

ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE (ACOP)

STATE UNIVERSITIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

ACOP Position Statements

I. STATEMENTS OF ASSOCIATION PHILOSOPHY

1. ACOP STANCE ON CAMPUS SEXUAL VIOLENCE

ACOP condemns sexual violence, including campus sexual violence. State universities should provide comprehensive support for sexual assault survivors, including in-depth police involvement throughout the process, according to the wishes of the victim. The state universities should continue to strengthen their role in combating sexual violence through compliance with Title IX and the Clery Act.

2. ACOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRATEGIES TO COMBAT CAMPUS VIOLENCE

ACOP vigorously supports and promotes efforts that create safe, secure, and peaceful state university campuses free of the destructive influence of violence in all of its forms. ACOP further maintains that state universities must implement purposeful, coordinated strategies that increase levels of safety and security. Such strategies must include efforts to keep guns out of the hands of those who would harm students, and the adoption of university policies that ensure that the only armed persons at state universities are highly trained professionals (i.e., state university police officers). State universities must also create and foster community and police partnerships, and should establish comprehensive crisis response plans.

II. BEST PRACTICES POSITION STATEMENTS

1. STATE UNIVERSITY POLICE – ARMING

Every state university police officer, by virtue of being a police officer, should be equipped with a sidearm. If a state university police officer is expected in the course of his or her duty to respond to an active shooter threat, that officer should, in addition to a sidearm, be equipped with an easily accessible patrol rifle.

2. STATE UNIVERSITY POLICE – AUTHORITY

All state university police officers should have law enforcement authority that is substantially similar to that of city and town police officers.

3. STATE UNIVERSITY POLICE – TRAINING

All state university police officers should receive basic training and inservice training that is substantially similar to that of city and town police officers, irrespective of differing legal standards or requirements.

4. STATE UNIVERSITY POLICE – COMPENSATION

State university police officers' salaries and benefits should be substantially similar to those of their city and town counterparts. Benefits for every officer (of every rank) should include standard police retirement benefits (Group 4); 100% injured-on-duty (111F) benefits; and heart bill benefits.

5. STATE UNIVERSITY POLICE – STAFFING

Police staffing on each state university campus should be maintained by each institution at a level that is reasonably sufficient for the protection of students, faculty, staff, visitors, and the police officers themselves. The Association urges the adoption by each institution of a standard staffing ratio of three officers per every 1,000 persons comprising the institution's total student, faculty, and staff population (e.g., 3:1,000 or 30:10,000).

6. STATE UNIVERSITY POLICE CHIEFS – ACCESS TO STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS

Each state university police chief should have reasonable access to the president of their respective institution, irrespective of their regular reporting lines.

These position statements were formally adopted and approved by a vote of the membership of the Association on August 7, 2018.