higher community needs.

Why should I join?

Each member brings his or her expertise into our department. Your time and knowledge will be an invaluable asset to the Parma Special Police Department! Why others belong:

- To serve and help keep the community they and their families live in safe
- Better one's self as well as a means of meeting the public from a different perspective
- Learn proper police techniques
- A possible “first –step” into law enforcement
- Community pride and personal satisfaction

What kind of risks are members expected to take in doing their duties?

Given the nature of our duties we recognize there is a VERY REAL inherent risk. As an officer your personal safety, that of your fellow officers, and the community in general is of the highest concern. The Department has extensive training, set policies and procedures, to help minimize that risk, help officer safety, and mitigate liability. Unlike a security guard, officers are obligated to do more than observe and report when a criminal act is in progress, but that is tempered with common sense and the need to keep officers safe.

What kind of training is needed by members and what does it cost to join?

We provide ALL training and equipment; there is no cost to members. In accordance with mandated NYS Department of Criminal Justice Services standards, they attend part-time classes at the Monroe County Public Safety Training Center. Additional training such as CPR and First Aid are offered. Upon successful completion of required training and a probationary period, officers are eligible to be sworn in and designated as Peace Officers by the Town, and registered with NY State. For all members, we provide continuous in house training and training opportunities offered by the County and other Special Police units, in order to maintain our certifications, and keep our skills to the highest possible standards.

Do you require a set amount of time from members?

All members are required to attend and complete some mandatory training for initial and continuing membership. Beyond that, the organization is extremely flexible to member needs. There are times of the year, such as summer months, when there will be greater demand. We use the less busy months as opportunities for training, planning, and improvement.

How do I hire the Department for my event?

At the request of the Town of Parma, we provide free assistance to police, fire and EMS agencies in emergencies, and by request, we also provide services for local social, recreational, church or civic groups with sporting events, carnivals, and festivals by providing functions such as:

- Traffic Control
- Crowd Control
- Event Security
- Bike and Foot Patrol

Those in the community wishing to use our services should contact the Chief of Special Police. Although we make every effort to honor all requests, we may or may not be able to accommodate you, depending on the nature of the event, its conflict with other events, or even availability.

What if I get a ticket from the Town?

Read any ticket or citation in its entirety before taking action. It should contain information about what needs to be done after receiving such a notice. Also, there should be contact information for follow up and the issuing agency. Parma Officers can and will issue citations and appearance tickets when warranted, but primary concern is quality of life. Often, our officers will issue a courtesy notice which is meant to convey to the recipient that some action is needed on their part to prevent any further legal action. When in doubt contact the issuing agency or use any of the following numbers:

Parma Special Police:	392-9461 x-118
Parma Town Court:	392-9470
Parma Code Enforcement:	392-9449
Parma Animal Control:	529-2414
Monroe County Sheriff's Office:	753-4178

