

CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Title: *SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT* **Procedure: 4.601**

Date Issued:

Revised:

PURPOSE:

To direct police traffic enforcement activity to preselected times, locations and specific types of traffic violations.

POLICY:

Effective police traffic service requires assignment of officers at the locations and times where hazardous or congested conditions may exist. The ultimate goal of the Department's traffic enforcement policy is to reduce crashes and promote voluntary compliance with traffic laws. Selective traffic enforcement is an activity of the Traffic Division and Patrol Division.

PROCEDURE:

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Operational Lieutenant is responsible for the Department's selective traffic enforcement functions. These shall include overall responsibility for analysis of traffic crashes and traffic enforcement activities.

2. Implementation of selective enforcement techniques and procedures is the responsibility of the patrol shift Supervisor. Selective enforcement action will be undertaken in those areas where analysis of traffic crashes and violations indicates, or is based upon complaints or requests from citizens. Patterns of cause and/or sudden increases in the number and severity of crashes or violations are reason for extra enforcement activity at a given location.

3. Speed detection devices (RADAR) will normally be used in the enforcement of speeding laws.

4. All new personnel will receive training in the legal and proper operation of Department radar equipment.

5. The repair and service of radar units shall be the responsibility of the Traffic Division Supervisor. Officers will document any malfunctions or damage to the unit and submit a department memo through the chain of command.

6. The Operational Lieutenant will evaluate the selective traffic enforcement program annually.

OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY

1. Traffic law enforcement is a supplement to regular patrol duty.

2. Officers should be particularly alert for hazardous violations. The emphasis should be on high volume roadways, high crash intersections and locations within the officer's beat, or where complaints and reports indicate the need for special attention.

3. Officers shall take appropriate enforcement action whenever an enforceable violation is detected. This shall include provable violations determined as the result of crash investigations.

4. Officers are encouraged to employ tolerance when:

There is a reasonable possibility of human error in judgment of the officer or the citizen.

There is a reasonable possibility of malfunction of mechanical equipment with no knowledge or intent of the driver.

The content of the particular law which has been violated is not common knowledge.

5. These tolerances shall be uniformly applied for the purpose of affording just treatment to the public.

TRAFFIC ANALYSIS FACTORS

1. Analysis of traffic crashes will include geographic, temporal, and causative factors, such as:

- number of crashes;
- location; and,
- type of violation

2. Data collected on traffic analysis will be distributed to patrol supervisors monthly, for planning appropriate enforcement deployment.

3. The Operational Lieutenant shall maintain traffic enforcement data on a three (3) year experience base for a comparative trend.

ASSIGNING SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

1. Selective enforcement activities will be based upon analysis of the traffic crash data compiled from the traffic crash reports to provide effective countermeasures against the factors contributing to traffic crashes.

2. Supervisors will be responsible for deployment of enforcement units and equipment. Crash location data should influence the deployment of personnel.

3. Deployment will be based on an analysis of traffic crashes and traffic related calls for service covering the most recent three (3) year period.