

**ST. LOUIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
LAW ENFORCEMENT MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT**

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**Purpose**

This agreement is made and entered into between the County of St. Louis, a body politic and corporate existing under the laws of the State of Minnesota, and the Political Subdivision identified under Paragraph 8, pursuant to: authority granted in St. Louis County Board Resolution 23-151 (February 28, 2023); and Minnesota Statutes § 471.59, which authorizes the joint and cooperative exercise of powers common to contracting parties. The intent of this agreement is to make equipment, personnel, and other resources available between the political subdivisions subject to this Agreement.

**Definitions**

Party - means a political subdivision.

Requesting Official - means the person designated by a Party who is responsible for requesting assistance from the other Party.

Requesting Party - means the party that requests assistance from other parties.

Responding Official - means the person designated by the party who is responsible to determine whether and to what extent that party should provide assistance to the Requesting Party.

Responding Party - means a party that provides assistance to the Requesting Party.

Assistance Type - Law enforcement personnel and equipment.

**1. Procedure**

**1.1. Request for Assistance: Immediate Response / Short Term**

**1.1.1 Request for Assistance.** Whenever, in the opinion of a Requesting Party there is an immediate need for assistance from the other party, the Requesting Party may call upon the Responding Party for assistance.

**1.1.2 Responding to Request.** Upon the request for assistance from a Requesting Party, the Responding Party may authorize and direct personnel to provide assistance to the Requesting Party. This decision will be made after considering the needs of the Responding Party and the availability of other law enforcement personnel and equipment to the Responding Party.

**1.1.3 Method.** Whenever practical the Requesting Party shall request immediate assistance through the 911 Emergency Communications Operations Center and the Responding Party shall indicate its intended response using the same method.

**1.1.4 Command of Scene.** Except as provided in Section 1.1.4.1, the Requesting Party shall be in command of the mutual aid scene. The personnel and equipment of the Responding Party shall be under the direction and control of the Requesting Party until the Responding Official determines to withdraw assistance.

**1.1.4.1 Specialized Forces.** When a Requesting Party requests the assistance of specialized forces from a Responding Party, such as a Tactical Command, Canine Units, Bomb Squads, Rescue Squad, etc., the personnel and equipment of the Responding Party shall be under the direction of the Responding Party.

**1.1.5 Recall of Assistance.** The Responding Official may at any time recall assistance provided hereunder to the Requesting Party when in his or her best judgment or by an order from the governing body of the Responding Party, it is considered to be in the best interest of the Responding Party to recall or withdraw the assistance provided by it.

**1.1.6 Release of Assistance.** The Requesting Party may at any time advise the Responding party that the assistance of the Responding Party is no longer needed. In such event the Responding Party shall withdraw its assistance at the earliest possible time that it is safe for its personnel and equipment to withdraw.

## **1.2 Request for Assistance: Long Term**

**1.2.1 Request for Assistance.** Whenever, in the opinion of a Requesting Official, there is need for assistance from the other party that will reasonably be expected to continue beyond eight (8) hours, the Requesting Official may call upon the Responding Official of any other party to furnish assistance.

**1.2.2 Responding to Request.** Upon the request for assistance from a Requesting Official on behalf of the Requesting Party, the Responding Official may authorize and direct his/her party's personnel to provide assistance to the Requesting Party. This decision will be made after considering the needs of the Responding Party and the availability of other law enforcement personnel and equipment to the Responding Party.

**1.2.3 Method.** A request for Long Term Assistance shall be made to the Responding Official and the Responding Official shall indicate the intended response of the Responding Party to the Requesting Official.

**1.2.4 Recall of Assistance.** The Responding Official may at any time recall such assistance when in his or her best judgment or by any order from the governing body of the Responding Party, is considered to be in the best interests of the Responding Party to do so.

**1.2.5 Command of Scene.** The Requesting Party shall be in command of the mutual aid scene. The personnel and equipment of the Responding Party shall be under the direction and control of the Requesting Party until the Responding Official determines to withdraw assistance.

## **2. Worker's Compensation**

Each party shall be responsible for injuries or death of its own personnel. Each party will maintain workers' compensation insurance or self-insurance coverage, covering its own personnel while they are providing assistance pursuant to this Agreement. Each party waives the right to sue any other party for any workers' compensation benefits paid to its own employee, volunteer or their dependents, even if the injuries were caused wholly or partially by the negligence of any other party or its officers, employees, or volunteers.

## **3. Damage to Equipment**

Each party shall be responsible for damages to or loss of its own equipment. Each party waives the right to sue any other party for any damage to or loss of its equipment, even if the damages or losses were caused wholly or partially by the negligence of any other party or its officers, employees, or volunteers.

## **4. Liability**

**4.1 Requesting Party Liable.** For the purpose of the Minnesota Municipal Tort Liability Act (Minn. Stat. Ch. 466), the employees and officers of the Responding Party are deemed to be employees (as defined in Minn. Stat. § 466.01, subdivision 6) of the Requesting Party. This is specifically agreed and intended to be applicable to situations covered by Section 1.1.4.1 of this Agreement.

