


NORTHAMPTON POLICE DEPARTMENT Administration & Operations Manual		
Policy: Agency Jurisdiction, Mutual Aid and Regional Services		AOM: A-107
Massachusetts Police Accreditation Standards Referenced: [2.1.1], [2.1.2], [46.1.3.h], [2.1.3.c], [2.1.3.e], [2.1.4 & 46.1.2]		Issuing Authority <hr/> John D. Cartledge Chief of Police
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I. Introductory Discussion

Written agreements should be reached with neighboring agencies in adjoining jurisdictions or within the agency’s jurisdiction to provide assistance to each other in the event of a natural disaster, mass disorder, or other emergency situation. This directive specifies procedures to be utilized in situations requiring the use of Law Enforcement Mutual Aid, as well as situations requiring the activation of military or federal personnel in emergency situations.

II. Jurisdictional Boundaries [2.1.1]

A. Areas of Jurisdiction of the Northampton Police Department:

1. The City of Northampton Police Department shall be responsible for the enforcement of all applicable laws, statutes, and ordinances within the geographical boundaries of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts, which includes the villages of Baystate, Florence, and Leeds. The boundaries shall be

as indicated in the official map of the city, a copy of which shall be posted in the Communications Center.

2. Police officers of the City of Northampton may exercise jurisdiction outside of the City of Northampton's geographical limits in the following instances:
 - a. When operating under the uniform law on *interstate* fresh and continuous pursuit, which specifically authorizes the interstate fresh pursuit of a person in order to arrest them on the grounds that there is probable cause to believe they have committed a felony. Fresh pursuit is defined as pursuit without unreasonable delay.
 - b. When operating under Massachusetts General Law on Fresh and Continuous Pursuit, which specifically authorizes that a Northampton Police Officer may, on fresh and continued pursuit, exercise their powers of arrest in any other city or town for any arrestable offense committed in their presence within this Department's jurisdiction without a warrant, and return the arrested person to this jurisdiction. (M.G.L. C. 41, §98A)
 - c. When operating under the terms and conditions of the newly executed Western Massachusetts Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement (Section III).
- B. Areas of Concurrent Jurisdiction: [2.1.2]
1. The Massachusetts State Police shall have specific responsibility for the investigation of motor vehicle accidents occurring on Interstate 91 and any of its access or egress ramps. In such cases, Northampton Police Officers shall, if necessary, respond to the incident to assist in the care of the injured and assist in the protection of the scene.
 2. The Massachusetts State Police shall have jurisdiction for the investigation of crimes occurring on state-owned properties.
 3. In all other cases, Northampton Police Officers have jurisdiction and specific responsibility to render proper service or investigate criminal conduct. The Massachusetts State Police shall be called in for non-motor vehicle accident matters, if mutually agreed upon by both departments, only when absolutely required and after approval of the Shift Commander or a higher authority has been obtained.
 4. The Northampton Police Department shall have concurrent law enforcement jurisdiction with federal agencies over all lands comprising the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Northampton under the Commonwealth's acceptance of the *Notice of Retrocession*, prescribed in *Chapter 221 of the Acts of 1976*.

III. Regional Services/Interagency Assistance

A. Mutual Aid:

M.G.L. Chapter 41 § 99 provides that the Chief of Police of a city or town, or in their absence, the Commanding Officer (Officer-In-Charge), may make a request to the Chief of Police, or in their absence, the Commanding Officer in another city or town, for emergency police assistance. Under this statute, any officers provided to

the requesting city or town have the same authority, including power of arrest, as the police officers in that city or town, and enjoy the same immunities and privileges as if they were in their own city or town.

Mutual aid is normally utilized in emergencies, or in situations that require the use of resources not immediately available to the requesting police department. Such situations include, but are not limited to:

1. Assisting with large scale events.
2. Assisting with the control or suppression of civil disturbances.
3. Mass processing of arrestees. [46.1.3,h]
4. Transportation of prisoners.
5. Operation of temporary detention facilities.
6. Acts of terrorism.
7. Pandemic Situations.

