Purpose

To establish parameters regarding the use of Department Vehicles.

Definitions

Emergency Equipment – lights and sirens as defined by the Code of Virginia.

Policy (CALEA 41.3.1, 41.3.3)

The Virginia Beach Police Department utilizes a large number of vehicles and specialty equipment; in accordance with the City of Virginia Beach Administrative Directive 5.01 (Fleet Asset Operation.) Department vehicles shall be used only for official business and shall be operated only by persons specifically authorized and trained to operate such vehicles.

Only police vehicles equipped with operational emergency lights and siren will be utilized as emergency response vehicles and for general patrol purposes. All personnel shall wear seat belts when operating any Department vehicle, unless said vehicle is exempt from such laws. All passengers, including prisoners, shall utilize restraint devices unless the vehicle is exempt from such laws. The use of alcohol or illegal drugs while operating a city vehicle is prohibited and grounds for disciplinary action; furthermore, the possession of alcohol or illegal drugs, except in the lawful course of official duties or where a waiver has been granted in advance, is prohibited and grounds for disciplinary action.

Members are responsible for the care and proper operation of the vehicles entrusted to them. Each command is responsible for coordinating the routine maintenance, required inspections and necessary repairs for each vehicle assigned to the command. Additionally, each command is responsible for maintaining adequate inventories of supplies for replenishing the equipment required for the vehicles that are assigned and maintained by the command.

Training

Members who are required to periodically operate Department vehicles are required to successfully complete the Defensive Driving Course offered by the City of Virginia Beach Department of Human Resources.

Sworn members who operate vehicles equipped with emergency equipment shall successfully complete driver's training conducted by Professional Development and Training during the Virginia Beach Police Academy, and periodically during in-service training sessions.

Professional Development and Training shall be responsible for properly documenting any training provided to members of the Department in the operation of vehicles, or specialized equipment,

Purpose

To establish guidelines for the traffic enforcement function of the Virginia Beach Police Department.

Policy

The enforcement of traffic laws as established by the Code of Virginia and the Municipal Code of the City of Virginia Beach is the responsibility of all Virginia Beach Police Officers. Officers are vested with the enforcement of traffic codes for the purpose of gaining voluntary compliance in furtherance of enhancing traffic safety in the City of Virginia Beach.

Enforcement Actions (CALEA 61.1.2 C, 61.1.4, 61.1.6 A, B, C)

Officers will take enforcement action upon the detection of an illegal or potentially hazardous act by persons operating vehicles, bicycles or other conveyances, or pedestrians. Enforcement action may consist of a warning, the issuance of a Virginia Uniform Summons, or in certain circumstances, a physical arrest.

Uniformed officers assigned to the operations division are assigned geographic areas in which they are responsible for providing police services to include the enforcement of traffic laws. Uniformed officers assigned to Special Operations are assigned based on both geographic areas and specialized function. Uniformed officers utilize a variety of strategies to promote traffic safety through traffic law enforcement to include overt proactive visible patrols in marked police vehicles and covert methods via the use of stationary concealed positions and unmarked police vehicles.

Warnings

Officers have the discretion to issue a warning when the officer believes that a warning will achieve the objective of voluntary compliance with the law. The Virginia Beach Police Department does not have a written means for issuing or tracking warnings for traffic violations. Officers are encouraged to note that a warning was issued in the comment section of the case assigned to the traffic stop by the Computer Aided Dispatch System (CADS).

Virginia Uniform Summons

At the discretion of the officer who observes the violation, a Virginia Uniform Summons may be issued to a motorist or a pedestrian for a violation of the traffic code when the officer believes that the issuance will achieve the objective of voluntary compliance with the law. Officers who wish to charge a motorist or a pedestrian shall take the name and address of such person as well as the license number of his motor vehicle and issue a Virginia Uniform Summons for the violation. The issuance of the Virginia Uniform Summons will provide information relating to the charge, the scheduled court date, and instructions for appearing in court or prepayment of fines if applicable. The court date for any issued Virginia Uniform

Speeding Violations (CALEA 61.1.5 C)

Accidents resulting from excessive speeds may cause a great deal of property damage, serious injury or death. The enforcement objective of the Virginia Beach Police Department is to establish and charge speeding violations, which are either too fast for road conditions or in excess of posted speed limits.

