



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
**Capitol Police Department**

Memorandum

To: Joint Legislative Management Committee

From: Matthew Romei, Chief of Police

Re: Executive Summary of attached document

Date: 19 November 2019

I have attached a document extensively explaining the Capitol Police decision making regarding rules enforcement and law enforcement. The key points are:

1. In Rules Enforcement, we always defer to the person in charge of the space for a decision
2. In the State House, that is the Presiding Officer, Committee Chair or Sergeant at Arms depending on the location of the event or incident.
3. Once that decision is made, the Sergeant at Arms takes the first “bite” at enforcing the decision of the Chair.
4. In Law Enforcement, we enforce the law, primarily trying to work things out between parties, and occasionally, making an arrest.
5. Capitol Police Officers are Deputy Sergeant at Arms, but rarely do we act in that capacity, preferring the Sergeant at Arms or Door Keepers fill that role.
6. Serious events, such as physical violence, require no invitation for a Capitol Police Officer to act.
7. Capitol Police are extensively trained to recognize and respect Constitutional Rights, especially when it comes to rallies and protests.
8. The ultimate mission of the Capitol Police is to create as safe a place as possible for the free exchange of ideas and political discourse, irrespective of content, given the constraints placed, and to try and strike a balance between security and freedom of access.
9. Some of the numerous functions of the Rules Committees could be moved to another committee, such as the setting of salaries could be absorbed by the JLMC.
10. The Rules Committees should remain but may be better suited to address parliamentary issues.