

Chapter 33

TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT

Standards in this chapter govern the department's traffic law enforcement activities performed by the patrol component and the specialized traffic component. These activities are specifically directed toward controlling alleged violations through preventive patrol and active enforcement. The standards also govern relationships with motorists, pedestrians, courts, and prosecutors.

33.1 Traffic Law Enforcement

33.1.1 A written directive establishes uniform procedures for taking enforcement action incidental to traffic law violations, to include:

- o arrest;**
- o tickets; and**
- o warnings.**

Comments: The directive should establish guidelines to ensure that enforcement actions are commensurate with applicable laws and take into account the degree and severity of the violation committed. The directive should discourage emphasis on quantitative enforcement activities (such as ticket quotas) and acknowledge that both qualitative and quantitative emphases are integral to the department's traffic enforcement program.
(M M M)

33.1.2 A written directive establishes procedures for handling traffic law violations committed by:

- o young persons; and**
- o foreign diplomats/consular officials.**

Comments: The written directive should address all special processing requirements. (M M M)

33.1.3 A written directive establishes procedures governing accountability for traffic tickets.

Comments: The directive should ensure that traffic tickets are accounted for from the point of issuance to individual officers through final adjudication by the court or administrative authority.
(M M M)

33.1.4 A written directive establishes procedures for handling motorists charged with operating a vehicle after their driving privileges have been revoked or suspended.

Comments: The directive should include guidelines consistent with applicable legislation. (M M M)

33.1.5 A written directive governs the use of speed-measuring devices in traffic law enforcement, to include:

- o maintenance; and
- o operator training and certification.

Comments: The department should ensure that officers are fully trained and authorized. (M M M)

33.1.6 A written directive establishes procedures for handling persons charged with driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Comments: The arrest of a person for driving while impaired differs significantly from the handling of other traffic law violations. Procedures should address the methods to be employed for (1) administration of breath tests, (2) safe transportation of impaired suspects, (3) procurement of blood and urine testing, (4) incarceration or release to a responsible third party, and (5) disposition of the suspect's vehicle. (M M M)

33.1.7 A written directive establishes procedures for identification and referral of drivers recommended for re-examination by licensing authorities.

Comments: Routine enforcement, accident reporting, and investigation activities frequently lead to the discovery of drivers who have suspected incompetency, physical or mental disability, disease, or other conditions that might prevent the person from exercising reasonable and ordinary care over a motor vehicle. (M M M)