



Atlanta Police Department – Standard Operating Procedure			
	<b>APD.SOP.1070 – Coordination with Outside Agencies</b> <b>Effective Date: September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025</b>		
<b>Chief Darin Schierbaum</b>	<b>Signature by: DS</b>	<b>Date Signed: 9/23/2025</b>	<b>Expires:2029</b>

## SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

### APD Staff,

The Policy and Standards Section is dedicated to providing the department, and its employees, with accurate, understandable and transparent policies. In order to publish policies that reflect the most up-to-date standards, the Policy and Standard Section regularly reviews all policies to ensure that they are reflective of the current mission and objectives of the Atlanta Police Department.

No major changes were made during the review and renewal of APD.SOP.1070 – Coordination with outside Agencies, however we ask that you please read the policy in its entirety, so that we, as a Department, can better recognize that effective law enforcement depends on strong collaboration with neighboring agencies.

Coordinating operations, establishing relationships, sharing information, and maintaining mutual respect are essential to ensuring consistent and effective policing across jurisdictional lines. By working together with partner agencies, the Department advances the shared mission of enhancing public trust, reducing crime, and achieving the common goal of a safer Atlanta.

**Thank you and stay informed!**

**Policy and Standards Section**  
**Planning, Research, and Accreditation Unit**



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**1. PURPOSE**

To establish policies and procedures regarding the coordination and interaction with other law enforcement agencies outside the jurisdiction of the Atlanta Police Department (APD).

**2. POLICY**

Coordination with other agencies is critical to the effective operation of the department. The Chief of Police reserves the right to establish policy and procedures concerning mutual aid and interaction with other agencies. All APD employees must cooperate respectfully with other agencies in the interest of serving and protecting the public.

**3. RESPONSIBILITIES**

**3.1 LIAISON WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

3.1.1 The Chief of Police and division commanders will maintain relationships with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to coordinate policy and operations.

1. Section commanders assigned to a zone command will maintain a relationship with local law enforcement agencies with adjoining jurisdiction.
2. Other section commanders and all unit commanders will meet with and coordinate their efforts with these agencies, within their respective spheres of responsibility.

3.1.2 The Field Operations Division (FOD) Commander will meet at least annually with the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), Georgia Institute of Technology, Clark Atlanta University (CAU), Morehouse College, Spelman College, Morehouse School of Medicine, Georgia State University (GSU), and Emory University police departments and all other agencies that operate within the jurisdiction of the City of Atlanta.

3.1.3 The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) Commander will meet at least annually with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), and the investigative commanders of Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett Counties.

**3.2 LIAISON WITH OTHER CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES**

3.2.1 The division commanders will maintain liaison and meet as needed with representatives of the courts and corrections agencies which receive APD arrestees. The CID and ID Unit commanders will meet at least semiannually with the judges and prosecutors to coordinate and improve the department's role in prosecutions.

3.2.2 The Field Operations Division (FOD) Commander will provide formal liaison with the courts regarding attendance of officers and adequacy of case preparation. The FOD Commander will meet at least annually with representatives of probation, prison, parole, and juvenile corrections agencies to coordinate operations, improve information sharing, and address other interagency matters.

3.2.3 CID and FOD commanders, will meet at least annually with representatives of the juvenile courts of Fulton, Dekalb, and Clayton Counties to coordinate and improve the department's handling of juveniles.

3.2.4 The Zone Six Commander will meet at least annually with representatives of the DeKalb County courts and prosecutors.



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- 3.2.5 The Airport Commander will meet at least annually with representatives of Clayton County courts, prosecutors, and law enforcement agencies.

### 3.3 LIAISON WITH OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES

- 3.3.1 The Chief of Police will meet regularly with the executives of the Atlanta Fire Rescue (AFR) and the Atlanta-Fulton County Emergency Management Agency (AFCEMA). The division, section, and unit commanders will meet with appropriate representatives of these agencies and coordinate their efforts within their spheres of responsibility.

- 3.3.2 The Communication Section Director will collaborate and coordinate with representatives of DeKalb County, Fulton County, Clayton County, Grady EMS, and Atlanta Fire Rescue concerning emergency medical services.

### 3.4 LIAISON WITH TRAFFIC AGENCIES

- 3.4.1 The Motors Unit Commander will meet at least annually with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) and the City of Atlanta Bureau of Traffic and Transportation to coordinate traffic safety issues.

- 3.4.2 The Motors Unit Commander will meet at least annually with the Department of Public Works (DPW) Office of Transportation to provide liaison in transportation system management planning. The Commander will meet as needed with regional and state agencies involved with transportation planning.

## 4. ACTION

### 4.1 JOINT JURISDICTION

- 4.1.1 Fulton and DeKalb County police (within their respective counties), Fulton, DeKalb and Clayton County Sheriff's deputies, State Patrol troopers, and GBI agents have police powers within the City equivalent to those of the department. However, the department assumes primary responsibility within the city unless the Chief of Police enters into an agreement in which primary responsibility for certain police actions are shared with or transferred to other agencies.  
(CALEA 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Standard 2.1.1)

- 4.1.2 The Police departments for CSX and Norfolk-Southern Railways also share jurisdiction with the APD. These railway police departments exercise primary police responsibility on their respective trains, stations, and track areas. Railway police officers have the power to impound vehicles that are parked on the railroad right of way. The APD assumes primary police responsibility outside these areas and for cases of homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, suicide and other major crimes in which the agency with primary police responsibility requests assistance.

- 4.1.3 MARTA has joint responsibility with the APD for providing police services on MARTA property. MARTA officers exercise primary police responsibility on MARTA trains/streetscars, stations, buses, and fenced-in track areas. The APD assumes primary police responsibility outside these areas and in cases of homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, suicide, and other major crimes in which MARTA requests assistance.

1. Crowd control on MARTA property is a shared function of MARTA police and the APD. When MARTA requests the department's assistance, the highest-ranking department officer will be in charge of the situation for which assistance was requested.



- 4.1.4 Georgia Institute of Technology, GSU, CAU, and Emory University police have joint responsibility with the APD for providing police services on their property and on any property within 500 yards of their property (Ga. Code 20-8-2 & 20-8-3). However, these campus police agencies exercise primary responsibility only in the respective areas owned by the universities. The department exercises primary responsibility outside these areas.

#### 4.2 ARREST RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.2.1 When an arrest, or other police action is required within the city, but falls under another agency's primary responsibility, officers are authorized to take reasonable and necessary action—including making an arrest—when immediate intervention is needed to prevent injury, stop a threat, or protect public safety.
- 4.2.2 The agency with jurisdiction over the crime is responsible for the case, including arrest, evidence collection, transportation, and court proceedings. At the request of another agency, the Atlanta Police Department will provide investigative assistance and may assume lead responsibility in certain major cases.

#### 4.3 REPORTING

- 4.3.1 Division, section, and unit commanders will report to the Chief of Police on their meetings with other agencies. They will forward these written reports through the chain of command.
- 4.3.2 Employees will immediately refer through the chain of command:
1. Interagency problems which cannot be resolved at the employee's level;
  2. Interagency problems which are outside the employee's area of responsibility; and
  3. Suggestions for improving interagency coordination which are outside the employee's area of responsibility.
- 4.3.3 Agreements made by the Chief of Police and reports from division, section and unit commanders that are forwarded to the Chief of Police will be maintained on file by the Office of the Chief of Police.

#### 5. DEFINITIONS

N/A

#### 6. CANCELLATIONS

APD.SOP.1070 "Coordination with Outside Agencies," effective April 15, 2019

#### 7. REFERENCES

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Standards 2.1.2)