



MILLERSVILLE, MARYLAND

WRITTEN DIRECTIVE

MEMORANDUM: 07-033

FILE BEHIND: Index Code 1904

TO: All Personnel

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

EFFECTIVE: June 28, 2007

SUBJECT: Traffic Enforcement

MESSAGE:

PURPOSE:

As outlined in Index Code 1904, traffic enforcement is a necessary, expected, and an important daily task of our officers to ensure conformance that all citizens are obeying the rules of the road. Enforcement is conducted primarily by traffic stops, of which **the safety of the officer and the motorist is the paramount concern through the duration of the stop.**

The two most common methods to conduct enforcement are observing the violation while operating a police vehicle, either stationary or while operating the vehicle within traffic, and subsequently initiating a traffic stop; or, while stationary outside of the vehicle, most often while conducting radar, either individually or as part of a stop team, and directing violators to the side of the roadway.

The following procedure addresses stationary enforcement, from outside of the vehicle, where stepping out into traffic to wave a violator to the shoulder was a previously accepted practice.

PROCEDURE:

- Officers are not permitted to conduct stationary enforcement from outside of the vehicle on roadways **with a speed limit greater than 35 mph**. Enforcement on those roadways that exceed 35 mph must be accomplished utilizing a patrol vehicle.
- When conducting stationary enforcement on roadways with a speed limits of 35 mph or less, the officer(s) must be in uniform, including the hat, and wearing a departmentally issued reflective vest or reflective jacket.
- As with all traffic stops, but particularly those where stationary enforcement is being conducted from outside of the vehicle, officers need to be very mindful of environmental conditions such as: the lighting and time of day; the topography of the land regarding hills and curves; and, the actual stop area, with relationship to having appropriate shoulder space and the closeness to intersections. The stop should be executed in an area that would not adversely affect the normal flow of traffic and the violator is able to stop on a shoulder or adjacent street.
- Officers **shall not step out into the roadway to execute traffic stops**. Officers shall utilize the proper traffic hand signals to wave the violator over from the side of the roadway. Officers need to use caution when directing violators to the shoulder and be cognizant of depth perception, reaction times, and inattentive drivers. (For example, at 35 mph, a vehicle is traveling approximately 51 feet per second. The normal perception / reaction time is approximately 1.6 seconds or greater. Therefore, a vehicle that is operating at 35 mph will travel approximately 82 feet before the driver is able to react to the officer's direction.
- Officers shall continue to utilize the police vehicle to perform traffic enforcement on roadways above 35 miles per hour.
- Only the Chief has the authority to approve stationary enforcement outside of the vehicle, on any roadway that exceeds 35 mph.