**4.2 Indemnification and Defense.** The Requesting Party agrees to defend and indemnify the Responding Party against any claims brought or actions filed against the Responding Party or any officer, employee, or volunteer of the Responding Party for injury to, death of, or damage to the property of any third person or persons, arising from the performance and provisions of assistance in responding to a request for assistance by the Requesting Party pursuant to this Agreement.

Under no circumstances, however, shall a party be required to pay on behalf of itself and other parties, any amounts in excess of the limits on liability established in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 466 applicable to any

one party. The limits of liability for some or all of the parties may not be added together to determine the maximum amount of liability for any party.

The intent of this subdivision is to impose on each Requesting Party a limited duty to defend and indemnify a Responding Party for claims arising within the Requesting Party's jurisdiction subject to the limits of liability under Minnesota Statute Chapter 466. The purpose of creating this duty to defend and indemnify is to simplify the defense of claims against multiple defendants from a single occurrence to be defended by a single attorney or a single law firm.

- 4.3 No Liability.** No party to this Agreement nor any officer, employee, agent or official of any Party shall be liable to any other Party or to any other person for failure of any Party to furnish assistance to any other Party, or for recalling assistance, both as described in this Agreement.

**5. Charges to the Requesting Party**

- 5.1** No charges will be levied by a Responding Party to this Agreement for assistance rendered to the Requesting Party under the terms of this Agreement pursuant to Section 1.1 hereof except as provided in Section 4 hereof. If assistance is provided under this Agreement pursuant to Section 1.2 hereof, the Responding Party may submit to the Requesting Party an itemized bill for the actual cost of any assistance provided pursuant to Section 1.2 herein, including salaries, overtime, materials and supplies and other necessary expenses and the Requesting Party will pay the Responding Party providing the assistance that amount.
- 5.2** Such charges are not contingent upon the availability of federal or state government funds.

**6. Duration**

This Agreement will be in force until terminated by any Party hereto. Any Party may withdraw from this Agreement and terminate this Agreement with respect to it upon thirty- days (30) written notice to the other party or parties to the Agreement.

**7. Miscellaneous**

- 7.1 Minnesota Law to Govern.** This Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the substantive and procedural laws in the State of Minnesota without giving effect to the principles of conflict of laws. All proceedings related to this Agreement shall be venued in the State of Minnesota District Court for the Sixth Judicial District in Duluth, Minnesota.

**7.2 Execution in Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which counterparts, when so executed and delivered, shall be deemed to be an original and all of which counterparts, taken together, shall constitute but one and the same Agreement.

**8. Execution**

Each Party hereto has the authority to enter into this Agreement, and has read, agreed to and executed this Mutual Aid Agreement on this date indicated.

This Agreement shall be construed as complementary to and not inconsistent with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Section 12.331, which authorizes inter-agency disaster assistance. By signature below, the authorized representative of a governmental unit hereby enters into the foregoing agreement, effective upon the date of signature.

**POLITICAL SUBDIVISION:**

\_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_


**COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS**

BY:  \_\_\_\_\_

GORDON RAMSAY  
Sheriff

BY:  \_\_\_\_\_

PATRICK BOYLE  
Chair of County Board

BY:  \_\_\_\_\_  
NANCY NILSEN / *Phil Chapman*  
Auditor/Clerk of the Board / *Deputy Auditor*

APPROVED AS TO FORM &  
EXECUTION:

KIMBERLY MAKI  
St. Louis County Attorney

BY:  \_\_\_\_\_

THOMAS STANLEY  
Assistant County Attorney

Dated: 3-31-23  
2023-0187

The governing body resolutions or other authorizations to enter into this Agreement are attached hereto.



*Resolution*  
*of the*  
**Board of County Commissioners**  
*St. Louis County, Minnesota*  
*Adopted on: February 28, 2023 Resolution No. 23-151*  
*Offered by Commissioner: Harala*

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**Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement Update**

WHEREAS, On March 22, 2005, the St. Louis County Board approved Resolution No. 05-153, authorizing the Sheriff to enter into law enforcement mutual aid agreements with the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association (MSA) District II Sheriffs' Offices; and

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Board also approved Resolution No. 08-635 on December 2, 2008, to enter into law enforcement mutual aid agreements with participating police agencies within the MSA District II; and

WHEREAS, Due to the age of these agreements, few if any of those who authorized the previous mutual aid agreements remain in their positions, requiring an update to this agreement; and

WHEREAS, The intent of the agreement is to allow equipment, personnel, and other resources available to be shared among political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, This agreement will supersede all previous mutual aid agreements with those agencies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the execution of an updated Mutual Aid Agreement with the participating counties and police agencies which make up the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association District II.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the appropriate County officials are authorized to sign and execute the agreement.

Commissioner Harala moved the adoption of the Resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote:

Yeas – Commissioners Harala, Grimm, McDonald, Musolf, Nelson, Jugovich and Chair Boyle – 7

Nays – None

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**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Office of County Auditor, ss.  
County of St. Louis

I, **NANCY NILSEN**, Auditor of the County of St. Louis, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in my office on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, A.D. 2023, and that this is a true and correct copy.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Duluth, Minnesota, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, A.D., 2023.

NANCY NILSEN, COUNTY AUDITOR

By:

Clerk of the County Board/Deputy Auditor