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ATTORNEY GENERAL

OFFICES OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY

May 30, 1973

OPINION LETTER NO. 193

Honorable Robert Fowler
Representative, District 69
Room 401, Capitol Building
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Representative Fowler:

This letter is in response to your question in which you ask:

"Is there some way a city of the 4th class in St. Louis County can require that a policeman remain with the city for a certain period of time after the said city has paid his salary for sixteen (16) weeks of school, either in St. Louis Police Academy, or St. Louis County Police Academy?"

We presume you refer to the training requirements pursuant to Section 66.250, RSMo Supp. 1971.

Our view is that it is clear that there is no way in which officers can be forced to remain on the police force of the city in light of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution which prohibits involuntary servitude. See Thompson v. Bunton, 22 S.W. 863 (Mo. banc 1893); 16 C.J.S. Constitutional Law §203(1).

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John C. Danforth".

JOHN C. DANFORTH
Attorney General