

DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER 07-64

OFFICE of the CHIEF OF POLICE
REPLACES/AMENDS: None

DATE: December 11, 2007

VEHICLE PUSH BUMPERS

I. PURPOSE.

The smooth flow of traffic is essential to the proper functioning of the city. As such, members of this command are charged to react and clear traffic obstructions in the quickest, most efficient manner possible. The adoption of vehicle push bumpers on select marked units provide another tool to accomplish this objective. The parameters for when vehicle push bumpers may or may not be used are outlined in the following text.

II. PROCEDURES.

In those instances when an officer assists a motorist in need or encounters a derelict vehicle blocking all or part of a roadway, those officers operating marked police vehicles equipped with a push bumper may push the vehicle out of the traffic lane and onto the shoulder or other protective space.

Should the driver or owner of the vehicle be present on the scene, the officer shall complete a departmental "Waiver of Claim" form (to include the owner/operator's signature) prior to any action being taken. The officer will then enlist the driver to steer the vehicle while same is pushed off the roadway. Passengers will be secured in a safe place prior to attempting to push a broken down or derelict auto.

The officer will activate the overhead visibar and emergency flashers or both during the time they are pushing a vehicle from the roadway.

Should the owner/operator refuse to sign the waiver, or the vehicle be abandoned and unoccupied, the officer will contact a tow service and have the vehicle towed.

In a major emergency, the use of the "Waiver of Claim" form will be eliminated and vehicles will be pushed to the side of the road as necessary.

A. Restrictions

Employees shall not push another vehicle with a police vehicle unless same is equipped with a push bumper.

Employees shall not push a broken down or derelict vehicle further than a reasonable distance (e.g. Just out of a traffic lane to the shoulder, or off an access ramp or overpass).

BY ORDER OF:

THOMAS J. BYRNE
Chief of Police

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