

Interagency Operations

5.14.01 PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to establish policies regarding planned and ongoing interagency operations. It is not intended to restrict a member of the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) from appropriately assisting a member of another law enforcement or government agency in a spontaneous situation. Instead, this order is established to ensure that command personnel are properly notified of interagency operations and that members receive approval before participating in them.

5.14.02 DEFINITIONS

- A. Interagency Operations** – Any planned or ongoing operation or investigation involving SFPD and an outside agency.
- B. Outside Agency** – Any local, state, or federal law enforcement or government agency that is not SFPD.

5.14.03 POLICY

Interagency operations not governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) shall be approved by the Commander of the participating unit prior to SFPD participation.

Members are reminded that even during interagency operations with outside agencies, they are bound to SFPD policies and written directives.

5.14.04 PROCEDURES

A. Planned/Ongoing Operation

1. Prior to any interagency operation, an Interagency Operations Request Form (SFPD Form 630) shall be completed and then signed by the participating unit's OIC, Captain and Commander.
2. The unit's Commander should notify their higher command when necessary.
 - a. For SFPD-led interagency operations, information should be included in an Operations Order.
 - b. For on-going operations and/or outside agency-led operations, an Operations Order may not be required.

B. Time Sensitive Operation

1. For non-exigent but time sensitive operations where written notification would cause undue delay during a rapidly evolving operation, members may request and receive verbal approval from their Commander.
2. When practical, the approving Commander should confirm their verbal approval via email to the Captain, the OIC, and the requesting member.
3. After the conclusion of the operation, an Interagency Operations Request Form shall be prepared by a member in the designated unit and the “verbal notification” box selected in the event of a verbal request.

C. Requests from an Outside Agency

1. When an outside agency requests assistance with a planned operation or investigation, the member receiving the request shall refer the agency to their Officer in Charge (OIC).
2. The OIC shall be responsible for completing the Interagency Operations Request Form and submitting it to their Captain and Commander for approval.
3. The unit’s Commander will then notify their Deputy Chief, if necessary.

D. Briefing – At the discretion of the Deputy Chief, interagency operations or investigations may be subject to a briefing between the Department and the outside agency. The Deputy Chief may assign a designee to conduct the briefing to ensure awareness of applicable Department General Orders before operations commence.

5.14.05 DENIAL

The Department will not participate in interagency operations that violate local or state laws, including San Francisco’s Sanctuary Laws (Admin Codes [§12H](#); [§12I](#); [Cal. Gov’t Code §7284](#)) or [DGO 5.15, *Enforcement of Immigration Laws*](#).

INTERAGENCY OPERATIONS

5.14.01 PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to establish policies regarding planned and ongoing interagency operations. It is not intended to restrict a member of the San Francisco Police Department (**SFPD**) from appropriately assisting a member of another law enforcement or government agency in a spontaneous situation. Instead, this order is established to ensure that command personnel are ~~aware~~ **properly notified** of interagency operations; and that members receive ~~prior~~ approval before participating in them.

I. 5.14.02 DEFINITIONS

- A. Interagency Operation(s):** - Any planned or ongoing operation or investigation involving ~~the San Francisco Police Department~~ **SFPD** and an outside agency.
- B. Outside Agency:** - Any local, state, or federal law enforcement or government agency, e.g., FBI, DEA, State Parole, ABC, ATF **that is not SFPD**.

5.14.03 POLICY

Interagency operations not governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) shall be approved by the Commander of the participating unit prior to **SFPD** participation.

Members are reminded that even during interagency operations with outside agencies, they are bound to **SFPD** policies and written directives.

~~H. POLICY~~ 5.14.04 PROCEDURES

- A. GENERAL.** ~~It is the policy of the San Francisco Police Department that all interagency operations involving members of the San Francisco Police Department shall receive prior approval of the member's deputy chief.~~
Planned/Ongoing Operation
 - 1. Prior to any interagency operation, an Interagency Operations Request Form (**SFPD** Form 630) shall be completed and then signed by the participating unit's OIC, Captain and Commander.
 - 2. The unit's Commander should notify their higher command when necessary.

- a. For SFPD-led interagency operations, information should be included in an Operations Order.
- b. For on-going operations and/or outside agency-led operations, an Operations Order may not be required.

B. Time Sensitive Operation

1. For non-exigent but time sensitive operations where written notification would cause undue delay during a rapidly evolving operation, members may request and receive verbal approval from their Commander.
2. When practical, the approving Commander should confirm their verbal approval via email to the Captain, the OIC, and the requesting member.
3. After the conclusion of the operation, an Interagency Operations Request Form shall be prepared by a member in the designated unit and the “verbal notification” box selected in the event of a verbal request.

