

ST. CLOUD POLICE DEPARTMENT
Law Enforcement
Policies and Procedures

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Approval Authority - Title and Signature: Wm. Blair Anderson, Chief of Police	
Reviewed By: Thomas Gjemse, Sergeant	Review Date: 02-12-13

POLICY

The St. Cloud Police Department will aggressively enforce traffic laws in an effort to improve safety in our community and to ultimately reduce the occurrence of traffic crashes, which result in injury or death.

DEFINITIONS

Racial Profiling: The interdiction, stopping, detention, contact or other unequal treatment of any person based on race, ethnicity, gender, or any combination thereof.

Reasonable Suspicion: More than a mere hunch and based on a set of articulable facts or circumstances that cause a reasonable person to believe that an infraction of the law has been committed, is about to be committed, or is in the process of being committed by the person(s) being observed. Reasonable suspicion in traffic enforcement is often based on observations made by the officer in combination with their training, experience, and/or reasonably reliable information from a credible source.

PROCEDURES

A. Traffic Contact Goal

Each officer will strive to achieve a minimum number of two traffic contacts/stops per shift or an average thereof. The traffic contact/stop goal will be a self-initiated activity. The minimum number will be determined by the supervisory personnel.

B. Stopping the Traffic Violator

Officers of the St. Cloud Police Department will set the example in the community while operating their patrol cars and do so in a safe manner and in conformance with Minnesota State Statutes. There are no routine traffic stops and the following guidelines are intended to reduce the risks to the officer, violator and general public.

1. Notify dispatch of the intended location of the stop, license number and/or description of the violator's vehicle.
2. Safely position the patrol car behind the violator's vehicle and illuminate the vehicle when appropriate using spotlights and take down lights.
3. Activate emergency lights to protect the scene of the stop.
4. Conduct the stop in a safe location or direct the violator via the PA to move to a safer location.
5. Approach the violator's vehicle in a safe/alert manner so to avoid any dangers that may come from within the violator's vehicle or the flow of traffic driving by the scene of the stop.

C. Types of Enforcement Actions

The first level of enforcement during routine patrol is officer presence. Reasonable citizens are typically more cautious when uniformed officers are nearby. The more we patrol and are highly visible, the more likely we are to deter traffic crashes and crime, which will in turn reassure the public that we are protecting their interests and ready to provide assistance.

Officers may exercise one of the four options regarding traffic violations:

1. Written Warning
2. Uniform Traffic Ticket.
3. Arrest.
4. Verbal Warning.

D. Racial Profiling

Officers must have a reasonable suspicion to believe the person being stopped has, is, or is about to commit an infraction of the law prior to initiating a traffic stop. Race, ethnicity, gender, religion, political affiliation, or any combination thereof will not be a factor in determining reasonable suspicion for a stop or for determining probable cause for an arrest. The primary factor to consider is whether an observable offense was committed or is about to be committed.

E. Equipment

Only officers that are properly trained and/or certified in the use of traffic enforcement related equipment will be authorized to operate it and shall adhere to the following procedures when utilizing the equipment:

1. Attend training and maintain certifications in traffic enforcement related equipment.
2. Each officer will report any problems they may incur with faulty, defective, damaged or broken equipment to the on-duty supervisor.
3. If any traffic enforcement equipment is found to have a problem that would affect its accuracy and/or reliable operation, it will be taken out of service immediately and repaired or replaced.