



Andy Schor, Mayor

Lansing Police Department
Chief Daryl Green
120 West Michigan Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933



Daryl Green, Chief

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To:	LPD Employees
From:	Chief of Police Daryl Green
Date:	July 1, 2020
Re:	New Guidelines for Traffic Stops

Philosophy

Recent research tends to demonstrate that routine traffic stops, and general traffic enforcement can result in disparate outcomes for some members of our community. The Lansing Police Department (LPD) which uses a constitutional policing model, actively works to eliminate bias, implicit or otherwise, in the execution of legitimate and lawful traffic safety management activity that has a goal of improving the safety and quality of life for everyone.

The following guidelines are consistent with LPD Policy 600.2 (Management Analysis of Traffic Stops) which articulates that all traffic stops should be conducted in a bias-free manner. Supervisors will continue to ensure that officers do not engage in discriminatory traffic stops. Furthermore, consistent with MCL 257.750, the LPD does not establish ticket quotas and officers must have a lawful reason coupled with the use of good judgement when making a traffic stop. The following guidelines are applicable to all LPD sworn officers.

Purpose

The intent of following traffic stop guidelines are consistent with our overall constitutional policing model that is focused on protecting the individual constitutional rights of our citizens while eliminating any aspect, inferred or otherwise, of bias-based traffic policing practices. Policing methodology, other than using the constitutional policing model, could damage police legitimacy and improperly disrupt the lives of those that live, visit and work in the City of Lansing.

Definitions

Primary Traffic Violation - Public Safety Related Violations

The LPD encourages and has a strong interest in traffic stops based on **primary violations** that focus on public safety traffic issues. These stops include failure to wear seat belt/child restraints, inoperable headlight/s after dusk hours, no brake lights, expired license plate, speeding, careless and reckless driving, violation of traffic control devices, impaired driving and other unsafe and dangerous driving situations.

Secondary Traffic Violation – Regulatory Violations

The LPD has a reduced interest in defective equipment violations due to their regulatory nature and lack of relationship to traffic safety. Therefore, regulatory violations such as, cracked windshields, loud exhaust, inoperable license plate lamp, cracked taillights, dangling ornaments, and window treatments are deemed **secondary violations**.

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Procedures

Beginning July 2, 2020 officers will no longer initiate traffic stops on drivers for solely secondary violations. Defective equipment violations are deemed secondary violations and will only be enforced if a motorist is stopped for a primary violation. Officers may provide a verbal or written warning for all defective equipment violations.

There is a narrow exception in those rare cases wherein a defective equipment violation (secondary violation) is so severe that it poses a safety threat to the driver and/or other community members. In those cases, the officer can initiate a traffic stop for the secondary violation for public safety purposes and issue a verbal or written warning. The officer must also alert their supervisor to review the traffic stop and ensure it is consistent with these guidelines.

Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN)

During this study, the indiscriminate checking of license plates through the use of LEIN is prohibited without an articulable and non-bias public safety reason.

Defective Equipment Study

After 60-days, the Chief of Police and Police Board of Commissioners will examine data concerning the following guidelines and update LPD Policy 600.2 (Management Analysis of Traffic Stops) with any related or identified best practices and/or additions, deletions or corrections to this Order.

Compliance and Accountability

This internal memorandum is a department Order. As such, violations of these guidelines subject an employee to discipline. Based on the circumstances of a violation, the discipline may include an educational based disciplinary action or any additional or remedial training. Also, severe or continuous violations may result in discipline within or outside the usual and customary disciplinary matrix. Violations of this Order are applicable and enforced by LPD Policy #100.03 (Rules of Conduct) and/or LPD Policy #300.24 (Outside Investigation) if an employee is accused of violating any law that may require criminal investigation. The Office of Internal Affairs and Chief of Police will conduct ongoing and quarterly reviews of the traffic stop data collected from this study and further ensure the data is public.

LPD will forward the following guidelines to the Office of City Attorney and Ingham County Prosecutor's Office.

This order will remain in effect until further notice.

BY ORDER OF:

Daryl Green

Chief Daryl Green