

CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Title: *MUTUAL AID*

Procedure: 2.101

Date Issued:

Revised:

PURPOSE:

To outline the circumstances and procedures for requesting and seeking mutual aid from other police agencies.

POLICY:

The City of Cambridge recognizes that on occasion circumstances can develop that will overwhelm the resources of the police department, or other law enforcement agencies of neighboring communities. Under these circumstances the Police Department may be asked to provide assistance to another agency, or may request assistance from other agencies. This Department will aid participating communities when requested, and when necessary will request aid from these communities.

PROCEDURE:

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

1. The Police Department and City may execute Mutual Aid Agreements with other political subdivisions. The purpose of these agreements are to provide assistance, in the form of manpower and equipment, to participating municipalities, as determined by the Chiefs of Police.

2. The decision to render or request emergency assistance, to or from another jurisdiction, is the responsibility of the Ranking Officer. Whenever possible the Ranking Officer should be the person making notification when requesting aid.

3. Requests for emergency assistance by police departments not participating in the Mutual Aid agreement shall be provided, manpower permitting.

4. The Chief of Police shall determine under what conditions assistance will be requested from mutual aid agencies for all planned or scheduled incidents or events.

REQUESTING MUTUAL AID

1. Mutual aid is to be used in times of emergencies, when occurrences may result in situations which are beyond the ability of the individual community to deal effectively, in terms of manpower or equipment, with the incident at hand, such as:

Civil disobedience, whether planned protests or one that develops spontaneously.

Extensive concentrated search for a dangerous criminal or a lost person.

A disturbance call at a large function that requires additional officers.

Any other emergency related to police work where extra aid is required.

2. Requests for assistance should be made, first, to the Dorchester County Sheriffs Department and the Maryland State Police. Any further assistance should be requested from those agencies closest to the City boundaries.

3. Contact should be made with the highest ranking officer on duty with the assisting agency.

4. The Commanding Officer should provide the following information to the Commanding officer of the other agency when requesting assistance:

Nature of emergency.

Number of men needed.

Special resources, if any.

Where to report, staging location or at scene.

Supervisor in charge.

Estimated time officers will be needed.

5. The Ranking Officer shall assume full responsibility and command for operations at the scene. He will assign personnel and equipment, of the aiding agency, to positions when and where he deems necessary. Some suggested uses of mutual aid personnel are:

Providing care and aid to injured.

Search and rescue operations.

Evacuations.

Traffic and crowd control.

Perimeter security.

Transporting prisoners.

Mass processing of arrestees.

6. As a general rule mutual aid personnel will supplement the Department's forces and, as such, should not be assigned to hazardous duties when adequate manpower from the Department is available.

7. Those officers not having a common radio frequency should be assigned to positions not needing immediate communications or assigned with officers having access to our frequency.

8. The order in which the manpower is returned to duty in their own communities is at the discretion of the Ranking Officer on the scene.

9. Requesting aid also covers using an assisting member's facility for operating a temporary detention facility in mass arrest incidents. Supplies from this Department should be used whenever possible.

PROVIDING MUTUAL AID

1. If the Department is contacted by another participating agency requesting mutual aid the Ranking Officer on duty will be immediately notified.

2. The Ranking Officer shall review the request and make a determination as to how many officers and what type of equipment can be spared, without leaving the City dangerously unprotected.

3. The Ranking Officer shall document any request for mutual aid.

4. The safety and security of the City is the Department's first concern and only that manpower and equipment which can be spared will be sent.

5. If necessary the Ranking Officer may call back additional personnel to meet needs and still comply with the request for aid.

6. Unless otherwise directed, each police officer assigned to respond to a request for aid will respond in uniform and in a marked vehicle.

7. Sworn police officers responding to a request for assistance from another municipality have all the powers of a sworn police officer employed by the requesting municipality.

8. No officer will respond to a mutual aid request unless directed by the Ranking Officer

9. Responding officers are subject to the direction of the Chief of Police of the requesting municipality, or his designee.

REQUESTING EMERGENCY FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

1. In the event of an emergency, which requires immediate federal law enforcement assistance, the Ranking Officer is authorized to make the appropriate request.

2. The following Federal law enforcement agencies can be contacted on a 24 hour basis:

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Drug Enforcement Administration
U.S. Secret Service
U.S. Customs Service
U.S. Postal Inspection Service
U.S. Military Police
Department of Defense
Department of Justice Organized
Crime
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco &
Firearms
Internal Revenue Service

3. The Chief of Police will be informed, as soon as possible, of any request for emergency assistance from a federal agency.

NATIONAL GUARD EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

1. In the event of an extreme emergency, i.e., a great natural disaster or criminal activity, where a large number of personnel will be required for an extended period of time, it may be necessary to request assistance from the National Guard. The Ranking Officer will contact the Chief of Police, who in turn will contact the City Mayor. The Mayor will contact the Governor's office and request the assistance necessary.