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**TO: ALL BERGEN COUNTY CHIEFS OF POLICE, POLICE DIRECTORS,
OFFICERS-IN-CHARGE, AND SHERIFF**

FROM: PROSECUTOR MARK MUSELLA

DATE: DECEMBER 9, 2020

**SUBJECT: BERGEN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE LAW ENFORCEMENT
DIRECTIVE NO. 2020-14 - IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL
MUTUAL AID PROTOCOL**

BACKGROUND

This Directive addresses the need for a regional mutual aid protocol among Bergen County law enforcement agencies. The need for such a regional protocol is evident from well publicized emergency situations such as school and public place active shooter situations, large scale civil disturbances and other situations that require a multi-jurisdictional and coordinated law enforcement response. In our own county, the challenge to manage a large-scale multi-jurisdictional law enforcement response became apparent during the November 4, 2013 active shooter incident at the Paramus Garden State Plaza Mall. In responding to the incident, the Paramus Police Department transmitted a general mutual aid request over the State Police Emergency Network (SPEN) which resulted in the response of 37 Bergen County law enforcement agencies, three federal agencies, the New York/New Jersey Port Authority Police Department, the New Jersey State Police and other out of county agencies. The prompt response was admirable and necessary, but created span-of-control challenges of management, communications, and accountability among the responding agencies. Since then, the Paramus Police Department has established a Contingency Action Plan to address the deployment of mutual aid resources to their critical sites. This Directive is not meant to replace such plans, but to supplement them.

Therefore, in recognition of the need for a regional mutual aid approach, the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office ("BCPO") and the Bergen County Police Chief's Association have agreed upon a Bergen County Mutual Aid Protocol ("Protocol") as set forth in this Directive.



A State Accredited and Nationally Recognized Law Enforcement Agency

Bergen County Mutual Aid Protocol

Our legislature has provided for mutual aid among local law enforcement agencies by statute. N.J.S.A. 40A-156 provides that the head of any New Jersey municipal police department may request assistance from any other department when necessary “to protect life and property or to assist in suppressing a riot or disorder”. The statute indicates a preference for municipal departments to request assistance from contiguous jurisdictions when appropriate, and this Protocol is not meant to displace that statutory preference. In all incidents where sufficient assistance may be secured from contiguous jurisdictions, departments should follow that preference. Rather, this Protocol is addressed to those incidents which require more robust law enforcement assistance beyond that which may be rendered by contiguous jurisdictions.

It is important to identify the tier levels of deployment of mutual aid responses and triggers to assist Incident Commanders in managing critical incidents calling for mutual aid support:

Tier I, Local Deployment:	Units from neighboring or contiguous municipalities are automatically dispatched. These agreements are secured through both formal and informal local agreements. Examples of local mutual aid deployments would include: motor vehicle accidents, traffic management, domestic disputes, burglary, robbery and assault incidents.
Tier 2, Regional Deployment:	Specific requests for mutual aid for response to widespread life, safety, or property threatening incidents. Examples of regional mutual aid incidents would include active shooter incidents, large scale civil disturbances, or a need for law enforcement resources to be deployed for an extended operational period(s).
Tier 3 or State Deployment:	Statewide or countywide largescale incidents. The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) or agreements are coordinated through the New Jersey State Police, N.J. Office of Emergency Management.

This Protocol permits and encourages the following enhancements to current mutual aid practice:

1. The protection of critical infrastructure sites through the rapid deployment of officers to mitigate critical incidents;
2. The preplanning of responses to critical infrastructure sites and familiarization of regional law enforcement personnel with critical sites, potential hazards, and vulnerabilities in their region;
3. The use of county officers to perform Special Operations Tasks and maintain patrol of primary roadways;
4. The enhancement of officer safety, accountability and compliance with Incident Command System standards.
5. The control, collaboration, coordination, and deployment of personnel and other assets.
6. The provision of adequate resources and support personnel as situations/incidents dictate.

