

2.4.2 Vehicle Stopping Techniques

I. POLICY

Traffic law enforcement involves all activities or operations, which relate to observing, detecting, and preventing traffic law violations and taking appropriate action under the circumstances. Enforcement not only involves arrests and citations, but also includes warnings to drivers and pedestrians to prevent them from committing minor violations. Traffic enforcement may react to observed violations, at accidents, or in response to community concerns, or may be proactive to prevent traffic violations. However, overzealous enforcement without considering whether the violator is familiar with the legal requirements or without regard for the circumstances surrounding the violation causes disrespect for the law and poor relations between the department and the community. The emphasis of an officer's traffic enforcement is placed on violations that contribute to accidents and that prevent hazards to vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to prescribe procedures for traffic law enforcement, preventive patrol, proactive enforcement, and relationships with motorists, pedestrians and the courts.

III. PROCEDURES

Roadblocks

- A. Roadblocks shall be used only as a last resort for stopping a fleeing or wanted vehicle. The decision to establish a roadblock shall be made only the shift supervisor or a higher-ranking officer on duty.
- B. The decision to establish a roadblock should be made with consideration to the following:
 1. Seriousness of the crime committed by the occupant[s] of the fleeing vehicle.
 - a. Fleeing forcible felon, who poses an imminent danger to others if not apprehended.
 2. Time lapse from the commission of the crime.
 3. Location of the proposed roadblock.
 4. Availability of manpower and the public.

2.4.2 continued

- C. Roadblocks shall only be fixed roadblocks and the positioning and set up shall be as follows.
1. Roadblock shall be set up as to give the fleeing vehicle a safe distance to stop prior to the roadblock.
 - a. Police vehicles shall have emergency lights activated when being used for the roadblock.
 2. An avenue of escape shall be permitted, unless the use of deadly force would be authorized.
 3. Pursuing police vehicles shall be warned of the roadblock and notified of its location.
 4. All officers shall exit their police vehicles after the roadblock his set up.
 5. Upon exiting their vehicles, officers involved in the roadblock shall located themselves in a position of cover on the same side of the roadblock, so as to not create a crossfire situation or be in danger if a crash were to happen.
- D. A decision to cancel the roadblock may be made by the officer who made the decision to establish the roadblock, if circumstances of the incident change or if it is deemed to be too dangerous once it has been set up. A decision to cancel the roadblock may be made by any officer or higher rank then the officer who made the decision to establish the roadblock.

Effective Date:

Date: March 16, 2007

By Order Of:

Craig Foust
Chief Of Police