

# **Cobb County Police Department**

## **Policy 4.12**

### **MUTUAL AID**

<b>Effective Date:</b> October 14, 2019	<b>Issued By:</b> Chief C.T. Cox
<b>Rescinds:</b> Policy 4.12 (November 1, 2017)	<b>Page 1 of 4</b>
The words “he, his, him,” which may appear in this policy, are used generically for clarity and ease of reading. These terms are not meant to imply gender and relate to all employees of the Department.	

Situations may develop, which will cause the Department to make a request for additional manpower, or which will result in an outside agency requesting additional manpower from this Department. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for making or receiving such requests. This policy is not intended to prohibit routine or emergency “backup” to neighboring jurisdictions or the Department’s response to calls for service which originate on or near the county line.

#### **I. POLICY**

It is the policy of the Cobb County Police Department to commit available internal manpower prior to making an official request for additional outside law enforcement resources.

#### **II. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN COBB COUNTY**

**A.** Georgia Code 36-8-5 “Powers of County Police Generally” provides that county police officers have:

1. The same power to make arrests and to execute and return criminal warrants and process in the county of their election or appointments only, as sheriffs have; and
2. All the powers of sheriffs as peace officers in the county of their election or appointment.

By virtue of this code section, members of this Department have jurisdiction to enforce state laws within Cobb County, including municipalities.

**B.** The Department recognizes that several cities have elected to maintain their own police departments. In instances where a municipality has its own police department, that agency has the primary responsibility for providing law enforcement services to that community. Officers of this Department that encounter violations of state law within a municipality, including those with a police department, will take enforcement action necessary to protect lives and property of the citizens of that community.

- C. The Department will provide, upon request, the following assistance:
1. Backup assistance, crime scene investigation, evidence collection, investigative support, traffic direction and enforcement, crowd control, supplemental patrol, response to calls for service, and tactical, canine, bomb, and dive assistance.
  2. Request for aid should normally come through the Communications Center. The Communications Center will then notify a supervisor from the appropriate command who will make arrangements for the aid. Consideration will be given to the amount of aid needed so that it does not adversely impact the safety and security of the citizens who are provided law enforcement services by this Department.
  3. Officers dispatched to provide aid to municipal law enforcement agencies will remain under the command of this Department and will abide by all rules and regulations of this agency.
  4. If a problem or conflict arises, it should be brought to the attention of the employee's supervisor, who will attempt to resolve the dispute.

### **III. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OUTSIDE COBB COUNTY**

The Georgia Legislature has created the "Georgia Mutual Aid Act" (OCGA 36-69), which authorizes governmental public safety officials (Police, Fire, and Emergency Management Services) to assist and provide mutual aid during local emergencies. Essentially, the effect of the act is to authorize public safety inter-agency actions under local emergencies without the requirement of a contract between respective governments. The Mutual Aid Act is not mandatory; therefore, government jurisdictions may or may not request and/or provide each other with assistance pursuant to the provisions of the Act.

- A. Title 36, Chapter 69, known as the "Georgia Mutual Aid Act," generally governs this Department's response to mutual aid during times of "local emergencies." A "local emergency" is defined in OCGA 36-69-2, as "the existence of conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a political subdivision of the State, or on a campus of an institution within the University System of Georgia, caused by natural disasters, riots, civil disturbances, or other situations presenting major law enforcement and other public safety problems, which conditions are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of that political subdivision of the State, and which require the combined forces of other political subdivisions of the State to combat."
- B. Aid for the agencies will include crowd control, supplemental patrol, response to calls for service, traffic control, tactical, dive, bomb, and canine, upon request depending upon the nature of the emergency.
- C. Members of the Department may be required to process prisoners in mass arrest

situations. Assistance may also be required in the transportation of prisoners to temporary detention facilities. Members will not assist in operating temporary detention facilities. If in an emergency situation, a need arises in Cobb County for a temporary detention facility, the Cobb County Sheriff's Department will be contacted.

- D.** The Code, under 36-69-3 (e), provides that the senior officer of the public safety agency which requests assistance in a "local emergency" shall be in command of the "local emergency" as to the strategy, tactics, and overall direction of operations with respect to the public safety officers and employees rendering assistance extra-territorially. All orders or directions regarding the operations of the public safety officers and employees rendering assistance extra-territorially shall be relayed to the senior officers of the public safety agency rendering assistance.
- E.** Under OCGA 36-69-4, employees of Cobb County rendering aid outside of their jurisdiction shall have the same powers, duties, rights, privileges, and immunities as if they were performing their duties in Cobb County. Likewise, employees of other political subdivisions called into Cobb County to render mutual aid will have the same powers, duties, rights, privileges, and immunities as if they were performing their duties in their jurisdictions.
- F.** Requests for and approval to furnish mutual aid, other than providing "backup" assistance, will be made through the Communications Center to the Chief of Police or, in his absence, the Deputy Chief of the appropriate bureau. When requesting aid for this agency, or from this agency, the incident commander requesting the assistance will provide the location where the aid is needed, the type of aid needed, the equipment, the material, and personnel needed.
- G.** When Cobb County receives mutual aid from outside agencies, personnel and equipment from other agencies will be deployed as a unit when possible. Communications equipment, such as portable radios, should be provided to the senior officer from each assisting agency and should be set to the appropriate department frequency. These units will be used in support roles whenever possible. A high degree of cooperation must be maintained between all personnel. When providing mutual aid to another agency, Cobb County personnel and equipment should be deployed as a unit, and when possible, in a support role.
- H.** Any jurisdiction which furnishes equipment pursuant to the "Georgia Mutual Aid Act," will bear the loss or damage of such equipment and will pay any expenses incurred in the operation and maintenance thereof. The jurisdiction furnishing aid will also compensate their employees during the time of rendering such aid and will defray the actual travel and maintenance expenses of such employees while they are rendering such aid (OCGA 36-69-5).

#### **IV. RADIO PROCEDURES**

- A.** Should Cobb County Police units enter the requesting agency's jurisdiction in response to a call for assistance, Cobb County units will change radio frequency to

conform with the requesting agency's frequency, if possible. This will enable constant communications between both agencies and the headquarters of both agencies.

- B.** Radio codes and signals should be avoided due to the various meanings and emphasis placed upon them by different agencies. Communications should be in clear, concise, and conversational English.

**V. FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE**

In the event of an emergency which requires Federal Law Enforcement assistance or security services, the Chief of Police or, in his absence, the Deputy Chief of the appropriate bureau may request their assistance.

**VI. NATIONAL GUARD ASSISTANCE**

In the event of an emergency which requires the National Guard, the Chief of Police or, in his absence, the Deputy Chief of the appropriate bureau must contact the Director of Public Safety who will, in turn, advise the Cobb County Board of Commissioners Chairman, who will then contact the Governor's Office.

**VII. REVIEW**

This policy shall be reviewed periodically to ensure it remains in compliance with the Georgia Mutual Aid Act.