





POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

	JURISDICTION AND MUTUAL AID	
	POLICY NUMBER: 2-1	ISSUING AUTHORITY 
	EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2025	Christine A. Elow Police Commissioner

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND GUIDELINES

A fundamental obligation of a police department is to clearly delineate its jurisdiction including geographical boundaries; specific responsibilities regarding concurrent jurisdiction; and the operational and administrative obligations of both parties to any mutual aid agreements.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Cambridge Police Department to:

- A. abide by all jurisdictional obligations and limitations prescribed by law and policy;
- B. assist other agencies with concurrent jurisdiction when appropriate;
- C. ensure that mutual aid agreements meet accreditation standards; and
- D. call for Federal and National Guard assistance when necessary in emergency circumstances.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. *Concurrent Jurisdiction*: Authority shared by two or more law enforcement agencies to address the same police issues within a given jurisdictional boundary or property.
- B. *Extraterritorial Jurisdiction*: Police powers that extend beyond the physical limits of a particular jurisdiction of authority.
- C. *Federal Jurisdiction*: Federal jurisdiction based on the concept of enumerated powers, does not deal with criminal conduct as comprehensively as the laws of any particular state. Generally, federal agents have jurisdiction to enforce certain federal laws and have authority over federally owned properties; and their respective agencies are granted specific enforcement authority by Congress. However, they do not have the authority to enforce state and local laws.

- D. *Limited Jurisdiction*: Jurisdiction of a law enforcement agency that is confined to particular places or categories of laws or actions, or that can be exercised only under the limitations and circumstances prescribed by statute, such as that of a college or university police department or the environmental police.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. 2.1.1 (M) Geographical Boundaries

1. According to the United States Census Bureau describing the geographical boundaries, the City of Cambridge has a total area of 7.1 square miles and is bordered by:
 - a. the City of Boston across the Charles River to the south and Charlestown to east;
 - b. the City of Somerville to the north;
 - c. the town of Arlington to the northwest; and
 - d. the town of Belmont and the city of Watertown to the west.
2. The City of Cambridge also owns and maintains extraterritorial jurisdiction over three reservoirs outside the city limits: Hobbs Brook, also called Cambridge Reservoir, in Waltham; Stony Brook in Weston and Waltham; and the underground Payson Park reservoir in Belmont.

B. 2.1.2 (O) Concurrent Jurisdiction

1. Massachusetts State Police
 - a. Although the Massachusetts State Police have statewide jurisdiction, it also has primary police jurisdiction within the City of Cambridge as it pertains to state-controlled roadways, such as Memorial Drive and Route 2, and those properties that belong to the Department of Conservation and Recreation including properties along Memorial Drive, Memorial Drive itself, Alewife Brook Parkway, Route 2 interchange and Route 16.
 - b. Typically, when department officers encounter a situation or hazard on a State Police-controlled road system, they will refer those matters to the State Police.
 - c. In such cases, the department officer who encountered it or has been dispatched will standby and render whatever assistance is required until the State Police arrive or as otherwise directed by a supervisor.
 - d. If the situation can be resolved quickly and there is no need to take official action, such as a tow, an investigation of a collision, or to safeguard a road hazard, officers should render such assistance.
 - e. Officers will respond to any request for assistance by the State Police who will take primary jurisdiction of any incident that occurs on the road systems under their authority.

- f. If the State Police are unable to respond, the responding department officers will handle the situation, to include completing appropriate reports, issuing citations and all necessary follow-up.
2. Mass Bay Transit Authority Police
- a. MBTA Police have full jurisdictional authority and police powers within the cities and towns where the MBTA provides service; however, much of its policing activities take place in and around the transit system stations and the MBTA bus routes and stops. The City of Cambridge is considered part of Transit Police Service Area 2.
 - b. Whenever a Cambridge Police officer encounters or is dispatched to a situation requiring police intervention or assistance on MBTA property, the officer shall provide appropriate assistance until the situation can be stabilized.
 - c. The officer may resolve the matter if appropriate or wait for Transit Police to arrive; if there is a delay in Transit response, the officer should confer with a supervisor.
 - d. If Transit Police request the intervention of the Cambridge Police Department, officers will be dispatched to the scene and take appropriate action; if Transit officers are dispatched, department officer(s) will remain on scene until the arrival of the Transit Police and provide all pertinent information.
 - e. If Transit Police are delayed or not responding, department officer(s) will take appropriate action including completing appropriate reports, issuing citations, and conducting all necessary follow-up.
3. Harvard University and MIT Police Departments
- a. Campus police officers in Cambridge derive police powers, other than motor vehicle enforcement, as Special State Police Officers and as appointed Deputy Sheriffs in Middlesex County. This allows for primary jurisdiction over properties owned or under their control to include the environs surrounding the campus when the special vigilance of an officer is needed to keep and preserve peace and order among those frequenting the University and public ways routinely used by those affiliated with the institution to get from one campus facility to the next.
 - b. Department officers will be dispatched to provide assistance to campus police when requested to do so and may assume control of an investigation when directed by a supervisor.
 - c. Prior to accepting custody from campus police, the Shift Commander shall verify that there was probable cause for the arrest of any detainee brought to the Cambridge police station for booking. Once the shift commander has given approval, the detainee will be afforded all constitutional rights and booked according to department procedures. A copy of the police report will be completed at the time of booking and included with the department booking report.

- d. If a campus detainee is transported to another facility, arrangements will be made through the campus shift supervisor for a campus officer to manage custody outside the department's detention facility.

C. Federal Law Enforcement

1. Federal agencies have limited jurisdictional authority in the City of Cambridge. A supervisor must approve any requests by federal authorities for the department's assistance with the following conditions.
 - a. The supervisor is briefed on the expected actions by the federal agency.
 - b. The supervisor will review any court processes/warrants to verify that they are enforceable and that the agents possess jurisdictional authority. If agents are relying upon the authority of the Cambridge Police, the supervisor will confirm that there is sufficient grounds to take such action.
 - c. If federal agents expect department officers to accompany them, a department supervisor will be assigned who will arrange for the appropriate logistical support and assess whether actions to be taken under the authority of the department are appropriate.
 - d. If the department is involved in a joint operation with a federal agency, the supervisor will direct a CAD entry to be created, and if appropriate, that a file number is associated with the incident.

D. 2.1.3 (O) Written Agreements for Mutual Aid

1. Any mutual aid agreement between the department and an outside agency will include at a minimum the following details:
 - a. the legal status of agencies and agency personnel responding to mutual aid requests;
 - b. procedures for vesting provider agency personnel with the legal authority to act within the receiver agency's jurisdiction;
 - c. procedures for requesting mutual aid;
 - d. identity of those persons authorized to request mutual aid;
 - e. identity of persons to whom outside personnel are to report;
 - f. procedures for maintaining radio communication with outside personnel;
 - g. expenditures, if any, which should be borne by the receiver agency to compensate for the use of the provider agency's resources; and
 - h. procedures for review and revision if prescribed in the agreement.

E. 2.1.4 (M) Requesting Assistance: Federal Law Enforcement/National Guard

1. In emergency situations, the Police Commissioner may request national law enforcement, security services, or military assistance through the Secretary of Public Safety and Security for the Commonwealth.