

## **DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER 08-08**

OFFICE of the CHIEF OF POLICE  
REPLACES: General Order 00-05

DATE: July 23, 2008

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### **TRAFFIC DIRECTION AND CONTROL**

#### **I. PURPOSE.**

To establish those traffic direction and control procedures necessary to maintain and expedite the orderly flow of vehicles and pedestrians within the City.

#### **II. DEFINITIONS.**

Traffic Control Device - Signs, signals, markings, and devices placed on, over, or adjacent to a street or highway by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction to regulate, warn, or guide traffic.

Traffic Direction - The management and control of the flow of vehicles and pedestrians as exercised by police officers in accordance with the requirements of public safety.

#### **III. GENERAL DIRECTION AND CONTROL RESPONSIBILITIES.**

All sworn personnel of this department shall be alert for problems which may pose a hindrance or threat to the safe and orderly flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic through the City. Should such a problem occur, it shall be the responsibility of those department members assigned to the Field Operations Bureau to provide traffic direction and control, and initiate corrective action.

##### **A. Accident Scenes**

- 1). Uniformed police officers have the responsibility for the direction and control of traffic at motor vehicle accident scenes.

- 2). Uniformed officers should establish traffic control points to:
  - a. Allow for the ingress-egress of emergency equipment.
  - b. Halt or divert approaching traffic away from, or around, the accident scene.
  - c. Identify and establish alternate traffic routes around the accident scene.
- 3). Officers will notify communications to contact other agencies which may be affected.
- 4). When it becomes necessary to close or restrict the flow of traffic, officers on the scene may utilize flares, barricades, traffic cones, portable stop signs, and/or marked police vehicles as a means of control.

#### B. Fire/Incident Scenes

At the scene of a fire or other major incident, police units shall provide necessary support to fire suppression, rescue, or other official efforts. This responsibility shall include, but not be limited to:

- 1). Consulting with the official in charge to determine their needs.
- 2). Establish a perimeter around the scene to restrict both vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- 3). Allow for the ingress/egress of emergency equipment and personnel.
- 4). Identify alternate traffic routes and divert motor vehicle traffic, as necessary.
- 5). Protect specialized equipment and personnel, with special attention given to fire hoses which may be laid across streets or roadways.

### C. Adverse Road and Weather Conditions

Officers will routinely encounter traffic hazards due to inclement weather, road repair, or ruptures in utility lines. Appropriate action shall be taken to mitigate such problems when they are identified. These actions shall include, but not be limited to:

- 1). Notify communications of the problem and location.
- 2). Request that the appropriate governmental or private agency respond to correct same.
- 3). Request additional police units/personnel, as necessary.
- 4). Close the roadway, or a portion thereof as needed, and divert traffic onto an alternate route.
- 5). Employ traffic control devices as necessary.

### D. Special Events

Officers assigned to special events will be required to control and direct traffic in accordance with the requirements of the event. Streets, alleys, and intersections may be closed, normal traffic flow patterns reversed, and routine commerce disrupted. In such instances, officers may be assigned to static traffic control posts to:

- 1). Allow ingress/egress of emergency equipment, supply vehicles, and other official traffic.
- 2). Ensure the safety of pedestrian traffic.
- 3). Ensure the integrity of the special event perimeter.
- 4). Divert motor vehicles to alternate traffic routes.
- 5). Any other traffic control/direction action as necessary.

## IV. MANUAL TRAFFIC DIRECTION.

Manual direction and control of traffic may be required under the following circumstances:

1. When traffic signals are damaged or malfunction.

2. When intersections or streets are blocked or impeded.
3. When illegally parked or disabled autos obstruct the flow of traffic.
4. When other activities (fire, adverse weather, special events, vehicle accidents, etc.) disrupt the normal flow of traffic.

In such cases, manual direction of traffic will be performed in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. To stop traffic by hand: stand with the shoulders parallel to moving traffic, and raise an arm approximately forty-five degrees above the shoulders with the hand extended and palm facing the traffic to be stopped. This maneuver may be accompanied by a whistle blast to assist in gaining the attention of the approaching drivers.
2. To move traffic by hand: stand with the shoulders parallel to the traffic to be moved, and extend the arm approximately full length at shoulder height toward the traffic. Fingers should be extended and the palm up. Advance the hand sharply in the direction that traffic is to be moved. Rotate the body, and repeat the movement to start traffic from the opposite direction. As before this maneuver may be accompanied by a whistle blast.
3. Whistle utilization should be as follows:
  - a. Single long blast to stop moving traffic.
  - b. Dual short blasts to start stopped traffic.
4. Should traffic direction be required during darkness, hand maneuvers may be performed with a flashlight.

## V. TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES.

Police officers are neither trained nor equipped to initiate traffic signal repairs or adjust the timing cycles. Should a signal problem exist, the patrol officer(s) will be responsible to identify the problem, stabilize the traffic flow, and request the appropriate governmental or private agency respond to repair the signal.

Traffic signals may be placed on flash, if by doing so, the traffic problem will be reduced. However, the officer responsible for such action shall notify his/her immediate supervisor and the communications unit of the act as soon as possible.

Traffic barricades, orange traffic cones, and portable stop signs shall be maintained by the Public Works Department and will be available to department personnel upon request. During normal business hours, officers will generally place such requests through the communications unit. After normal business hours, officers will generally obtain the needed traffic control devices on their own initiative.

When possible, Public Works will be requested to transport the items to the affected area. However, following normal business hours, officers will routinely be required to transport barricades and other traffic control devices in their police units. During special events, Public Works may also be requested to pre-position traffic control devices for anticipated use.

In addition to the preceding, officers will carry flares in their marked patrol vehicles for use as warning/traffic control devices during accident investigations.

#### VI. TRAFFIC VESTS.

Orange and yellow reflective traffic vests have been provided to each sworn officer and parking controller to increase the safety of department personnel in high risk traffic environments. As such, uniformed officers and Parking Control employees shall utilize the traffic vests when investigating traffic accidents, providing traffic control, or performing other traffic-related activities. In addition, in accordance with federal law, department employees will also utilize a reflective traffic vests to perform any activity (except for the issuance of traffic violations) on Interstate I-170 and the Forest Park Parkway. The use of traffic vests is mandatory, except as exempted by the Chief of Police during an area wide emergency or other situation where need may temporarily outstrip available resources.

BY ORDER OF:

THOMAS J. BYRNE  
Chief of Police

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