



MILLERSVILLE, MARYLAND

WRITTEN DIRECTIVE

MEMORANDUM: 08-057

FILE BEHIND: Index Code 1501

TO: All Personnel

FROM: Colonel James Teare, Sr. *JT*
Chief of Police

EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2008

SUBJECT: Fuel Conservation

“We need your help!” Record fuel prices and energy costs are having a profound effect on private and public businesses nationwide. This department is the largest consumer of fuel within the county, and we have a responsibility to make every attempt to exercise accountability and responsibility for the resources we consume. In an effort to minimize the current strain on our county budget, we must look for tangible ways to conserve fuel, while not impacting the services we provide. Effective immediately, the following steps should be taken whenever practical:

- 1. "No Idling" Policy** - No matter how short of a stop (other than at a traffic light or when emergency equipment is on), officers should not leave their vehicles running. *This does not apply to K-9 vehicles.*
- 2. Turn Off The Air Conditioner** – Unless it is oppressively hot, officers should not use the A/C as it decreases gas mileage in city stop-and-go traffic by 5 to 20%. However, if driving at 55 mph or above, closing the windows and using the A/C actually reduces drag and can improve mileage.
- 3. Reduce The Weight In The Vehicle** – Officers should eliminate anything they do not actually need from their trunks.
- 4. Increase Foot-Patrols** – During down times and when feasible, officers should attempt to conduct more foot patrols in their posts.

5. Carpooling – Detectives and administrative personnel should carpool whenever possible. This does *not* mean to and from work, but rather during the workday, to lunch, training, crime scenes, etc. Also, when multiple officers are going to the same training, they should make every attempt to carpool.

The above practices will not solve the fuel price crisis, but will demonstrate to the public and county leadership the department's dedication to responsible county spending. I have the utmost faith in the men and women of this department, and appreciate you doing your part in ensuring these and other common sense solutions become "everyday practice."