

FILED
486

October 9, 1969

OPINION LETTER NO. 406

Honorable John C. Ryan
Senator - 28th District
Senate Post Office
State Capitol Building
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Senator Ryan:

Your request for our opinion on the authority and jurisdiction of the Sedalia Police Officers on the Missouri State Fairgrounds is premised upon the fact that title to the fairgrounds is vested in the State (Section 262.220, RSMo 1959) although the grounds are located in the corporate limits of the City of Sedalia.

We have researched the statutes on the state fair and its fairgrounds and find no grant or waiver of sovereignty by the State of Missouri to the City of Sedalia over the state fairgrounds.

Section 262.270, RSMo Supp. 1967, provides the Commissioner of Agriculture shall appoint and employ as many special policemen as are needed to maintain order * * * which shall clothe him with the same power to maintain order, preserve the peace and make arrests as is now held by a peace officer.

We have recently considered the authority of the Rolla police to enforce the state laws and city ordinances enacted for the maintenance of the public peace on the campus of the Missouri University at Rolla, Missouri. The campus was also located within the city limits. It is also state property. Sedalia, like Rolla, is a third class city. In our Opinion

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No. 108, dated December 19, 1968, addressed to the Honorable Zane White, we held:

"It is the opinion of this department that the police of the City of Rolla, Missouri, the sheriff of Phelps County, and the state highway patrol, have authority to investigate and arrest for violation of any criminal law on the campus of the University of Missouri at Rolla in the same manner and to the same extent as they have in any criminal matter within their respective jurisdictions. That it is the duty of the watchmen, appointed by the curators of the University of Missouri with authority to make arrests as peace officers, to arrest and report any violations of the state law of which they have knowledge to the proper authorities in the same manner as is required of any peace officer."

A copy of this opinion is attached.

We reaffirm that opinion and hold that the conclusion reached in Opinion No. 108 (supra) is applicable to Sedalia and answers the questions you propound in your request.

If we can be of any further assistance to you, please feel free to submit them to us.

Very truly yours,

JOHN C. DANFORTH
Attorney General

Enclosure:

Op.No. 108-12/19/68-White