B. Requesting or Rendering Mutual Aid:

1. If the Northampton Police Department requests emergency assistance, the Officer-In-Charge (OIC) making that request is responsible to ensure that the Chief of Police, or designee, is notified immediately; that the assistance is terminated as soon as it is no longer needed; and that a full report is submitted to the Chief of Police. The report shall include the reasons for the request, the identity and actions of all officers assisting from another jurisdiction and any other information pertinent to the incident. [2.1.3]
2. If the Northampton Police Department is requested by another jurisdiction to provide emergency assistance requiring an expeditious response, the Chief of Police, or in their absence, the OIC shall determine if the request can be fulfilled and to what extent. In no case shall any emergency situation in the City of Northampton be left unattended, nor shall the safety of any citizen of the City of Northampton be jeopardized in order to provide such assistance. If assistance is to be provided, the OIC shall immediately notify the Chief of Police or their designee.
The OIC and any officer assigned to respond to such request, shall immediately, upon termination of the request for assistance, prepare a full and detailed report of their actions and the circumstances surrounding them. All personnel assigned to assist a requesting police department shall report to the OIC of that department. [2.1.3]
3. In the event the Chief of Police, or in their absence, the OIC, determines that no assistance or assistance differing from that requested can be provided, they will so notify the party requesting mutual aid as quickly as possible.

C. Formal Mutual Aid Agreements:

M.G.L. Chapter 40 § 8G allows cities and towns to enter into formal (written) mutual aid agreements with other cities and towns within the Commonwealth. Normally, such agreements cover situations that do not require an immediate or expeditious response. Rather, they are used to obtain or render outside police assistance when resources are needed, but not immediately available. Examples of

this include but are not limited to, coverage of outside details necessary for the public safety and for multi-jurisdictional investigative task forces. Only jurisdictions with which the Department has a current signed agreement may receive or provide mutual aid for such purposes.

The Northampton Police Department entered into the Western Massachusetts Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement on 1/20/2015. See [AOM A107.a Formal Mutual Aid Agreements](#) for agreement and list of entered municipalities. See [AOM A107.b Map of Mutual Aid Communities](#) for geographic locations of entered municipalities. These Multi-Jurisdictional and Regional Formal Aid Agreements will be reviewed annually each January by the Chief and shall be revised as requirements warrant.

D. Emergency Situations, State/Federal Agencies: [2.1.4 & 46.1.2]

1. In the event that it becomes necessary to request the assistance of any state or federal enforcement agency and/or any state or federal law enforcement resources in emergency situations, the following procedures shall be followed:
 - a. The OIC at the time of the incident, shall contact the appropriate Division Commander and advise them of the situation and of the assistance or resources required.
 - b. The Division Commander shall notify the Chief of Police, who shall determine if the requested federal/state assistance is necessary.
 - c. In the event that the decision is made to request state or federal assistance, then the Chief of Police or, in their absence, the next highest ranking police official available, shall be responsible to request the necessary assistance through the appropriate channels.
 - d. In the event that federal or state assistance is made available, the Chief of Police or, in their absence, the next highest ranking police official available, shall appoint a liaison officer to coordinate all joint activities until such time as the emergency situation no longer exists.
2. Nothing in this directive shall preclude the sharing of resources or the normal and customary requests for assistance required in day-to-day police operations.

Phone numbers:

DEA: [\(413\) 306-6920](tel:4133066920)

ATF: [\(617\) 565-7073](tel:6175657073)

FBI: [\(857\) 386-2000](tel:8573862000)

ICE: [\(202\) 282-8000](tel:2022828000)

SECRET SERVICE: [\(617\) 565-5640](tel:6175655640)

NATIONAL GUARD: [\(339\) 202-3999](tel:3392023999)

E. Emergency Situations, National Guard: [2.1.4 & 46.1.2]

1. In the event that an emergency situation exists that may require the assistance of the Massachusetts National Guard, then the following procedure shall apply:

- a. The Chief of Police, or in their absence, the next highest ranking police official available, shall evaluate the emergency at hand and determine what resources may be needed to resolve the crisis.
 - b. If the decision is made to request the assistance of the Massachusetts National Guard, then the Chief of Police, or in their absence, next highest ranking police official available shall make the request for assistance through the Mayor of Northampton to the Governor of the State of Massachusetts.
2. In the event that the National Guard is activated to assist in an emergency situation within the City of Northampton, the Chief of Police shall appoint a liaison officer to coordinate all joint Law Enforcement/National Guard activities until such time as the emergency situation no longer exists. The liaison officer should be a ranking police official with authority to make command decisions in the absence of the Chief of Police or their designee.