~~B.~~ C. REQUESTS BY ~~from~~ AN OUTSIDE AGENCY:

1. When ~~the assistance of the San Francisco Police Department is requested by~~ an outside agency ~~for~~ requests assistance with any planned operation or investigation, the member receiving the request shall refer the agency to his/her deputy chief ~~their~~ Officer in Charge (OIC). ~~No member shall participate in an operation or investigation unless it has been approved by the appropriate deputy chief.~~
2. The OIC shall be responsible for completing the Interagency Operations Request Form and submitting it to their Captain and Commander for approval.
3. The unit’s Commander will then notify their Deputy Chief, if necessary.

~~C. REQUESTS BY THE SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT.~~ Any member of the San Francisco Police Department needing assistance from an outside agency for a planned operation or investigation shall first obtain the permission of his/her deputy chief prior to making the request.

~~D. BRIEFING/MEETING.~~ – At the discretion of the Deputy Chief, ~~i~~Interagency operations or investigations shall ~~may~~ be the subject of ~~to~~ a briefing ~~or meeting~~ between the Department and the outside agency to discuss law enforcement issues unique to San Francisco, e.g., operational objectives, roles of agencies, and community concerns. It shall be the responsibility of ~~T~~the Deputy Chief ~~may~~ assign a (or his/her designee) to conducting this meeting ~~or the~~ briefing to ensure that outside agents are aware~~ness~~ of applicable Department General Orders before the operations commences.

~~E. OPERATIONS.~~ During the operation, it shall be the responsibility of the senior ranking officer to make every effort to ensure that no violations of Department

DGO 5.14

05/17/95 Rev. MM/DD/YY
Eff. MM/DD/YY

~~General Orders are committed by the outside agents. Should any violation occur, it shall be the responsibility of the senior ranking officer to inform the person committing the violation that such action violates San Francisco Police Department General Orders.~~

5.14.05 DENIAL

The Department will not participate in interagency operations that violate local or state laws, including San Francisco's Sanctuary Laws (Admin Codes §12H; §12I; Cal. Gov't Code §7284) or DGO 5.15, *Enforcement of Immigration Laws*.



INTERAGENCY OPERATIONS REQUEST

Per San Francisco Police Department's (SFPD) General Order 5.14, *Interagency Operations*, members will receive approval from their Commander or designee for interagency operations not covered under an active Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

NAME OF OUTSIDE AGENCY:

DATE(S) OF CONTACT WITH OUTSIDE AGENCY:

CONTACT PERSON:

CONTACT PHONE:

OPERATION INITIATED BY: ☐ SFPD OR ☐ OUTSIDE AGENCY

ONGOING OPERATION ☐ YES ☐ NO

DATE(S) OF SERVICE/OPERATION:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE OPERATION:

SUBMITTED BY:

☐ **VERBAL NOTIFICATION OF OPERATION** (select this box if verbal notification was given to the Commander due to exigent or expedient circumstances. As soon as practical, the Commander should confirm approval via email to the Captain, OIC, and requesting member)

NOTIFIED: _____
OFFICER IN-CHARGE

DATE: ☐ APPROVED / ☐ DENIED

CAPTAIN

DATE: ☐ APPROVED / ☐ DENIED

COMMANDER

DATE: ☐ APPROVED / ☐ DENIED



DANIEL LURIE
MAYOR

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
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HEADQUARTERS
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San Francisco, California 94158



DERRICK J. LEW
CHIEF OF POLICE

August 4, 2026

Dear Honorable President Clay,

RE: **DGO 5.14 – *Interagency Operations of DGO***

On March 5, 2024, the voters approved Proposition E ("Prop E"), an initiative ordinance requiring the Commission and the Police Department to engage in a community engagement process before the Commission may agendize "any proposal to establish, modify, or abolish policies or procedures related to Department operations." (Admin. Code § 961.1(a).) The community engagement process is intended to help the Commission and Department receive public feedback on whether proposed changes to policies and procedures governing Department operations will impact the Department's ability to efficiently and effectively serve the community. The purpose of this process is to "describe the existing policies and procedures," "solicit feedback on their implementation and impacts," and "identify possible changes" rather than to consider or advocate for specific draft proposals. Prop E allows the Chief of Police to waive the community engagement process provided that certain conditions are met.

I, Derrick J. Lew, Chief of Police, have considered the following factors as required by Prop E:

- The proposed changes are unlikely to have a substantial impact on the Department's ability to serve the community.
- The amount of public feedback already received on the subject matter.
- Other factors - the proposed changes add definitions, clarity and detail which align with updated SFPD policies and procedures as well as industry best practices.

