



OFFICE OF POLICE OVERSIGHT

P.O. BOX 1088, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767
WWW.ATXPOLICEOVERSIGHT.ORG
POLICEOVERSIGHT@AUSTINTEXAS.GOV
PHONE: 512.974.9090 | TTY: 711 | FAX: 512.974.6306
COMPLAINT HOTLINE: 512-972-20PO

August 1, 2024

Robin Henderson, Interim Chief of Police
Austin Police Department
715 E. 8th Street
Austin, TX 78701

RE: OPO Policy Recommendation for Improvement to Austin Police Department's
(APD) General Order (GO) 362: Outside Agency Assistance and Joint Task Forces

Dear Chief Henderson:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide feedback and recommendations for improvement to the Austin Police Department's General Order policy:

- 362 – Outside Agency Assistance

On May 14, 2024, the Austin Police Department presented to the Austin City Council regarding its mutual aid to The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD) on April 24th and 29th, 2024. The Austin City Council expressed numerous concerns about the City's civil liability and the potential violation of protestors' First Amendment rights. It was made clear that the APD was only there to "assist" with transporting arrestees as UTPD was the lead agency responsible for the decision to arrest individuals. However, the City Attorney pointed out that the City of Austin is still liable for any actions of APD regardless of whether or not they are acting as the lead agency in a mutual aid situation. Council member Qadri, representing District 9, which includes the University of Texas campus, specifically highlighted the lack of detail of the General Orders regarding such situations.

We look forward to addressing the identified issue and improving policies to benefit the community and APD's sworn personnel.

Sincerely,

Gail McCant, Director
Office of Police Oversight



362 Outside Agency Assistance and Joint Task Forces

Recommendation #1:

OPO recommends that APD add specific language to the General Orders to ensure that laws and civil rights are protected when APD assists outside agencies.

