



## Mutual Aid

### .01 Policy

The purpose of this order is to establish procedures, duties, and responsibilities for providing assistance to, or requesting assistance from, another law enforcement agency.

It is the policy of the Bladensburg Police Department to establish and maintain mutual aid agreements in order to protect the safety and well-being of the respective municipalities.

On occasion the need arises to request assistance from or give assistance to a neighboring law enforcement agency. This need usually results from an emergency such as a civil disorder, fire, flood, or other situation which exceeds the capability of the local agency to counteract effectively.

Generally, emergency law enforcement needs can best be served by the creation of a regional approach to law enforcement, resulting in better coordination and less duplication in law enforcement efforts.

### .02 Terms

**Emergency:** A sudden or unexpected happening or an unforeseen combination of circumstances that calls for immediate action to protect the health, safety, welfare, or property of an individual from actual or threatened harm, or from crimes of violence.

**Host Jurisdiction:** Political jurisdiction where an incident physically occurs and where the visiting officer takes police action.

**Signatory Jurisdiction:** Political jurisdiction which has entered into a mutual aid agreement with the Town of Bladensburg.

### .03 Governing Legislation and Reference

Governing Legislation:

Maryland Local Government Article, Division II §5-204, Express Powers Act.

Maryland Criminal Procedures Article §2-102, Authority of Police Officers.

Maryland Criminal Procedures Article §2-103, Service of Arrest Warrants.

Maryland Criminal Procedures Article §2-105,

Mutual Aid Agreements.

Maryland Criminal Procedures Article §2-106, Keeping Custody of Arrested Person.

Forms: N/A

Reference:

General Order 112, Authority and Jurisdiction.

General Order 114, Limited Extra Jurisdictional Authority.

Mutual Aid Agreement between Bladensburg, Edmonston, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Mount Rainier, Laurel, Mount Rainier, Riverdale Park, and University Park (2010).

Mutual Aid Agreement between Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, and Edmonston (2009).

### .04 Procedure

#### A. Jurisdiction

On April 26, 1993, State Legislatures enacted law that granted all law enforcement personnel limited statewide jurisdiction under certain circumstances. The Bladensburg Police Department adopted stringent guidelines for the implementation of this statute (General Order 114, Limited Statewide Jurisdiction).

Members are responsible for being familiar with the general boundaries of the Town of Bladensburg. Citizens with requests for law enforcement services outside the city limits are to be referred to the appropriate agency having jurisdiction, unless exigent circumstances require immediate attention under a Mutual Aid Agreement or a request for assistance is received from a signatory jurisdiction.

Members shall not conduct routine patrol, or traffic enforcement outside the jurisdictional limits of the Town of Bladensburg, unless expressly requested to do so by a signatory jurisdiction.

#### Prince George's County

Prince George's County Police have primary jurisdiction over all county owned or leased property within the corporate limits of Bladensburg.

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Prince George's County Police have primary responsibility for the investigation of all homicides and rapes which occur within the Town.

### **Maryland National Park and Planning Commission**

Maryland National Park and Planning Police have primary jurisdiction over all park property owned or leased within the corporate limits of Bladensburg.

Bladensburg Police Department has concurrent jurisdiction on all property owned or leased by the Maryland-National Capitol Park and Planning Commission or Prince George's County within the town.

### B. Mutual Aid

Local governments are empowered to enter into reciprocal agreements in order to establish and carry into effect decisive plans to provide mutual emergency assistance or to cooperate in the performance of governmental functions.

#### **Requesting Mutual Aid**

Mutual aid may be requested from or provided to another law enforcement agency by the department at the discretion of the on-duty supervisor. Normally, outside agency personnel will be used to assist in a show of force, traffic control, mass processing of prisoners, prisoner transport, or back-up assistance. Members primary responsibility is providing law enforcement service to the Town of Bladensburg.

#### **Officer Responsibilities**

Members shall adhere to agency policies and procedures and use only those weapons and tactics with which they have qualified.

Members may take only those law enforcement actions permitted under state law. All arrests, if possible, shall be affected by officers of the host jurisdiction.

Bladensburg officers shall obey the lawful orders of the senior officer in host jurisdiction.

In the event a Bladensburg officer arrives on the scene before a host jurisdiction officer, he or she shall assume control until a host jurisdiction officer arrives.

When a Bladensburg officer makes an arrest within the jurisdiction of a signatory jurisdiction, that officer shall:

- Immediately notify the police department of the signatory jurisdiction;
- Take the arrestee to the nearest station of the signatory jurisdiction for processing;
- Take the arrestee to the appropriate District Court Commissioner; and,
- Prepare any necessary reports.

#### **Dispatcher Responsibilities**

Dispatchers will assign back-up units to respond routine or priority as determined by the nature of the call.

Off-duty personnel working secondary employment assignments are available as back-up units.

#### Mount Rainier Police Department

In the event a call is received that requires a back-up unit and Mount Rainier units are unavailable, dispatchers are authorized to assign one available Bladensburg unit for back-up. Prince George's County Police will also be requested to respond.

Dispatchers will request county back-up over the county radio system when the incident requires immediate response, or when a timely notification cannot be made by telephone.

### C. Reporting

Dispatchers shall use the activity code "MA" when assigning units.

Members are required to obtain case numbers from communications and write a Commanders Log using the incident code "EXTRA" when:

- Mutual aid is requested or rendered to agencies outside of jurisdiction or a mutual aid compact;
- Force is used;
- Personal injury or death;
- Arrest or confinement;
- Civil disturbance; or,
- Mutual aid exceeds two hours or one unit.

### D. Available Resources

#### **Maryland State Police**

- Aviation services for medical evacuations and searches;
- Mobile and forensic laboratory services;

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- Polygraph; and,
- Emergency services teams for hostage and high risk entry.

### Prince George's County Police

- Aviation services for area searches;
- Back-up units;
- Canine;

Forensic laboratory services; and,

- Emergency services teams for hostage and high risk entry.

### Prince George's County Sheriff's Department

- Emergency services teams for high-risk warrant service and entries; and,
- Bloodhound.

### Prince George's County Fire Department

- Explosive and hazardous material disposal; and,
- Missing person area searches.

### United States Park Police

- Aviation services for area searches; and,
- Canine.

### Metropolitan Transit Authority Police

- Canine.

### Colmar Manor, Cottage City, Edmonston, Laurel, Mount Rainier, and Riverdale Park Police Departments

- Backup units.

### Greenbelt and Hyattsville Police Departments

- Backup units;
- Canine.

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HISTORY: Adopted January 1, 2014

This General Order supersedes all other orders and memoranda in conflict therewith.

Authority:



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Chief of Police