



VIA TRANSIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Procedures



Section 607 – Jurisdiction/Interagency Cooperation

Office with Primary Responsibility:	COP	Effective Date:	April 28, 2022
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Office(s) with Secondary Responsibilities:		Number of Pages:	2
Forms Referenced in Procedure:	None	Related Procedures:	None

.01 INTRODUCTION

- A. This procedure provides officers with the guidelines for the Department’s jurisdiction in regards to law enforcement activities and practices within the VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority’s operational boundaries.
- B. As the VIA Transit Police Department shares overlapping law enforcement responsibilities, this procedure also provides officers guidelines for operating in cooperating with other law enforcement agencies.

.02 POLICY

- A. Officers shall be aware of all geographic boundaries and the Department’s jurisdiction while discharging law enforcement activities.
- B. Officers shall be responsible to work cooperatively with members from other law enforcement agencies under all circumstances.

.03 VIA TRANSIT POLICE DEPARTMENT JURISDICTION

- A. VIA Transit Police Officers, as defined under TX CCP 2.12 (21) and TX Transportation Code 451.108(e), are responsible to enforce all Federal, State and Local laws and Ordinances while the Police Officer is on the Transit Authority System property or performing duties in connection with the Transit Authority system or it’s users.
- B. VIA Transit Police Officers are responsible to respond and service all Via Owned, leased, rented, and operational controlled facilities and equipment including but not limited to:
 - 1. Buses/Vans/Vehicles
 - 2. Bus Routes
 - 3. Bus Stops
 - 4. Park & Rides
 - 5. Transit Centers
 - 6. Administrative Offices
 - 7. Storage Lots/Facilities
- C. VIA Transit Police Officers are also responsible to respond and service all VIA related special events as designated by the Chief of Transit Police.

.04 WORKING WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

- A. VIA Transit Police Officers, upon arriving at a scene shall determine which agency will have responsibility for the handling of the call. This determination will be based on primary jurisdiction. Primary jurisdiction may be determined by asking:
 - 1. Did the incident occur on or against VIA owned property?
 - 2. Who has the greater capability to address the incident?
 - 3. Legal status/Statutory authority



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- B. A VIA Transit Police Officer, when first on scene, having determined that primary jurisdiction is not established, will be responsible to maintain the integrity of the scene until the arrival of the agency with appropriate jurisdiction.
 - 1. Once the scene is transferred to the agency with appropriate jurisdiction, the Transit Police Officer will stand by to assist the handling agency
 - 2. Write supplemental report if requested
 - 3. Notify dispatch when returning to service

- C. When notified of an incident from another agency where VIA has primary jurisdiction, the officer shall;
 - 1. Take charge of the scene / situation
 - 2. Request a briefing on the incident from the responding agency
 - 3. Request assistance from the responding agency, if need, until VIA Transit Police can adequately handle the scene
 - 4. Request responding agency officers to submit any necessary supplemental reports

- D. When an incident occurs that requires a response from multiple Law Enforcement Agencies, VIA Transit Police Officers should respond and assist in:
 - 1. Establishing responsibilities
 - 2. Coordinating resources
 - 3. Command notification