After considering all the factors, **I hereby waive the community engagement process for Department General Order 5.14, *Interagency Operations*.**

Sincerely,

DERRICK J. LEW
Chief of Police

DGO 5.14 UPDATE SUMMARY

Major structural changes: The order has been completely reorganized from five short lettered sections into a numbered procedural format.

Key policy changes:

- **Approval authority shifted from the Deputy Chief to the Commander level**, except for operations already governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), in which case no separate approval is required. The approval authority has shifted from the Deputy Chief to the Commander because this allows for operations to be conducted more timely and dynamically and Commanders typically have greater knowledge of the interagency operation than a Deputy Chief.
- **A new Interagency Operations Request Form (SFPD Form 630) is required** for planned operations, signed by the participating unit's OIC, Captain, and Commander in order to have a record of interagency operations and approvals.
- **A new Time Sensitive Operations process has been added**, allowing members to obtain verbal approval from their Commander when written notice would cause undue delay, followed by an email confirmation and a retroactive Form 630. These operations are necessary for time-sensitive circumstances that require administrative efficiency.
- **On-scene oversight duty to monitor outside agency violations of SFPD General Orders has been removed**, however, the briefing where a Deputy Chief or designee can ensure awareness of applicable DGOs still remains.
- **A new Denial section has been added**, barring SFPD participation in any interagency operation that would violate local or state law, including San Francisco's Sanctuary Laws, California Government Code §7284, and DGO 5.15, *Enforcement of Immigration Laws*.
- **The definition of "Outside Agency" has been simplified** by replacing the illustrative list of example agencies (FBI, DEA, State Parole, ABC, ATF) with a functional definition covering any agency that is not SFPD.

DGO 5.14 — Interagency Operations

Specific Policy Comparison: 1995 vs. Proposed

1. Purpose (5.14.01) [Modified]

Terminology updated; phrasing on notification and approval softened

1995 Version	Proposed Version (2026)
Refers throughout to the “San Francisco Police Department.” States that command personnel are aware of interagency operations and that members receive prior approval before participating.	Introduces the “SFPD” abbreviation on first use. States that command personnel are properly notified of interagency operations and that members receive approval — the word “prior” is dropped.

2. Definitions (5.14.02) [Modified]

"Outside Agency" redefined; illustrative examples dropped

1995 Version	Proposed Version (2026)
“Outside Agency” defined by example: “any local, state or federal law enforcement or government agency, e.g., FBI, DEA, State Parole, ABC, ATF.”	“Outside Agency” defined functionally as any local, state, or federal law enforcement or government agency that is not SFPD; the illustrative list is removed.

3. Policy — Approval Authority (5.14.03) [Modified]

Approval authority moved from Deputy Chief to Commander; new MOU exception added

1995 Version	Proposed Version (2026)
All interagency operations require prior approval of the member's Deputy Chief, with no stated exceptions. Deputy Chief approval is also required before SFPD can request assistance from an outside agency.	Only operations not governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) require prior approval, and that approval now comes from the Commander of the participating unit rather than the Deputy Chief, who is notified only as an escalation, "if necessary." The approval authority has shifted from the Deputy Chief to the Commander because this allows for operations to be conducted more timely and dynamically and Commanders typically have greater knowledge of the interagency operation than a Deputy Chief.

4. Procedures (5.14.04) [New Section]

Entirely new section introducing a request form, a formal sign-off chain, and a time-sensitive fast track
New Interagency Operations Request Form

1995 Version	Proposed Version (2026)
No form specified.	Requires an Interagency Operations Request Form (SFPD Form 630), signed by the participating unit's OIC, Captain, and Commander before the operation begins. This allows for records of interagency operations and approvals to be maintained.

Time Sensitive Operations

1995 Version	Proposed Version (2026)
Not addressed.	New pathway: for non-exigent but time-sensitive operations, members may request and receive verbal approval from their Commander. The Commander should confirm approval by email when practical, and a Form 630 marked "verbal notification" is completed after the operation. These operations are necessary for time-sensitive circumstances that require administrative efficiency.

Requests from an Outside Agency

1995 Version	Proposed Version (2026)
The request is referred to the member's Deputy Chief, who must approve it before any member participates.	The request is referred to the member's Officer in Charge (OIC), who completes Form 630 and obtains Captain and Commander approval; the Commander notifies the Deputy Chief only if necessary. The approval authority has shifted from the Deputy Chief to the Commander because this allows for operations to be conducted more timely and dynamically and Commanders typically have greater knowledge of the interagency operation than a Deputy Chief.

