

1974 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. 115 (S.C.A.G.), 1974 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 3747, 1974 WL 21264

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

Opinion No. 3747

April 4, 1974

**\*1 Re: Municipal Police Officers—Jurisdiction**

Honorable M. L. Brown, Jr.  
Sheriff  
Horry County  
County Courthouse  
Conway, South Carolina 29526

Dear Sheriff Brown:

Mr. McLeod has referred your letter to me of March 27, 1974, making inquiry with reference to the territorial limitations of the police authority of the municipal police of Surfside.

Police officers of a municipality have no police authority outside the territorial limits of the municipality by which they are employed. In several instances, the General Assembly has granted extra territorial jurisdiction to municipal police officers in specified circumstances. Insofar as I know, each one of these acts granting such extra authority has been state-wide. It is questionable that a bill providing extra territorial jurisdiction for the police officers for a particular municipality would be valid in view of the constitutional prohibition against special legislation when a general law can be made applicable.

It is my suggestion that if you do contemplate asking for legislation in this area that you suggest any proposed bill be made state-wide in application.

Yours very truly,

Joseph C. Coleman  
Deputy Attorney General

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