

## Traffic Function and Responsibility

### 500.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The ultimate goal of traffic law enforcement is to reduce traffic collisions. This may be achieved through education programs, coordinating with traffic engineers, and the application of such techniques as geographic/temporal assignment of personnel and equipment and establishing preventive patrols to deal with specific categories of unlawful driving behavior. Traffic enforcement techniques are based on collision data, enforcement activity records, traffic volume and traffic conditions. This Department provides enforcement efforts toward violations, not only in proportion to the frequency of their occurrence in collision situations, but also in terms of traffic-related needs.

### 500.2 TRAFFIC OFFICER DEPLOYMENT

Several factors are considered in the development of deployment schedules for officers of the Vancouver Police Department, to include information provided by data retrieval systems showing traffic collision occurrences and citizen complaints. Some of the factors for analysis include:

- Location
- Time
- Day
- Violation factors

All officers assigned to patrol or traffic enforcement functions will emphasize enforcement of collision-causing violations during high collision hours and at locations of occurrence. All officers will take directed enforcement action on request of a supervisor and random enforcement action when appropriate against violators as a matter of routine. All officers shall maintain high visibility while working in general enforcement, especially at high-collision locations, construction zones, special events, and in response to citizen requests.

### 500.3 ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement actions are commensurate with applicable laws and consider the degree and severity of the violation committed. This Department does not establish ticket quotas and the number of arrests or citations issued by any officer shall not be used as the sole criterion for evaluating an officer's overall performance. The visibility and quality of an officer's work effort will be commensurate with the philosophy of this policy.

#### 500.3.1 WARNINGS

Warnings or other non-punitive enforcement actions may be considered in each situation.

#### 500.3.2 CITATIONS

Citations may be issued when an officer believes it is appropriate. It is essential that officers fully explain the rights and requirements imposed on motorists upon issuance of a citation for a traffic violation. Officers should provide the following information at a minimum:

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- a. Explanation of the violation or charge.
- b. Use the citation to explain how to respond to a notice of infraction.
- c. Provide a court date and time for the offender to appear on criminal traffic citations.

### **500.3.3 ARRESTS FOR TRAFFIC OFFENSES**

Officers may issue a traffic citation for any criminal traffic offense when such violations are committed in an officer's presence or as allowed pursuant to RCW 10.31.100. With limited exceptions, the detention in such cases may not be for a period of time longer than is reasonably necessary to issue and serve a citation for the violator.

For DUI arrests, refer to VPD Policy 514.

### **500.4 SUSPENDED OR REVOKED DRIVERS LICENSES**

If an officer contacts a traffic violator driving on a suspended or revoked license, the officer should issue a traffic citation or arrest as appropriate.

#### **500.4.1 SUSPENDED, REVOKED OR CANCELED LICENSE PLATES**

If an officer contacts a traffic violator operating any vehicle that a computer check confirms to be revoked, suspended or canceled, the officer shall confiscate the license plates. The Department may either recycle or destroy the plates (RCW 46.32.100).