

**Lower Providence Township Police Department
Eagleville, Pennsylvania**

General Order ☒
Special Order ☐
Personnel Order ☐

ORDER NUMBER

418

Subject

Traffic Enforcement

Date of Issue

January 16, 2020

Effective Date

January 16, 2020

Expiration Date

**Until Amended or
Rescinded**

Issued by:

Michael Jackson, Chief of Police

Amends

Rescinds

All Previous Orders

Standard Number:

2.4.1

Distribution

- 1. General Order Manuals**
- 2. Records Manual**
- 3. Reading Verification to all Personnel**

I PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish guidelines for the Department's traffic law enforcement. The primary purpose of traffic law enforcement is to reduce accidents through active patrol and violator contacts.

II POLICY

It is the policy of this department that all members of this department provide a fair and reasonable approach to traffic law enforcement and enforce the laws equally to all.

III REGULATION

1. Enforcement.

- A. Officer discretion on the proper enforcement action to be taken is based on a combination of the officer's training, experience and common sense. Traffic law enforcement should be initiated whenever an officer becomes aware of an act that is unlawful or potentially hazardous.
- B. Enforcement action shall be carried out by all department personnel in a fair, impartial and courteous manner. The officer's action should demonstrate a positive and professional demeanor at all times.
- C. Officers in uniform in a police unit shall, whenever practical, stop every traffic law violator observed and shall take the appropriate enforcement action. Appropriate actions may include the following:

1. Verbal warning - A verbal warning is appropriate when the violator commits an act that may be due to ignorance of the Vehicle Code or township ordinance or in the case of a condition of which the driver may not be aware.
2. Written warning - A written warning may be appropriate for minor violations.
3. Citation – A citation should be issued to violators who jeopardize the safe movement of pedestrian or vehicular traffic; this includes operating unsafe or improperly equipped vehicles and license and registration violations.
4. Custodial arrest – Custodial arrest shall only be made when permissible by law.
5. Traffic Ordinance Violations- An officer may warn or cite an offender for any ordinance violation listed under township code as long as there is probable cause to do so.
- D. Non-uniformed officers operating unmarked patrol vehicles with concealed emergency lights and siren shall not normally make vehicle stops for traffic violations. In situations where failure to act would create unreasonable risks of injury, death, or significant property damage, such personnel shall contact the dispatch center to request a marked patrol unit to make the stop and may, depending upon the urgency of the situation activate emergency lights and siren to make a traffic stop.
- E. Non-uniformed officers operating vehicles not equipped with emergency lights or siren shall not make motor vehicle stops unless there is imminent danger of loss of life should they fail to act. In other less urgent cases that demand attention, officers shall contact the communications center, request that a marked patrol vehicle perform the stop and assist in directing the marked unit to the subject vehicle's location.
2. Parking Enforcement
 - A. All parking regulations will be enforced with reasonableness and impartially in all areas of the township.
 - B. Officers shall enforce parking violations with discretion, taking into account the seriousness of the violation.
 - C. Special attention should be given to the following areas;
 1. handicap parking violations.
 2. fire hydrant/lanes parking violations.
 - D. When vehicles are parked in such a manner as to require their immediate removal, officers shall attempt to locate the owner/operator to afford them the opportunity to move the vehicle. If unsuccessful, the vehicle shall be towed according to department procedures.
3. Procedures
 - A. Issuance of Citations and/ or warning notices:
 1. All citations shall be completed in full and a copy provided to the offender in person whenever possible and/or practical or filed with District Court.
 2. Upon the completion of the work shift, all citations shall be left for dispatch to forward to District Court by no later than the next business day.
 3. All warning notices shall be completed in full and a copy provided to the offender whenever possible and/or practical.
 4. Upon completion of the work shift, all warning notices shall be left for dispatch to file.
 5. All parking tickets shall be completed in full and a copy provided to the offender whenever possible and/or practical.
 6. Upon completion of the work shift, all parking tickets shall be left for dispatch to file.

In all cases, proper reports shall be filed.

Michael Jackson

Michael Jackson
Chief of Police