

Outside Agency Assistance

325.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to members when requesting or responding to a request for mutual aid or when assisting another law enforcement agency.

325.1.1 ASSISTING OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Generally, calls for assistance from other agencies are routed to the Watch Commander's office for approval. When an authorized employee of an outside agency requests the assistance of this department in taking a person into custody, available officers shall respond and assist in making a lawful arrest. If an officer receives a request in the field for assistance, that officer shall notify a supervisor. Arrestees may be temporarily detained by our agency until arrangements for transportation are made by the outside agency. Only in exceptional circumstances will this department provide transportation of arrestees to other county facilities. The supervisor on duty has the responsibility of weighing the gravity of request and balancing the request for assistance with the need to maintain a police presence in the City of East Palo Alto.

When such assistance is rendered, a case number will be issued to report action taken by East Palo Alto Police Department Personnel.

325.1.2 REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM OUTSIDE AGENCIES

If assistance is needed from another agency, the employee requesting assistance shall first notify a supervisor of his/her intentions. The handling officer or supervisor should direct assisting personnel to where they are needed and to whom they should report when they arrive.

The requesting officer should secure radio frequencies for use by all involved agencies so that communication can be coordinated as needed. If necessary, reasonable effort should be taken to provide radio equipment capable of communicating on the assigned frequency to any personnel who do not have compatible radios.

325.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the East Palo Alto Police Department to promptly respond to requests for assistance by other law enforcement agencies, subject to available resources and consistent with the applicable laws and policies of this department.