Occupant Protection

Directives Manual

National Law Enforcement Challenge

2015 Arlington County Police Department

75 Years of Excellence

517.02 Police Vehicles

A. **General Operating Procedures**

1. When operating a Department vehicle, officers will carry their badge, department identification and shall be armed. Civilian staff operating a Department vehicle will carry their Department identification.

2. While operating a Department vehicle, the police radio will be turned on and employees are expected to remain alert to all radio transmissions. Officers shall use their badge number as a unit designation when making off-duty radio transmissions.

3. Occupants of Department vehicles shall wear seatbelts, unless impractical.

4. Department vehicles shall be secured at all times when not in use.

5. Department vehicles, except special use vehicles as defined in Manual Directive 517.04 *Specialty Vehicles*, shall be equipped with flares.

6. Officers on routine patrol, or otherwise operating in a non-emergency or off-duty status, will obey all applicable traffic laws. All officers are responsible for operating vehicles in a safe manner.

7. Department vehicles shall be operated with due regard for community safety, in a manner prescribed by VA Code Section §46.2-920.

8. A Department vehicle shall not be driven at a speed that would constitute reckless disregard for the safety of persons or property. Officers responding to an emergency shall be particularly cautious when proceeding against a red light or stop sign.

9. An officer shall not push a disabled vehicle from the roadway with a department vehicle.

10. Employees shall make every effort to park their Department vehicle legally. This may not be possible when responding to a call for service. A Department vehicle parked so as to interfere with passing traffic should have the emergency lights activated.

11. Except in an emergency, a Department vehicle will not be operated over terrain which may be expected to damage the vehicle.

541.04 Traffic Enforcement

I. **Policy** – It is the policy and intended purpose of the Department to reduce the frequency and severity of traffic accidents, and to promote a safe, efficient movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

In these regards, the Department shall not render enforcement decisions or engineering recommendations based upon revenue generation or the pursuit of artificial statistical goals and quotas. The Department places a priority on the enforcement of speeding, occupancy protection and the detection of impaired drivers, thus every uniformed officer of the Department shall be expected to participate in traffic enforcement activities, when appropriate, and do so without compensation or reward for the number or types of citations issued.