Occupant Restraint Violations

The major concern in dealing with this class of violation is that drivers and passengers are properly restrained. This will occur through the use of one of the following:

- seatbelts
- child safety seats
- child booster seats

Many injuries and deaths occur each year as a direct result of failing to be properly restrained. As a result of the departments' commitment to traffic safety, we must recognize the importance of these violations and our role in reducing them. The enforcement objectives of the Virginia Beach Police Department is to establish and charge occupant restraint violations which have been set forth in the State Code.

Other Hazardous Violations (CALEA 61.1.5 D)

In addition to DUI and speeding violations the National Safety Council has identified the following as principal accident causing violations:

- Failure to yield right of way
- Following another vehicle too closely
- Improper turning movements
- Driving on the center-line
- Failure to heed stop signs
- Improper passing
- Disregarding signals

Equipment Violations (CALEA 61.1.5 F)

Although equipment violations may not appear to be as important as the moving violations, many accidents are the direct result of faulty vehicular equipment. As a result of the Departments commitment to traffic safety, we must recognize the significance of these violations and our role in reducing them.

Motor Carrier Safety / Commercial Vehicle Violations (CALEA 61.1.5 G)

The major concern in dealing with this class of violation is that drivers are properly licensed and qualified to safely operate the vehicle and that the vehicle is properly registered, equipped and insured to legally operate upon the highways of the City. Special Operations supports the Motor Carrier Safety Unit, which is available to assist the uniformed patrol officer with the enforcement of codes that are specific to these types of vehicles.

Purpose

To establish selective traffic enforcement policies and practices for the Virginia Beach Police Department.

Policy

The Virginia Beach Police Department is committed to promoting traffic safety to the residents of and visitors to the City of Virginia Beach. This commitment requires the department to work cooperatively with other city, state and federal agencies in promoting traffic safety, and addressing traffic law enforcement needs. In furtherance of this commitment, the Deputy Chief - Operations or his/her designee will formulate and maintain a selective enforcement plan, which will summarize the traffic enforcement priorities of the Virginia Beach Police Department. At a minimum, the Traffic Enforcement Priority Plan will consider or be based on:

- A compilation and review of traffic collisions
- A compilation and review of enforcement activities
- A comparison of collision data and enforcement activities
- Traffic volume and conditions

The plan will be disseminated to the various components of the operations division for action. Such actions should include:

- The implementation of selective enforcement techniques such as:
  - Planned patrols
  - Geographic/temporal assignment of personnel
  - Directed Traffic Patrols both overt and covert
  - Stationary Observation
  - Traffic Safety Checkpoints
- Placement of new or temporary signage
- Use of roadside Dynamic Message Boards

Annually, the Deputy Chief – Operations or his/her designee will evaluate the effectiveness of actions taken in response to the plan. Based on the review of actions, and an annual review of the minimum factors mentioned above, the plan shall be revised and updated annually.

In addition to the Traffic Priority Plan, the Virginia Beach Police Department Office of Planning and Analysis will provide a quarterly statistical summary to the Commanding Officer of Special Operations for presentation to the various organizational components commanding officers at the monthly COMPSTAT meeting. The summary will contain information regarding the location and numbers of crashes, alcohol related crashes, and DUI arrests within the City of Virginia Beach, depicted or controlled by precinct geographical boundaries. From the information presented, Operation Division commanding officers will

direct the efforts of uniformed personnel toward addressing identified areas of need in support of the Traffic Enforcement Priority Plan as depicted above.

The Police Department's Office of Planning and Analysis shall be responsible for compiling an annual report for the Traffic Engineering Division that includes the location of all fatal motor vehicle crashes, and the high incident locations for injury crashes, non-injury crashes, DUI arrests, and traffic summonses. The Traffic Engineering Division will receive a copy of all traffic crash reports on a regular basis from the Records Section of the Services Unit.

There are several committees within the City of Virginia Beach and regionally that involve traffic safety that members of the Department participate in. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A member from each precinct, Special Operations, and the Office of Planning and Analysis shall attend periodic meetings with the Traffic Engineering Division to discuss traffic related matters. The purpose of members attending these meetings will be to relate complaints from the community regarding traffic engineering deficiencies, make recommendations for traffic engineering studies, and to share information regarding collision and enforcement data.