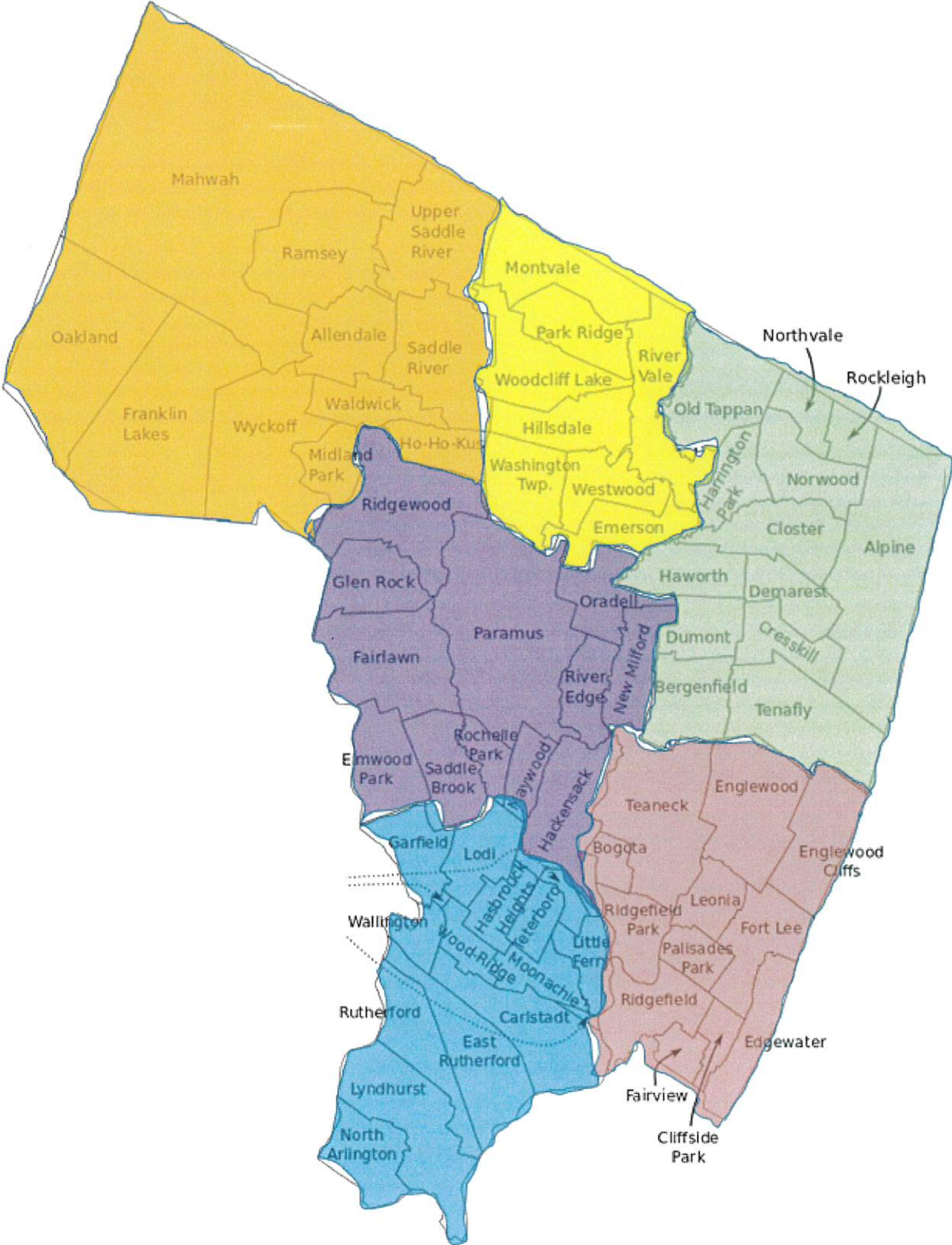
7. Regional sharing of intelligence to better prepare officers to operate and work with other emergency services, such as firefighters, emergency medical and Office of Emergency Management personnel, and Municipal Counter-Terrorism and Critical Infrastructure Coordinators;

This Protocol divides Bergen County into six Mutual Aid Regional Zones as follows:

VII. Bergen County Regional Zones

South Bergen Region 1	East Bergen Region 2	Central Bergen Region 3
Carlstadt	Bogota	Elmwood Park
Rutherford	Cliffside Park	Fair Lawn
East Rutherford	Edgewater	Glen Rock
Garfield	Fairview	Hackensack
Hasbrouck Heights	Englewood	Maywood
Little Ferry	Englewood Cliffs	Oradell
Lodi	Fort Lee	Paramus
Lyndhurst	Leonia	New Milford
Moonachie / Teterboro	Palisades Park	Ridgewood
North Arlington	Ridgefield	River Edge
South Hackensack	Ridgefield Park	Rochelle Park
Wallington	Teaneck	Saddle Brook
Wood-Ridge		
Northern Valley Region 4	Pascack Valley Region 5	North West Region 6
Alpine	Emerson	Allendale
Bergenfield	Hillsdale	Franklin Lakes
Closter	Montvale	Ho-Ho-Kus
Cresskill	Old Tappan	Mahwah
Demarest	Park Ridge	Midland Park
Dumont	River Vale	Oakland
Harrington Park	Washington Township	Ramsey
Haworth	Westwood	Saddle River
Norwood	Woodcliff Lake	Upper Saddle River
Northvale / Rockleigh		Waldwick
Palisades Interstate Parkway		Wyckoff
Tenafly		

The mapping of these zones is as follows:



To implement this Bergen County Mutual Aid Regional Protocol, the BCPO is directing law enforcement executives in their respective Regional Zones to consult and select a regional coordinator and deputy coordinator for each of the six zones and to form a committee to collaborate with the BCPO / UASI Risk Mitigation Planner to establish Bergen County Regional Zone Mutual Aid Protocols. The Regional Mutual Aid Protocols should address all issues of mutual aid coordination and should be submitted to my office by March 1, 2021. The Regional Mutual Aid Protocols will then be incorporated into a formalized policy, which will become effective and memorialized by a future Directive.

As always, I thank you for your cooperation.



MARK MUSELLA
BERGEN COUNTY PROSECUTOR