

## Traffic

### 500.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for improving public safety through education and enforcement of traffic-related laws.

### 500.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Plymouth Township Police Department to educate the public on traffic-related issues and to enforce traffic laws. The efforts of the Department will be driven by such factors as the location and/or number of traffic accidents, citizen complaints, traffic volume, traffic conditions and other traffic-related needs. The ultimate goal of traffic law enforcement and education is to increase public safety.

### 500.3 DEPLOYMENT

Enforcement efforts may include such techniques as geographic/temporal assignment of department members and equipment, the establishment of preventive patrols to deal with specific categories of unlawful driving and a variety of educational activities. These activities should incorporate methods that are suitable to the situation; be timed to events, seasons, past traffic problems or locations; and, whenever practicable, be preceded by enforcement activities.

Several factors will be considered in the development of deployment schedules for department members. State and local data on traffic accidents are a valuable resource. Factors for analysis include, but are not limited to:

- Location.
- Time.
- Day.
- Violation factors.
- Requests from the public.
- Construction zones.
- School zones.
- Special events.

Department members assigned to uniformed patrol or traffic enforcement functions will emphasize the enforcement of violations that contribute to traffic accidents, and also will consider the hours and locations where traffic accidents tend to occur. Members will take directed enforcement action on request, and random enforcement action when appropriate. Members should maintain high visibility while working general enforcement, especially in areas where traffic accidents frequently occur.

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#### **500.4 ENFORCEMENT**

Traffic enforcement will be consistent with applicable laws and take into account the degree and severity of the violation committed (75 Pa.C.S. § 6308).

This department does not establish ticket quotas. The number of arrests or citations issued by any member shall not be used as the sole criterion for evaluating member overall performance.

Several methods are effective in the reduction of traffic accidents.

##### **500.4.1 WARNINGS**

Warnings are a non-punitive option that may be considered by the member when circumstances warrant, such as when a minor violation was inadvertent.

##### **500.4.2 CITATIONS**

Citations should be issued when a member believes it is appropriate. When issuing a citation for a traffic violation, it is essential that the rights and requirements imposed on motorists be fully explained. At a minimum, motorists should be provided with a copy of the citation and (Pa.R.Crim.P. 405):

- (a) An explanation of the violation or charge.
- (b) The court appearance procedure, including the date, time and location of the court and the optional or mandatory appearance by the motorist.
- (c) A notice of whether the motorist can enter a plea and pay the fine by mail or at the court.

##### **500.4.3 PHYSICAL ARREST**

Physical arrest can be made on a number of criminal traffic offenses. The authority is limited to out of state residents (75 Pa.C.S. § 6304) and serious criminal traffic offenses. Generally, uniformed officers may arrest without a warrant any nonresident who violates the provisions of the vehicle code in an officer's presence. A physical arrest of a nonresident for a minor traffic violation shall have supervisor approval. A physical arrest should be made, regardless of the residency status of the driver, in the following cases with probable cause:

- (a) Homicide by vehicle (75 Pa.C.S. § 3732).
- (b) Driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol or drugs (75 Pa.C.S. § 3802).
- (c) Felony hit-and-run (75 Pa.C.S. § 3742).

#### **500.5 SUSPENDED OR REVOKED LICENSES**

If an officer contacts a traffic violator who is also driving on a suspended or revoked license, the officer should issue a traffic citation or make an arrest as appropriate (75 Pa.C.S. § 1543).

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#### **500.6 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 or by maneuvering or operating vehicles, machinery and equipment (23 CFR 655.601).

##### **500.6.1 REQUIRED USE**

Except when working in a potentially adversarial or confrontational role, such as during vehicle stops, high-visibility vests should be worn when increased visibility would improve the safety of the department member or when the member will be exposed to the hazards of passing traffic or will be maneuvering or operating vehicles, machinery and equipment.

Examples of when high-visibility vests should be worn include traffic control duties, traffic accident investigations, lane closures and disaster scenes.

When emergency conditions preclude the immediate donning of the vest, members 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.

##### **500.6.2 CARE AND STORAGE**

High-visibility vests shall be maintained in manner that will protect the vest so it will remain in a serviceable condition. Before going into service, each member shall ensure that a serviceable high-visibility vest is available.