

Traffic Function and Responsibility

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500.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The ultimate goal of traffic law enforcement is to reduce traffic collisions and promote compliance with traffic laws. This may be achieved through the application of such techniques as geographic/temporal assignment of personnel and equipment and the establishment of preventive patrols to deal with specific categories of unlawful driving behavior. Traffic enforcement techniques are based on accident data, enforcement activity records, traffic volume, and traffic conditions. This department provides enforcement efforts toward violations, not only in proportion to the frequency of their occurrence in accident situations, but also in terms of traffic-related needs.

500.2 ENFORCEMENT

Traffic enforcement will be consistent with applicable laws and take into account the degree and severity of the violation committed to include:

- (a) Speed violations.
- (b) Other hazardous violations.
- (c) Off-road vehicle violations.
- (d) Equipment violations.
- (e) Public carrier/commercial vehicle violations.
- (f) Violations committed by juveniles.
- (g) Violations committed by non-residents (out of area and/or state).
- (h) Newly enacted laws and/or regulations.
- (i) Violations resulting in traffic crashes.
- (j) Pedestrian and/or bicycle violations.
- (k) Legislators.
- (l) Military personnel.

The Alsip Police Department does not establish ticket quotas. The number of citations issued by any officer Alsip Police Department shall not be used as criterion for evaluating officer overall

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performance, but the number of traffic stops completed, arrests, written warnings, and crime prevention measures are appropriate evaluation criterion (55 ILCS 5/5-1136; 65 ILCS 5/11-1-12).

Several methods are effective in the reduction of crashes:

500.2.1 WARNINGS

Warnings or other non-punitive enforcement actions should be considered in each situation and substituted for arrests or citations when circumstances warrant, especially in the case of inadvertent violations.

500.2.2 CITATIONS

Citations may be issued when an officer believes it is appropriate. It is essential that officers fully explain the rights and requirements imposed on motorists upon issuance of a citation for a traffic violation. Officers should provide the following information at a minimum:

- (a) Explanation of the violation or charge.
- (b) Court appearance procedure including the optional or mandatory appearance by the motorist.
- (c) Notice of whether the motorist can enter a plea and pay the fine by mail or at the court.

500.2.3 PHYSICAL ARREST

Physical arrest can be made on a number of criminal traffic offenses outlined in the Vehicle Code or Criminal Code. These physical arrest cases usually deal with, but are not limited to:

- (a) Reckless homicide.
- (b) Felony and misdemeanor driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs.
- (c) Felony or misdemeanor hit-and-run.
- (d) Refusal to sign notice to appear.
- (e) Any other misdemeanor at the discretion of the officer, such as reckless driving with extenuating circumstances.

500.3 STOP RECEIPTS

Whenever an officer stops a motorist under 725 ILCS 5/107-14 and pat-down searches the person or the person's property, the officer should complete the racial profiling card detailing the searched conducted and reasons for the stop and the search.

500.4 SEIZURE OF ITEMS

Officers who reasonably believe that any certificate of title, registration card, permit, license, registration plate, license plate, disability license plate, parking decal or device, or registration sticker is fictitious, expired, revoked, cancelled, suspended or unlawfully issued shall seize such items for return of the items to the Secretary of State (625 ILCS 5/2-111).

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500.5 HIGH-VISIBILITY VESTS

The Department has provided American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Class II high-visibility vests to increase the visibility of department members who may be exposed to hazards presented by passing traffic, maneuvering or operating vehicles, machinery and equipment (23 CFR 655.601).

Although intended primarily for use while performing traffic related assignments, high-visibility vests should be worn at any time increased visibility would improve the safety or efficiency of the member.

500.5.1 REQUIRED USE

Except when working in a potentially adversarial or confrontational role, such as during vehicle stops, high-visibility vests should be worn at any time it is anticipated that an employee will be exposed to the hazards of approaching traffic or construction and recovery equipment. Examples of when high-visibility vests should be worn include traffic control duties, crash investigations, lane closures, and while at disaster scenes, or anytime high visibility is desirable. When emergency conditions preclude the immediate donning of the vest, officers should retrieve and wear the vest as soon as conditions reasonably permit. Use of the vests shall also be mandatory when directed by a supervisor.

Vests maintained in the investigation units may be used any time a plainclothes officer might benefit from being readily identified as a member of law enforcement.

500.6 VEHICLE CHECKPOINTS

The Patrol Lieutenant should establish guidelines for roadside vehicle checkpoints based upon reasonable criteria (e.g., holidays, traffic injuries or fatalities, community requests). Operational decisions should be made by the supervising officer. Guidelines for checkpoints should include but are not limited to:

- (a) Reasonable location and duration.
- (b) Neutral criteria for stopping motorists.
- (c) Clear indicators of the official nature of the checkpoint.
- (d) Clearly identified officers and equipment.
- (e) Adequate safety precautions.
- (f) Minimal detention of motorists.
- (g) Advance public notice.

500.6.1 CHECKPOINT IMPLEMENTATION

The following procedures should be used by the supervisor assigned to a checkpoint operation when implementing a checkpoint:

- (a) Establish the goal of the checkpoint, (e.g., DUI detection, seatbelt violations.)

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- (b) Establish an operational plan that satisfies the guidelines as established by the Patrol Lieutenant.
- (c) Assign and notify the officers chosen to conduct the checkpoint.
- (d) Conduct an operational briefing prior to activation and communicate the operational plan and checkpoint goal.
- (e) Activate the checkpoint.
- (f) Track all contact and traffic that was not stopped.
- (g) Conduct an after-action debriefing when the checkpoint is concluded.
- (h) Generate an after-action report detailing the contacts, arrests, contraband found, areas for improvement, and successes.