

# Metropolitan Police Department □ Washington, D.C.



## SPECIAL ORDER



Subject:

**Revised Jurisdictional Boundaries Affecting the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Park Police and the Metropolitan Police Department**

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The purpose of this Special Order is to inform the force of two recent developments which change or clarify the jurisdictional boundaries normally observed by this department with respect to the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) and the U.S. Park Police (USPP). The general areas involved are (1) the sidewalk and park spaces formerly comprising the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation and (2) the area within the immediate vicinity of the White House Complex.

### 1. **The New "Pennsylvania Avenue Historic Park," Formerly Part of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation**

A recent Act of Congress, effective April 1, 1996, created the Pennsylvania Avenue Historic Park within the boundaries of the now-dissolved Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. In accord with this legislation, the USPP has assumed law enforcement responsibilities for this new park. The new park area basically includes the sidewalks and park land along Pennsylvania Avenue between 3rd and 15th Streets, N.W. Jurisdiction over Pennsylvania Avenue itself and all other roadways from curb to curb remains with MPD. One of the immediate effects of the new arrangement is that the USPP will henceforth enforce the D.C. Skateboard Law, which was limited to land inside the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation.

### 2. **Patrol Responsibilities in the Immediate Vicinity of the White House Complex ("White House Zone")**

As the result of a recent Memorandum of Understanding executed by the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Park Police and the Metropolitan Police Department, the three agencies agreed upon the allocation of primary law enforcement responsibility in the immediate vicinity of the White House.

#### ● **Geographical Designations**

The agreement defines the "White House Complex" as the area consisting of the White House, the Old Executive Office Building, the Treasury Department Building, and the grounds of those buildings, including West Executive Avenue.

The "White House Zone" is defined as the area bordered H Street on the north, Constitution Avenue on the South, 15th Street on the east, and 17th Street on the west.

Generally, the U.S. Secret Service will be the lead agency within the White House Complex, and the U.S. Park Police will be the lead agency within the White House Zone, with the exception of Madison and Jackson Places and Pennsylvania Avenue, where the Metropolitan Police Department will be the lead agency.

- **Metropolitan Police Department Responsibilities**

The Metropolitan Police Department has the primary responsibility for patrol and law enforcement activities in the following areas:

1. **Streets and/or sidewalks:**

- a. The street and sidewalks on Pennsylvania Avenue located inside the White House Zone. This does not include any portion of Lafayette Park or the south Pennsylvania Avenue sidewalk between East and West Executive Avenues;
- b. The street and east sidewalk of Madison Place;
- c. The street and west sidewalk of Jackson Place;
- d. 15th and 17th Streets and the west sidewalk of 17th Street and the east sidewalk of 15th Street together with the west sidewalk of 15th Street north of Alexander Hamilton Place, and the east sidewalk of 17th Street north of State Place; and
- e. The street and north sidewalk of those portions of H street located within the White House Zone.

2. Because Pennsylvania Avenue within the White House Zone is a limited access street, the Metropolitan Police Department will enforce existing regulations pertaining to demonstrations or special events (public gatherings).

3. Any investigation inside the confines of the District of Columbia, including all areas within the White House Zone, which involves the death of a human being, shall be the primary responsibility of the Metropolitan Police Department.

- a. One limited exception would involve a Presidential assassination which comes within USSS statutory responsibility.
- b. Another exception involves motor vehicle fatalities within USPP jurisdictions.
- c. All other death cases will be turned over to MPD as the designated agency of the D.C. Medical Examiner. PCJF v. DC (FOIA)

- **General Law Enforcement Procedures**

When any one of the agencies observes a violation of law within the White House Zone, the agency will first make any necessary law enforcement response such as preservation of life, apprehension of perpetrators, and appropriate public safety measures. The responding agency will then promptly turn the case over to the agency having primary law enforcement authority in the area where the violation occurs. Situations of a non-emergency nature will be referred to the agency with the primary jurisdictional authority.

The three agencies will promptly notify each other of enforcement actions taken within the White House Zone and will provide copies of reports to each other as soon as possible. Notifications shall be referred as follows:

1. Secret Service Uniformed Division— Watch Commander, White House Branch
2. U.S. Park Police — Shift Commander
3. Metropolitan Police Department— Communications Division

In the event of a major crime and resultant crime scene, personnel of the three agencies shall follow these guidelines:

1. The first officers on the scene, regardless of agency, will apprehend the suspect(s), identify and isolate witnesses, protect the crime scene, perform appropriate public safety measures and promptly notify the agency with primary law enforcement responsibility for the area or offense. Normally, all cases will be handled by the agency that has primary responsibility for the area or offense.
2. When an officer of one of the agencies apprehends a suspect, that officer will be required in almost all instances to turn that prisoner over to the lead agency in the investigation.
3. Until the lead agency in a particular crime situation has been identified, every effort must be made not to contaminate the crime scene and confuse the overall situation, therefore:
  - (a) Crime Scene Control Officer— The first officer, regardless of agency, who arrives on the scene will take control of the scene.
  - (b) The Crime Scene Control Officer shall be responsible for the state of the crime scene, until properly relieved by an official from their agency.


- (c) The Crime Scene Control Officer will ensure that any person entering the crime scene has a valid reason for entry. This officer will ensure that a log of authorized personnel who have entered the crime scene is maintained.
- (d) Until the lead agency is determined, no steps will be taken to process the crime scene, except for those steps necessary to protect against loss or contamination of evidence.
4. Questions as to jurisdiction or decisions as to the conduct of a joint investigation will be decided by command level officers from the involved agencies.
5. Once the investigative responsibilities have been determined, the processing of the crime scene will commence and be coordinated based upon the instructions of investigating personnel from the lead agency.

● **Further Information**

More detailed information may be found in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreed to by the signatory agencies. Copies of the MOU and a color-coded map of the White House Zone have been provided to affected units, including the commanders of each patrol district, SOD, and the Communications Division. In a developing situation, members should contact the Communications Division for advice or direction.

Attached to this Special Order is a map of the Pennsylvania Avenue Historic Park (Attachment A) and a black-and-white map of the White House Zone (Attachment B).

\* This Special Order shall remain in effect until revised or incorporated into an appropriate general order.

  
Larry D. Soulsby  
Chief of Police

LDS:WRP:AFA

Attachments



# White House Zone Jurisdictions

For Actual Description See M.O.U.

