


<b>STRATFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>  	Type of Directive: <b>Policy and Procedure – Organization &amp; Structure</b>	New: <b>02-23-2024</b>
	Title: <b>Jurisdiction &amp; Mutual Aid</b>	No. <b>1.1</b>
	Issuing Authority: <b>Chief Joseph McNeil</b>	Issued: <b>02-23-2024</b>
	Reference: Accreditation 1.6.1, 2.4.4, 2.59, 3.3.1, 3.3.2	

### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this police is to establish the procedures concerning jurisdiction and mutual aid at the Stratford Police Department.

### **POLICY:**

It is the policy of the Stratford Police Department that while other law enforcement agencies share enforcement powers within Stratford, CT, this Department shall provide all the basic police services. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Preventative patrol,
- Investigation and reporting of all reported crimes,
- Responding to police calls for service,
- Accident investigation, and
- Traffic control.

It will be the policy of the Stratford Police Department that all members of this Department will completely cooperate and assist, when requested, any other law enforcement agent conducting lawful business within the boundaries of Stratford, CT.

It will be the policy of the Stratford Police Department that all sworn personnel will respond in a professional manner in all situations where a neighboring police agency either requests this Department's aid or reports to this Department a situation that is either this Department's responsibility or probably not this Department's responsibility. In the latter case, personnel of this Department will handle the disputed problem and the Chiefs of Police of the respective police agencies will resolve the dispute.

It will be the policy of the Stratford Police Department to only call for mutual aid assistance in extreme emergencies and only when the Chief of Police, or a command level officer designated by the Chief of Police, believes the situation is beyond the capabilities of this Department's personnel to counteract.

It will be the policy of the Stratford Police Department to only use the Police Mutual Aid Compact in those situations which call for mutual aid assistance.

It will be the policy of the Stratford Police Department to fully cooperate with the personnel of any provider or receiver agency.

### **RESPONSIBILITY:**

This policy deals with the jurisdiction and the provision and use of mutual aid and regional law enforcement services among agencies through cooperative agreements. Agreements should be reached among law enforcement agencies in adjoining jurisdictions to provide assistance to each other in the event of natural disaster, mass disorder, or other emergency situations. Lines of command and procedures for the provision of personnel should be established in advance.

It will be the responsibility of every sworn member of this Police Department to know and understand the jurisdictional boundaries of authority and its effect on the enforcement of law.

It will be the responsibility of the Chief of Police, or a command level officer designated by the Chief of Police, in an emergency situation, to call for assistance using the Police Mutual Aid Compact or the highest-ranking officer on duty for the DEMHS Region 1 Fairfield County Blue Plan.

It will be the responsibility of the Stratford Police Department, Supervisor-in-charge of an emergency situation to direct the Department's personnel and the personnel of any provider agency.

It will be the responsibility of all Stratford Police Department personnel to completely cooperate and assist any provider agency personnel assigned to this Department through the Mutual Aid Compact.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

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

**INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT:** An agreement, either written or based on a longstanding tradition between two or more law enforcement agencies, to perform services in the other's jurisdiction.

**JURISDICTION:** The right and the power to interpret and apply the law of the land; the extent of authority or control; and the territorial range of authority or control.

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

**PROVIDER AGENCY:** An agency that provides services, equipment, or supplies to another agency.

**RECEIVER AGENCY:** An agency that receives services, equipment, or supplies from another agency.

### **DESCRIPTION:**

**GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES:** The jurisdiction of the Stratford Police Department consists of nineteen and nine tenths (19.9) square miles. It is located in Fairfield County, State of Connecticut, and

bounded on the north by Trumbull and Shelton, CT; on the east by Milford, CT (across the Housatonic River); on the south by the Long Island Sound; and on the west by Bridgeport, CT.

**CONCURRENT JURISDICTION:** This directive establishes this Department's responsibilities in inter-agency agreements regarding concurrent jurisdiction. Other agencies having law enforcement jurisdiction in Stratford, CT:

- Federal: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and other federal law enforcement agencies;
- State: Connecticut State Police (CSP) and other State law enforcement agencies.