5. Pre-Operation Briefing Requirement [Modified]

Mandatory Deputy Chief-led briefing dropped entirely

1995 Version	Proposed Version (2026)
Required a briefing or meeting between SFPD and the outside agency before the operation, conducted by the Deputy Chief or designee,	Allows Deputy Chiefs to determine if a briefing is required between SFPD and the outside agency

1995 Version	Proposed Version (2026)
covering operational objectives, agency roles, community concerns, and applicable General Orders.	before the operation, conducted by the Deputy Chief or designee.

6. On-Scene Oversight of Outside Agents [Removed]

Senior officer's duty to monitor outside agents for General Order violations dropped

1995 Version	Proposed Version (2026)
Made the senior ranking officer on-scene responsible for ensuring no Department General Order violations were committed by outside agents, and for informing any violator that the conduct violated SFPD General Orders.	No comparable “during operation” oversight provision as outside agencies are not beholden to SFPD General Orders but a reminder to members of their duty to adhere to SFPD policy during interagency operations has been added.

7. Denial — Sanctuary Law Compliance (5.14.05) [New Section]

Entirely new section barring participation that violates local or state law, including SF Sanctuary Laws

1995 Version	Proposed Version (2026)
Not addressed.	New section: the Department will not participate in interagency operations that violate local or state law, including San Francisco's Sanctuary Laws (Admin. Code §12H, §12I), California Government Code §7284, and DGO 5.15 (Enforcement of Immigration Laws).

DGO 5.14 Public Comment Joint Responses

Public Review Period: 3/3/26 - 4/15/26

#	Public Comment	Date Received	SFPD response	SFPD Explanation	DPA Explanation
R1	In the definition of Interagency Operation, does that include interagency with SF depts? For example, for RESET, would our operations with the Sheriff and DPH every time someone is brought to RESET have to follow this DGO?	3/3/26	Administrative Question and Answer-not for inclusion in DGO	This policy applies to external agencies (any entity that isn't SFPD) in which SFPD does not have an active MOU.	DPA concurs with the SFPD explanation given the included definition of <i>outside agency</i> .
R2	In 5.14.04.A.1, change "involving SFPD and an outside agency" to "that is an interagency operation"	3/3/26	Recommendation has been included in draft DGO	5.14.04.A.1 now reads, "Prior to any interagency operation,..."	DPA concurs with the recommendation and the proposed revision.
R3	The form in 5.14.04.A.1, where does the Captain or member send it? Who keeps these forms on file? How is Command Staff notified, like in a situation like the Superbowl, Command Staff should be made aware.	3/3/26	Administrative Question and Answer-not for inclusion in DGO	These are administrative questions and are not appropriate for placement in a DGO. Captains/Captain's staff are aware of notification protocols and recordkeeping.	No additional comment.
R4	The last two sentences of 5.14.04.A.2 conflict. Make clearer the distinction between these two.	3/3/26	Recommendation has been included in draft DGO	5.14.04.A.2 now reads, "a. For SFPD-led interagency operations, information should be included in an Operations Order. For on-going operations and/or outside agency-led operations, an Operations Order may not be required."	DPA concurs with the recommendation and the proposed revision.
R5	What to do in exigent circumstances? in B2, who is filling out the form? In what instances is an Operations Order required? In what instances is Command Staff (A2) or Commander notified (C3)?	3/3/26	Recommendation will be modified and included in the draft DGO	The exigency will dictate the needed response as they are circumstances that require deviation from standard procedures. 5.14.04(B)(3) has been updated to read, "Form shall be prepared by a member in the designated unit..." Commanders have the discretion to notify Deputy Chiefs.	DPA concurs with the proposed revisions. However, the public comment identifies potential ambiguity in the Time Sensitive Operations section. The policy could be strengthened by defining "exigent circumstances" or "exigency" and clarifying the procedures governing emergency approvals.
R6	Is there a supervisor or unit that is a direct contact for our agency for any outside agency. If so that should be included in regards for a point of contact	3/5/26	Recommendation will not be included in Draft DGO	There is not a direct contact for interagency operations as this is or can be Department-wide.	No additional comment.

DGO 5.14 Public Comment Joint Responses
Public Review Period: 3/3/26 - 4/15/26

#	Public Comment	Date Received	SFPD response	SFPD Explanation	DPA Explanation
R7	[In B-2], I looked at the SFPD interagency form and no "Verbal notification" box is on the form yet. The form needs to be updated so that section can be applicable.	3/17/26	Recommendation will not be included in Draft DGO	The updated form including the "verbal notification box" will be available to members once this updated DGO is adopted by the Police Commission and issued to members.	No additional comment.