

	HARRISONBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT General Orders	Policy Number: 310
	Chapter: General Operations	Total Pages: 2
	Section: Outside Agency Assistance	Issue Date: 07/02/2021
	Issued By: Kelley Warner, Chief of Police	Effective Date: 07/02/2021
	Replaces: All General Orders Previously Issued Relative to Subject	
VALEAC Standards:		

A. POLICY AND PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to employees when requesting or responding to a request for mutual aid or when assisting another law enforcement agency. It is the policy of the Harrisonburg Police Department to promptly respond to requests for assistance by other law enforcement agencies, subject to available resources and consistent with the applicable laws and policies of this department.

B. ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

All employees are expected to fully comply with the guidelines and timelines set forth in this policy. Responsibility rests with the supervisor to ensure that any violations of policy are investigated and appropriate training, counseling and/or disciplinary action is initiated. This directive is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee's civil liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violation of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

C. ASSISTING OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Generally, requests for any type of assistance from another agency should be routed to the Patrol Commander's office for approval. In some instances, a city rule or policy or other established agreement or protocol may exist that eliminates the need for approval of individual requests.

When another law enforcement agency requests assistance from the Harrisonburg Police Department, the Patrol Commander may authorize, if available, an appropriate number of personnel to assist. Employees are reminded that their actions when rendering assistance must conform with applicable laws and be consistent with the policies of the Harrisonburg Police Department.

Officers may respond to a request for emergency assistance; however, they shall notify a supervisor of their activity as soon as practicable.

Arrestees may be temporarily detained by Harrisonburg Police Department until arrangements for transportation are made by the outside agency. Probation violators who are temporarily detained by this department will not ordinarily be booked at this department. Only in exceptional circumstances, and subject to supervisor approval, will Harrisonburg Police Department provide transportation of arrestees to other facilities on behalf of another agency.

D. HARRISONBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT REQUESTING OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

If this department is in need of assistance from another agency, the employee requesting assistance should, if practicable, first notify a supervisor. The handling employee or supervisor should direct assisting personnel to where they are needed and to whom they should report when they arrive.

The requesting employee should arrange for appropriate radio communication capabilities, if necessary and available, so that communication can be coordinated between assisting personnel.