I. Definition
A. Mutual Aid

A voluntary reciprocal exchange of resources and services among emergency responders to lend assistance across jurisdictional boundaries, usually codified in written *mutual aid agreements*.

II. Policy Statements
A. The Division of Police may, subject to available resources, provide assistance to a mutual aid participant. The Division may also request assistance from another law enforcement agency that has signed a mutual aid *agreement* with the Division. A file of these *agreements* is maintained by the Event Management Unit (EMU). The EMU publishes an annual list of agencies that have a mutual aid agreement with the Division.

B. Except under exigent circumstances, the request for mutual aid by a foreign agency or the Division shall be made prior to assistance being provided.

C. Sworn Division personnel responding to a request for mutual aid are considered to be acting within the scope of their employment and have the same police powers as officers of the requesting jurisdiction.

D. In situations where both Division and requesting agency personnel are present, the senior police officer who is in charge of the law enforcement agency which requested assistance shall have full command authority over officers responding to the request. When a sworn Division supervisor responds to a request for mutual aid, that supervisor shall maintain supervisory control of responding Division personnel and shall report to the senior officer of the requesting agency.

E. All Division directives, rules, and policies shall be followed when responding to a mutual aid request.

F. At times, court bailiffs are ordered to enter private premises to seize particular property involved in a civil action. The bailiff may engage a locksmith to enter secured premises. *Sworn Division personnel* may be asked to stand by in the event of a confrontation and shall provide assistance when the bailiff has an original court order signed by a judge and imprinted with the court’s official seal. The responding officer’s primary role is to preserve the peace.
G. Mutual aid requests to assist with search warrants
1. The appropriate investigative bureau supervisor shall act as the liaison for the Division; however, if the search warrant is issued for a crime for which a detective would not normally respond, such as a misdemeanor theft, a Patrol zone lieutenant may act as the liaison.
2. When an investigative bureau supervisor is not available, or exigent circumstances dictate, a Patrol zone lieutenant shall act as the liaison.
3. **Sworn Division personnel** may provide perimeter security during the execution of a search warrant; however, unless exigent circumstances exist, they shall not enter the property or collect evidence. The presence of sworn Division personnel allows the foreign jurisdiction to execute a search at a location situated within the City limits.

H. Assistance requested through Ohio’s Law Enforcement Response Plan (LERP), the Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact (IMAC), and/or the Emergency Management Assist Compact (EMAC)
1. Division personnel shall immediately forward the request to the Chief of Police, the Homeland Security Subdivision Deputy Chief, and the EMU Sergeant.
2. The Chief of Police will approve or disapprove the request and, if approved, will make the determination of how to deploy Division personnel.
3. Upon approval, the EMU shall coordinate all LERP, IMAC, and EMAC requests.

I. When a Division employee receives a request for assistance that is not of an immediate nature and is not related to a search warrant, he or she shall advise the requestor to contact the appropriate subdivision deputy chief.

III. Procedures
A. Communications Bureau Personnel
1. Assistance requested by another law enforcement agency
   a. Advise the appropriate Patrol zone lieutenant of the request, providing him or her with the basic facts necessary to determine if the request meets Division policy, and obtain approval before dispatching officers. If the appropriate zone lieutenant is unavailable, contact any on-duty zone lieutenant for approval.
   b. Contact the SWAT lieutenant or on-duty SWAT supervisor for approval, in addition to the zone lieutenant, if a request for SWAT services is received.
   c. Dispatch the appropriate officers to the requesting agency.
      (1) Advise officers to contact the requesting agency directly via the appropriate radio system (for example, LEERN or MARCS) or, if available, the appropriate 800 MHz talk-group.
(2) Refer to the “Vehicular Pursuits” and/or “Stopping Tactics” directives if the request for mutual aid involves a vehicular pursuit.

2. Assistance requested from another law enforcement agency by the Division
   a. Contact the appropriate Patrol zone lieutenant or, if unavailable, any on-duty zone lieutenant to approve a request for outside assistance to the Division of Police.
   b. Establish radio communications with the responding agency’s officers and communications personnel if possible.
   c. Advise the appropriate zone lieutenant of the disposition of the request by responding officers.

B. Responding **Sworn** Division Personnel
   1. When dispatched, contact the requesting agency directly via the appropriate radio system and make arrangements to meet at a location or proceed as directed except when exigent circumstances exist, such as an officer-in-trouble call.
   2. Officers making arrests in the requesting agency’s jurisdiction will report those arrests to their immediate on-duty supervisor. Additionally, the arresting officer will notify the requesting agency’s on-duty supervisor or communications section of the facts of the arrest before leaving the requesting agency’s jurisdiction. The legal forms of the requesting agency will be used by Division officers in all arrest situations.

   Note: If a misdemeanor arrest is made in a requesting agency’s jurisdiction by a Division officer, the appropriate Ohio Revised Code section or the City Code of the requesting agency must be used. Columbus City Code cannot be used outside the corporation limits of the City of Columbus.

C. Patrol Supervisor
   1. If exigent circumstances exist and an Investigative Subdivision supervisor or Patrol zone lieutenant cannot be reached, ensure the requested location’s perimeter is secured during the execution of the search warrant.
   2. Forward a letter of information through the chain of command.