

Obtaining Air Support

418.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The use of a police helicopter can be invaluable in certain situations. This policy specifies potential situations where the use of a helicopter may be requested and the responsibilities for making a request.

418.2 REQUEST FOR HELICOPTER ASSISTANCE

If a supervisor or officer in charge of an incident determines that the use of a helicopter would be beneficial, a request to obtain helicopter assistance may be made to the City Manager. If it is an emergency situation wherein the City Manager is not immediately available, the request may be made to the Chief of Police.

418.2.1 REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM ANOTHER AGENCY

After consideration and approval of the request for a helicopter, the Watch Commander, or his/her designee, will request the Communications Center contact the closest agency having helicopter support available. The Communications Center will apprise that agency of the specific details of the incident prompting the request.

418.2.2 CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH AID MAY BE REQUESTED (PER CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 51.408 N.S.)

Police use of helicopters from other law enforcement agencies is permitted upon approval of the City Manager (or upon approval of the Chief of Police in emergency situations when the City Manager is not immediately available) in the following circumstances:

- (a) To assist in case of a disaster; or
- (b) To assist in rescue efforts (specifically excluding the rescue of hostages); or
- (c) To assist in locating missing persons.

While it is recognized that the availability of helicopter support will generally provide valuable assistance to ground personnel, the presence of a helicopter will rarely replace the need for officers on the ground.