

## **500.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The ultimate goal of traffic law enforcement is to reduce traffic collisions, promote public health, safety and the general welfare of the public. This may be achieved through the application of such techniques as geographic/temporal assignment of personnel and equipment and the establishment of preventative patrols to deal with specific categories of unlawful driving behavior. Traffic enforcement techniques are based on collision 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 collision situations but also in terms of traffic-related needs.

## **500.2 TRAFFIC OFFICER DEPLOYMENT**

All officers assigned to patrol or traffic enforcement functions will emphasize enforcement of collision-causing violations during periods of high-collision incidence and at locations of occurrence. All officers will take directed enforcement action on request and random enforcement action when appropriate against violators as a matter of routine. All officers shall maintain high visibility while working general enforcement, especially at high-collision incidence locations.

Other factors to be considered for deployment are citizen requests, construction zones, or special events.

## **500.3 ENFORCEMENT**

Enforcement actions are commensurate with applicable laws and take into account the degree and severity of the violation committed. This department does not establish ticket quotas and the number of citations issued by any officer shall not be used when evaluating officer performance (Minn. Stat. § 169.985; Minn. Stat. § 299D.08). The visibility and quality of an officer's work effort will be commensurate with the philosophy of this policy. Several methods are effective in the reduction of collisions:

### **500.3.1 LIMIT ON ENFORCEMENT ACTION**

Subject to the exceptions set forth below, officers shall not initiate a traffic stop solely for any single, or any combination of, the following offenses:

1. Invalid or expired trailer or motor vehicle registration (Minnesota Statutes, section 168.09);
2. No functioning license plate lamp (Minnesota Statutes, section 169.50, subd. 2.)
3. No operative muffler (Minnesota Statutes, section 169.69.)
4. Exceeding motor vehicle noise rules adopted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (Minnesota Statutes, section 169.693).
5. Objects suspended between the driver and the windshield (Minnesota Statutes, section 169.71, subd. 1.2).

6. Improperly displayed registration sticker (Minnesota Statutes, section 169.79, subd. 8.)
7. Driving with one operative headlight or rear light (Minnesota Statutes, sections 169.49, 169.63, 169.50, subd. 1, 169.55 subd. 1 and 169.57 subd. 1).

### **500.3.2 STOPS FOR OTHER VIOLATIONS**

Officers may issue citations for the offenses listed above if the operator was stopped for another violation. If the operator of the motor vehicle is issued a citation for a different violation, the operator will not also be cited for the violation identified above. Rather, the operator may be given information with regard to the Lights On! Program to the extent available and applicable.

### **500.3.3 ISSUANCE OF CITATIONS BY MAIL OR PLACEMENT ON THE VEHICLE**

Officers may issue citations for the violations identified in section 500.3.1 by U.S. Mail by mailing the citation to the registered address for the vehicle, and if a vehicle is parked and unoccupied, an officer may issue a citation by U.S. Mail or by placing the citation on the windshield of the vehicle.

### **500.3.4 WARNINGS**

Warnings or other non-punitive enforcement actions should be considered in each situation and substituted for arrests or citations when circumstances warrant.

### **500.3.5 TRAFFIC CITATION COURT JURISDICTION**

An officer who issues a traffic citation shall ensure that the citation is properly directed to the court having jurisdiction (Minn. Stat. § 169.91 Subd. 3).

### **500.3.6 PHYSICAL ARREST**

Physical arrest can be made on a number of criminal traffic offenses. These physical arrest cases usually deal with, but are not limited to (Minn. Stat. § 169.91):

- a. Negligent homicide.
- b. Driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs.
- c. Hit-and-run resulting in serious injury or death.
- d. Hit-and-run resulting in damage to any vehicle or property.

## **500.4 HIGH VISIBILITY VEST**

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; Minn. R. 5205.0030).

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.

#### **500.4.1 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, collision investigations, lane closures and while at disaster scenes, or any time 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 plain clothes officer might benefit from being readily identified as an officer.

#### **500.4.2 CASE AND STORAGE OF HIGH VISIBILITY VESTS**

All employees shall be issued a high visibility vest and are responsible for the care and maintenance.

An employee with a damaged or unusable vest shall notify their supervisor as soon as possible to obtain a replacement.

#### **500.5 TRAINING**

All members shall receive annual training on this policy.