I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide professional law enforcement services to the citizens of the City of Providence. This policy establishes the jurisdictional boundaries by which this service will be performed, to include requests for mutual aid from municipal, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in the event of natural disasters, mass disorders, and other emergency situations.

II. POLICY

It will be the policy of the Providence Police Department to provide and exchange, upon request, police services to and from another agency without limitation, but generally in accordance with the guidelines set forth in this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. 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 an agency to counteract a potentially explosive situation.

B. MUTUAL AID: The exchange of services, personnel, and/or equipment between law enforcement agencies during times of emergency.
C. MUTUAL ASSISTANCE: The limited exchange of services, personnel, and/or equipment between law enforcement agencies during routine law enforcement activities, i.e., a request for assistance to direct traffic at an accident scene or a request for back up on a domestic dispute complaint. The Emergency Police Powers set forth in R.I.G.L. 45-42-1 will apply.

D. CONCURRENT: Having equal jurisdiction or authority.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. JURISDICTION

1. The Providence Police Department and the Rhode Island State Police have concurrent jurisdiction detection and suppression, as well as traffic control and safety on the highways within the boundaries of the City of Providence.

2. This department will respond to all requests for service within our jurisdiction. Should any member(s) of the Rhode Island State Police be on the scene of an accident or other occurrence, the Providence Police Department will provide any assistance necessary to the member(s) of the Rhode Island State Police.

3. Should assistance from other jurisdictions be necessary, they will be contacted either by landline or via inter-city radio network.

4. Whenever this agency takes the initial report, it will be responsible for conducting a thorough investigation, including prosecution of the offender if warranted.

B. GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES

1. The City of Providence is bordered by the following Cities and Towns:

   a. City of Pawtucket
   b. City of Cranston
   c. Town of North Providence
   d. City of East Providence
   e. Town of Johnston
2. A detailed map of the City of Providence and its boundaries is kept posted in the following locations to include but not be limited to:

   a. District sub-stations
   b. Patrol Office
   c. Investigative Offices
   d. Communications Facility
   e. Administrative Offices
   f. Chief's Office

3. All recruits will receive information identifying boundaries of the City of Providence during training at the police academy.

C. MUTUAL AID

1. Requests for mutual aid from outside law enforcement agencies.

   a. When officers respond for mutual aid to outside departments, Providence police officers will follow the policies, procedures, rules, and regulations of the Providence Police Department.

   b. In the event that several officers are needed for mutual aid, the ranking Providence officer will be in charge. Any orders given by the outside agency to members of this department, will be delegated through the ranking Providence officer at the scene.

   c. The Chief of Police, after having received a request for mutual aid from any other jurisdiction, may assign a member or members of the department to the requesting department.

   d. The procedures outlined in this policy pertaining to requests for mutual aid are not applicable to the temporary requests for mutual assistance between local law enforcement agencies.

2. Requests for mutual aid from federal law enforcement agencies.

   a. The Chief of Police of the Providence Police Department, after receiving a request for mutual aid from any federal law enforcement agency, may direct and/or assign a member or members of the department to provide the requested assistance to that federal law enforcement agency.
3. Requests for mutual aid initiated by the Providence Police Department.

   a. In the event of an emergency situation, the Providence police may request mutual aid from any municipal or federal agency. This request, when authorized by the Chief of Police, will be made by the Chief of Police, or designee, to the chief executive officer of the agency to which the request is being made.

   b. In the event outside agencies and personnel are requested for mutual aid, this department will be responsible for the deployment and actions of those respective members, who subsequently respond to provide assistance to this agency.

   c. An emergency situation in which the department requires the assistance of the Rhode Island National Guard, the Chief of Police, or designee, will notify the Mayor of the City of Providence to request such aid from the Governor or designee.

   d. In all cases where the Providence Police Department has sought mutual aid, the following will apply:

   (1) Arrestees will be processed under the direction of the Providence Police Department.

   (2) Prisoners will be transported under the direction of the Providence Police Department. Vehicles for this purpose may be provided by outside agencies.

   (3) Temporary detention facilities will be operated under the direction of the Providence Police Department.

   (4) Radio communications will be coordinated by the Providence Police Department.

   (5) The identity of the ranking authority from the Providence Police Department, who is at the scene and requesting mutual aid, will be made known to the commanding officer of the agency providing assistance.

   (6) It will be the responsibility of the Officer-in-Charge to obtain estimates of aid and resources available from provider agencies.

   (7) The Chief of Police, or designee, will annually review all mutual aid agreements the department is party to, if any.

   Providence Police Department
   Agency Jurisdiction and Mutual Aid Policy
(8) When appropriate, expenditures, if any, will be borne by the receiver agency to compensate for the use of the provider’s agency’s resources.

APPROVED:

DEAN M. ESSERMAN
COLONEL
CHIEF OF POLICE