**POLICE MUTUAL AID COMPACT:** Section 7-277a of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) authorizes the execution of a mutual aid compact between municipalities of the state in emergency situations. The municipal government of Stratford, CT, has entered the "Southern Fairfield County Mutual Police Assistance Compact" signed in 1993, and the NEMHS Region 1 Fairfield County Blue Plan enacted in 2017. The Police Mutual Aid Compacts:

- Establish the legal status of police personnel responding to mutual aid requests;
- Grant the provider agency personnel the same powers, duties, privileges, and immunities as the requester agency personnel;
- Enumerate the procedures for requesting mutual aid;
- Call for identification of those persons authorized to request mutual aid;
- Call for the identification of the requesting agency's commander and the location to which that provider agency personnel are to report;
- Do not provide for procedures for maintaining radio communication between agencies. This Department will, to the extent possible, distribute Department radios to maintain radio communication with outside agency members;
- Waive payment for any services rendered by the provider agency, except in regard to insurance; and;
- Include procedures for review and revision.

#### **REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES:**

- Fairfield County Chiefs of Police Hi-Band: A regional radio system designated the communications network for general law enforcement interjurisdictional communication for this area;
- Connecticut State Police "Hotline": A radio frequency designated for immediate emergency communication between local police and the State Police throughout this state;
- Connecticut State Bureau of Identification (SPBI): A Bureau of the State Police that is a centralized, statewide record depository containing criminal arrest information that has been submitted by Connecticut law enforcement agencies and includes a fingerprint classification and identification section;
- National Crime Information Center (NCIC): A computer system controlled and operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, DC, that gives law enforcement agencies access to information on wants, warrants, criminal histories, stolen property, and missing persons statewide and nationwide;

- Connecticut Uniform Crime Reporting Program: A statewide program designated to provide information on trends in crime and arrest rates received from all Connecticut law enforcement agencies. This agency in turn sends the information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to assist in the accurate compilation of the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

## **PROCEDURES:**

**FEDERAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST:** Any officer of this Department may request the assistance of any federal law enforcement agency, but may only do so through the officer's division commander.

**NATIONAL GUARD ASSISTANCE REQUEST:** Under normal emergency conditions, the Mayor's Office would contact the Governor's Office to make arrangements for the assistance of the National Guard. However, if a real emergency exists and the danger is too imminent for delay, the Mayor or the Chief of Police may contact the Governor's Office. A Connecticut General Statute (CGS 27-18) takes this one step further, in that when any civil officer, whose duty it is to enforce the civil authority, finds it impossible to immediately communicate with the Governor's Office, that officer may make written requisition for assistance to the senior officer of the National Guard located in Hartford County.

**MUTUAL AID ASSISTANCE REQUEST:** Under the authority of the Chief of Police, or his/her designee, this agency may request and respond to requests for assistance from any of the agencies listed in the Police Mutual Aid Compact or the DEMHS Region 1 Fairfield County Blue Plan in emergency situations:

- Prior to the arrival of the provider agencies' personnel, a police command post and a staging area will have been set up near the site of the emergency;
- The provider agencies' personnel will be directed to the command post;
- The Stratford Police Department Supervisor-in-charge will cause all personnel to be able to communicate by either:
  - Using Stratford Police Department radios, if there are sufficient numbers, or;
  - By having the provider agencies' personnel switch to this Department's frequency, if their radios have this capability, or;
  - By having all personnel switch to the Fairfield County Chiefs of Police Hi-Band radio frequency.
- The Stratford Police Department Incident Commander will direct all personnel at the scene to include, but not be limited to:
  - First Aid;
  - Crowd control;
  - Traffic control;
  - Security;
  - Rescue operations;
  - Mass processing of arrestees;
  - Transporting of prisoners;
  - Operating of temporary detention facilities.

**MUTUAL AID ASSISTANCE NOTIFICATION:** Any assistance requested by an agency listed in the Southern Fairfield County Police Mutual Aid Compact, or the NEMHS Region 1 Fairfield County Blue Plan will necessitate the notification of the Shift Commander, and the Chief of Police depending on the

number of personnel requested and the gravity of the situation at hand. If an agency is requesting a significant number of officers for an extended period of time, the Chief of Police will be notified immediately.