

500 TRAFFIC FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITY**500.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The goal of traffic law enforcement is to reduce traffic collisions and improve the safety and quality of life for the community through traffic law compliance. This may be achieved through the application of such techniques as geographic/temporal assignment of personnel and equipment and the establishment of preventive patrols to deal with specific categories of unlawful driving behavior. Traffic enforcement techniques are based on crash data, enforcement activity records, traffic volume, traffic conditions and other data. This department provides enforcement efforts, not only in proportion to the frequency of their occurrence in crash 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 Columbia Police Department. 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 traffic laws and address collision-causing violations during those periods and at those locations where the incidence of collisions is increased. As a matter of routine, all officers will take directed enforcement action on request, and random enforcement action when appropriate, against violators (§ 300.075, RSMo). All officers shall maintain high visibility while working general enforcement, especially at high-collision incidence locations.

Other factors to be considered for deployment are citizen requests, construction zones, school zones or special events.

500.3 ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement actions are commensurate with applicable laws and take into account the degree and severity of the violation committed. This department does not establish ticket quotas. The visibility and quality of an officer's work effort will be commensurate with the philosophy of this policy. Several methods are effective in the reduction of collisions.

500.3.1 WARNINGS AND STOPS WITHOUT CITATION OR ARREST

Warnings should be considered in minor traffic infractions and substituted for arrests or citations when circumstances warrant. Circumstances that do not result in a citation or arrest require providing a business card in compliance with the law, as outlined in the Racial/Bias-Based Profiling Policy.

500.3.2 TRAFFIC CITATIONS

Traffic 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 minimum:

1. Explanation of the violation or charge
2. Court appearance procedure, including the optional or mandatory appearance by the motorist
3. Notice of whether the motorist can enter a plea and pay the fine by mail or at the court
4. The court contact information

500.6 HIGH-VISIBILITY VESTS

The Department has provided American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Class II high-visibility vests to reduce the danger to employees who may be exposed to hazards presented by passing traffic, construction vehicles and disaster recovery equipment (23 CFR 634.3).

Although intended primarily for use while performing traffic-related assignments, high-visibility vests should be worn at any time increased visibility would improve the safety or efficiency of the employee.

500.6.1 REQUIRED USE

Except when working in a potentially adversarial or confrontational role, such as during vehicle stops, high-visibility vests should be worn at any time it is anticipated that an employee will be exposed to the hazards of approaching traffic or construction and recovery equipment. Examples of when high-visibility vests should be worn include traffic control duties, crash investigations, lane closures and while at disaster scenes, or anytime high visibility is desirable. When emergency conditions preclude the immediate donning of the vest, officers should retrieve and wear the vest as soon as conditions reasonably permit. Use of the vests shall also be mandatory when directed by a supervisor.

Vests maintained in the investigation units may be used any time a plainclothes officer might benefit from being readily identified as an officer.

500.6.2 CARE AND STORAGE OF HIGH-VISIBILITY VESTS

High-visibility vests shall be maintained by each officer. Before going into service each employee shall ensure a serviceable high-visibility vest is properly stored in the vehicle.

Additional high-visibility vests will be maintained by the Quarter master for replacement of damaged or unserviceable vests.