




STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

KELLY CUMMINGS
DIRECTOR OF STATE OPERATIONS
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendent of State Police Keith Corlett and Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Erik Kulleseid

FROM: Kelly Cummings, Director of State Operations and Infrastructure 

SUBJECT: Staged transfer of Parks Police command and control to Division of State Police

DATE: December 3, 2019

To increase seamless incident response and maximize scheduling efficiencies, command and control of Park Police activities will be immediately transferred to the Division of State Police (Division). Subsequent measures will result in the complete integration of Park Police resources and responsibilities into the Division. Complete integration will be accomplished in a sequenced process which maximizes the efficient use of staffing and other resources while keeping the public safe; supports the assumption of all existing Park Police missions by the Division or other first responder organizations; and facilitates the transfer of qualified Park Police Officers to the Division. Steps to achieve integration include:

- **Operational Control** - Operational control of Park Police will immediately be transferred to the Superintendent of State Police.
- **Notification**-The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation will notify Park Police Officers that operational control has been transferred to the Division of State Police. Park Police Officers should be informed of the opportunity to apply to State Police, pursuant to an approved plan.

- **State Police Analysis of Park Police Mission and Resources (December-May)**
 - State Police and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation will designate Executive staff responsible for this transition. This team will identify steps for the integration of staff and resources including:
 - Development of a training plan for qualified Park Police officers who apply to transition to troopers.
 - Analysis of Park Police mission to identify operational responsibilities that are not currently compatible and development of solutions, including identification of missions that are more efficiently done by other first responder organizations.
 - Analysis of resources (vehicles, space and equipment), for integration or surplus. A DOB approval will be required for equipment purchases.

- **State Police Recommendations** - Based on the above analysis, the Division will make recommendations on the timing of an abbreviated academy for Park Police currently qualified as State Police applicants and for future applicants under an age-waived legislative construct, and the incorporation of Park Police officers within the existing Division Troop structure.

- **Transition Qualified Staff** – Existing Park Police officers who meet current State Police applicant requirements, including a basic level of physical fitness, background check and passing a psychological/drug test, would start to transition to State Police if they choose to become applicants. The Division will administer an age appropriate fitness test to Park Police Officers in place of the test normally administered to new recruits; and Park Police Officers who qualify to become troopers will attend an abbreviated academy to alleviate Park Police training gaps.

- **Legislation** - Legislation will be advanced in the FY21 Executive Budget waiving the current age requirement to become a trooper, pursuant to Executive Law Article 11 Section 215. The Superintendent of the State Police will also amend requirements to allow for appropriate, age-adjusted fitness and vision norms and provide for an abbreviated academy for the cadre of applicants under the age-waived construct.

- **Other Requirements** - All other State Police eligibility requirements outside of the applicant age, modified fitness, vision and an abbreviated academy, will be maintained. Requirements that will not be waived include, but are not limited to:
 - Successful completion of all parts of a background investigation;
 - Psychological test;
 - Drug test;
 - Medical Examination - Must be able to perform the New York State Trooper Essential Functions, as determined by the Division Physician;
 - Adherence with all residency, citizenship and licensing requirements; and
 - Mandatory Retirement Age- State Police maintains a mandatory retirement age of 60.

- **Alternative Placement/Redeployment (FY21 and Beyond)** Employees who choose not to apply, or who do not meet the requirements to become a State Trooper, will remain as Park Police until such time as alternative plans are

developed or they leave Park Police service, however operational control will remain with the Division of State Police, even for those Park Police officers who choose not to transition.