Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Between
North Newton Police Department
And
Bethel College

Effective Date 1/13/2025
Duration: One Year

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes an understanding between the North Newton Police Department and Bethel College to collaboratively promote the safety, security, and well-being of the college community. Both parties share a commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment while respecting the unique values and culture of the campus.

The North Newton Police Department commits to delivering professional, community-focused law enforcement services in accordance with Kansas law within the boundaries of Bethel College, North Newton, and its surrounding areas. These services include emergency response, with additional efforts toward crime prevention, and educational support, all designed to address the unique needs of students, faculty, and staff. Patrols will be carried out with careful consideration for the academic environment, emphasizing approachability, respect, and meaningful engagement. It is understood that police response will be prioritized based on the urgency and severity of the situation, the volume of calls, and officer availability, with emergencies and high-priority incidents taking precedence to ensure public safety.

Bethel College agrees to collaborate with the North Newton Police Department to address safety priorities and maintain open communication about concerns or incidents affecting the campus. The college will assist in identifying areas where additional safety measures, such as improved lighting, cameras, or awareness campaigns, may be beneficial.

The North Newton Police Department will respond promptly and professionally to calls for service on campus per department policy, working in close coordination with Bethel College administration as needed. Officers will prioritize de-escalation, cultural awareness, and sensitivity to campus dynamics. In addition to enforcement duties, the department may offer educational programs on topics such as personal safety, emergency preparedness, and crime prevention.

Training will be a cornerstone of this partnership. Officers assigned to campus duties plan to receive specialized training in areas such as mental health crisis response, diversity and inclusion, and the unique needs of a college community as relevant opportunities arise. Bethel College may provide input or host workshops to further align these efforts with its values.

This agreement recognizes the importance of balancing safety with the autonomy and privacy of the Bethel College community. To this end, patrols and law enforcement activities will be

conducted with an emphasis on community engagement and addressing specific safety concerns raised by students, faculty, or staff.

Both parties commit to regular communication and periodic review of this agreement to ensure its effectiveness and alignment with the needs of the campus. Feedback from the community will be welcomed and incorporated into future revisions as appropriate.

This MOU shall remain in effect until 1/13/2026, at which point it may be renewed or revised upon mutual agreement of the parties. Either party may terminate this agreement with 90 days written notice.

North Newton City Representative
Name: Ron Ratzlaff
Title: Mayor
Signature: Ron Ratzlaff
Date: 01/13/2025

North Newton Police Department Representative
Name: Jim L Bethards
Title: Chief of Police
Signature: Jim L Bethards
Date: 1-13-2025

Bethel College Representative
Name: Jon C. Gering
Title: President
Signature: Jonathan C. Gering
Date: Jan. 10, 2025

Bethel College Representative
Name: MeShonya Wren-Coleman
Title: VP for Student Life
Signature: MeShonya Wren-Coleman
Date: January 13, 2025