Herndon Police Department
Speeding - Policy

HERNDON POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER §61.1.1 MANDATES OUR CRASH ANALYSIS AND SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES. HERNDON POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS §61.1.5 AND §61.1.9 REQUIRES ALL DEPARTMENTAL PERSONNEL WITH PATROL RESPONSIBILITIES TO ENFORCE SPEED LAWS THROUGH THE USE OF RADAR AND OTHER SPEED MEASURING DEVICES.

§61.1.1 Selective Traffic Enforcement.

Selective traffic enforcement is an activity of the Field Operations Division. Selective traffic enforcement functions include the following:

A. An annual analysis by the Traffic Section supervisor of traffic collisions. Analysis of traffic collisions will include at a minimum the following factors:
   1. Month, day and hour;
   2. Location, weather and road conditions;
   3. Driver action, to include violations;
   4. Types of vehicles involved.

   This information will be gathered from collision investigation reports submitted to the Records Section. The crime analyst will compile the data for the analysis and provide it to the Traffic Section supervisor for analysis on a monthly basis;

B. An annual analysis by the Traffic Section supervisor of traffic enforcement activities. The traffic complaints received during each month will be reviewed along with the summonses issued to determine if adequate enforcement is being applied to the identified high violation rate locations. The crime analyst shall assist by providing the necessary data for the analysis;

C. The scheduling of selective enforcement in areas where analysis of traffic collisions and violations indicates that special attention is needed. The Traffic Section supervisor shall issue a monthly schedule of selective enforcement locations based on the preceding analysis. The schedule shall be approved by the Field Operations Division commander prior to implementation. Patterns of similar causes or sudden increases in the severity or number of collisions or violations at a specific location are valid criteria for extra enforcement.

D. Selective Enforcement Assignments.
   1. The Traffic Section supervisor shall provide a monthly selective enforcement activities schedule. Selective enforcement sites shall be worked by a traffic enforcement unit when available. If a traffic enforcement unit is not able to monitor a selective enforcement site, squad supervisors shall assign a patrol officer to the assignment.
   2. Selective enforcement activities will be based on an analysis of traffic collision data, citizen complaints and officer knowledge. Enforcement efforts shall be directed toward driving behavior that contributes to collisions. These selective enforcement sites shall not be limited to the enforcement of speeding violations. These sites will be utilized for the enforcement of violations in proportion to the frequency with which they occur in collisions and for responding to traffic-related needs identified in the community.

E. On an annual basis, the Traffic Section supervisor will evaluate the selective enforcement program. This review shall be included in the annual analysis of traffic collisions and of traffic enforcement activities and should ascertain whether the enforcement efforts have met their objectives. A comparison of current accomplishments to past accomplishments shall be included. Upon completion, the report shall be submitted to the Chief of Police through the chain of command.

F. Traffic Enforcement Unit.
All uniformed patrol officers are responsible for the safe flow of traffic throughout the Town; however, officers of the Traffic Enforcement Unit are tasked with this responsibility as their primary objective.

Officers of the Traffic Enforcement Unit are supervised by the Traffic Section supervisor. Specific duties of the Traffic Enforcement Unit will include but are not limited to:

1. Operations of speed measuring devices;
2. Parking control and enforcement;
3. Traffic law enforcement (to include truck safety and weight enforcement);
4. Traffic and speed studies and analysis;
5. Analysis of collision reports and records.

§61.1.5 Enforcement Policy.

A. The Herndon Police Department will strive to provide uniform enforcement action for traffic violations throughout the Town. Sound judgment by all officers in considering the circumstances and conditions at the time of the violation will ensure appropriate action and gain the public confidence in traffic enforcement.

B. The ultimate goal of traffic law enforcement is to achieve voluntary compliance with all traffic laws. To achieve this, the Herndon Police Department will:

1. Actively enforce the law as it pertains to driving while intoxicated. Officers will normally arrest any driver found to be in violation of this law. Arrests will be based on an individual's driving behavior, results of field sobriety tests, and results of blood alcohol tests;
2. Actively enforce the law as it pertains to speeding violations with discretion utilizing warnings and issuing summonses. Generally officers should issue a summons for violations of 10 mph or more over the posted speed limit. Lesser infractions should be issued a warning. Consideration should be given to the weather conditions, traffic volume, pedestrian traffic, and location in conjunction with the correlation of speeding and traffic collisions;
3. Actively enforce the law as it pertains to hazardous traffic violations, including seat belt violations and child restraint violations;
4. Actively enforce the law as it pertains to equipment violations. These shall be enforced when a vehicle is found to be in violation of several equipment requirements, a summons should usually be issued for the most serious violation. This action should be taken even when each violation independently is worthy of only a warning. Single equipment violations shall be enforced based on the seriousness of the offense and officer discretion;

§61.1.9 Speed Measuring Devices/Use of Radar.

A. The Herndon Police Department will utilize radar equipment to:

1. Reduce traffic collisions at specific locations where the cause of the collisions may be attributed to excessive speed;
2. Reduce speeding at specific locations that have been identified through citizen complaints;
3. Reduce speeding at specific locations when identified by officers having knowledge of violations that may cause a hazard.

B. Radar equipment use shall comply with the Code of Virginia, §2.2-1112, and §46.2-882.

1. The following procedures shall apply: 1. Squad supervisors may authorize the use of radar in conjunction with the preceding policy. Supervisors shall periodically monitor the operation of radar for the purpose of ensuring compliance with Department standards;
2. Working radar at the foot of a grade shall not be a standard practice. If complaints are received from citizens or if accidents have occurred which can be attributed to excessive speed, an on-site inspection shall be conducted by a supervisor prior to the use of radar;
3. Radar units shall only be operated by officers that have successfully completed an approved 40-hour radar operator's course. Officers who have not completed an approved course may make radar arrests under the direction of a certified operator;
4. Supervisors shall ensure the use of radar is accomplished without affecting the availability of personnel for minimum patrol needs and services rendered to the community. Under normal circumstances, there will be no more than two units at the radar set;
5. No motorist shall be cited when utilizing radar for violations under 10 mph beyond the posted speed limit. Tolerance levels under the minimum may only be set by the Chief of Police based upon circumstances of a specific location.

C. Radar Equipment.

1. All radar equipment used for enforcement purposes shall meet or exceed DOT/NHTSA standards for traffic radar.
2. The calibration of any speed measuring devices shall be in accordance with Virginia State Code §46.2-882. All radar sets will be taken to the Traffic Section supervisor when in need of service or repair.
3. Any calibration certifications shall be forwarded to the Traffic Section supervisor who will maintain a current and accurate file for court purposes.