

CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Title: *ROADSIDE SAFETY CHECKS* **Procedure: 4.617**

Date Issued:

Revised:

PURPOSE:

To promote the safety of persons using public roadways and to provide a continuing deterrent for those who violate statutes contained in the Vehicle Code and Municipal Code with particular emphasis on the following:

Driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs.

Occupant protection (seatbelts/child restraint).

Mandatory insurance

Suspended or revoked driver's license

Unsafe equipment (lighting, tires, brakes, etc.).

Avoidance of undue inconvenience to the public.

The deterrent effect created by the roadside safety check.

DETAIL REQUIREMENTS

1. The Chief of Police or his designee will assign a supervisor to serve as the Checkpoint Commander who will conduct a pre-detail briefing immediately prior to the setup and activation of a checkpoint.

2. The checkpoint site selection will fulfill the following minimum requirements:
Sufficient visibility to oncoming motorists to ensure officer and motorist safety.

Ample space for police and subject vehicles in screening area.

Reduced opportunity for motorists to avoid or escape from the checkpoint.

Sufficient advance warning devices will be in place before activation of the checkpoint to ensure officer and motorist safety.

Uniformed officers and marked police vehicles will be in sufficient quantity and visibility to clearly indicate the presence of legal authority.

POLICY:

It shall be the policy of this department that roadside safety checks be performed professionally and courteously, and with a view towards educating the public about proper driving procedures.

PROCEDURE:

AUTHORITY AND TACTICS

1. The roadside safety check will be conducted in conjunction with the authority granted by statute and case law, and the enforcement of state and local laws will be exercised in good faith.

2. Any tactic used by police officers in a roadside safety check will be in accordance with the following considerations and priorities:

Enhancement of officer and motorist safety.

CHECKPOINT PROCEDURES

1. The checkpoint commander will be responsible for:
establishing target violations;

deploying personnel;

obtaining necessary equipment;
and,

preparing an activity summary and
submitting it to the Chief of Police
through channels.

2. The selection sequence of vehicles to be stopped will be uniformly applied as prescribed. This sequence may only be altered by the checkpoint commander who will document the reason for the alteration.

3. Assigned officers will not have the authority to change the operational plan. Officer discretion will only be applied as designated by the checkpoint commander.

4. The checkpoint commander will be present on scene to guide operations. Should it become necessary to leave the scene, an acting supervisor will be appointed.

5. The checking process must be thorough while causing a minimal delay to motorists. So long as the available data terminals are functioning properly, driver's licenses and registration will be routinely checked for validity.

6. Officers will be particularly vigilant for any signs of motorist impairment. If an officer detects a violation or acquires probable cause to believe an offense has been committed, appropriate enforcement action will be taken.

7. The courteous treatment of motorists by officers will be a high priority.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Roadway traffic will be closely monitored to avoid excessive congestion.

2. Any police agency that assists in the checkpoint operation will be expected to abide by this procedure.

3. Roadside safety checks should be highly publicized to enhance the general deterrent effect of such activities.