

# **COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

**Subject: MUTUAL AID**

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## **I. Purpose**

To establish and maintain agreements with neighboring jurisdictions for the purpose of providing law enforcement services, as needed.

## **II. Statement of Policy**

It shall be the policy of the Covington Police Department to maintain cooperative agreements with law enforcement agencies in neighboring jurisdictions having concurrent jurisdiction in the corporate limits. Such agreements include the mutual provision of law enforcement services in the event of natural or manmade disaster, civil disorder, or other emergency situations.

## **III. Definitions**

**EMERGENCY SITUATION** – An actual or potential condition that poses an immediate threat to life or property. In the context of mutual aid, this means a situation that exceeds the capability of a local agency to counteract successfully.

**MUTUAL AID** – An exchange of services, personnel and/or equipment between law enforcement agencies during time of the emergency.

**NEIGHBORING JURISDICTION** – A law enforcement agency in an adjoining city, county, or other unit of government.

## **IV. Mutual Aid Emergencies**

The Covington Police Department will assist another law enforcement agency in any of the following situations:

- A. Police officer needs assistance.
- B. Serious accident near city limits or when requested by outside agency supervisor.

- C. Outside agency is unable or unavailable to answer a request by an outside agency supervisor.
- D. Serving search or arrest warrants near or inside the city limits, where there is a substantial risk of violence.
- E. Major mass transportation accident where additional police personnel are required for crowd control.
- F. Civil Disorder.
- G. Man made disaster.

**V. Procedures**

- A. The watch commander or supervisor in charge for the police department shall have the authority to request outside police assistance. He shall also approve the sending of police personnel outside the corporate limits of the City.
- B. City officers may be sent outside the city limits in an emergency situation where there is sufficient reason to believe that an arrest will be made or that force will be used against a person. (Examples include: serving arrest warrants or executing a search warrant, etc.). Other situations that require general police assistance may be handled using officers under Mutual Aid.
- C. The dispatcher receiving an "officer needs assistance" call shall make a general broadcast describing the location, officer number, and the type of call the officer was responding, to all police units. Police officers that are close shall notify the communication center and request authorization from a supervisor before leaving their jurisdiction.
- D. Patrol supervisors shall have the discretion to send as many officers as necessary so long as patrol coverage in the city is not jeopardized. Discretion will be based on the current availability of officers.
- E. All expensed incurred, as a result of mutual aid will be born by the provider agency.
- F. Mutual aid may also be provided in the area of:
  - 1. Mass arrests.
  - 2. Mass processing.
  - 3. Transporting prisoners.
  - 4. Temporary detention.

5. Search for wanted persons, escapees
6. Others situations, as necessary.

(See SOP E020 Emergency Operations for procedures) [E020- Civil Disturbance.doc](#)

***This SOP supersedes any SOP previously issued.***

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

*Stacey L. Cotton*  
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Chief of Police