

PATROL

TRAFFIC CONTROL AND DIRECTION

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures and guidelines to be used for traffic control and direction to ensure the safe, orderly, efficient and effective movement of vehicles and pedestrians. This policy also addresses the clothing and equipment that officers will utilize when engaged in traffic control.

Policy Statement: It is the policy of the North Little Rock Police Department to provide a safe and orderly flow of traffic within the City and address traffic deficiencies where needed, as well as provide for special needs in the event of emergency situations.

Summary of Changes:

Procedure:

1 Traffic Complaints

- 1.1 Complaints and suggestions from the general public as well as officers involved in patrol and traffic collision investigations activities may lead to the discovery of traffic engineering deficiencies. All such information should be relayed to the Patrol Division Commanders office. Information received concerning possible traffic engineering deficiencies will be noted on the *Traffic Control Form*. [CALEA 61.3.1a]
- 1.2 The Patrol Division Commander or designee will submit a biennial traffic collision report and traffic enforcement data to Traffic Services for review by the traffic engineering staff. In addition, the Patrol Division Commanders Office will forward to Traffic Services, in writing, all traffic problem information purported to be a result of traffic engineering deficiencies. [CALEA 61.3.1b]

2 Traffic Direction and Control

- 2.1 The incident commander or the officer assigned to the call for service is responsible for traffic direction and control at a traffic collision scene. Reasonable steps should be taken to ensure the scene is protected and that temporary detours, if necessary, are effectively conducted. The use of traffic cones, barricades or requests for additional officers to assist in traffic control are at the discretion and availability of the incident commander or the assigned officer. [CALEA 61.3.2a]
- 2.2 All personnel who may be engaged in traffic control will receive training in uniform hand gestures and signals prior to assignment of any such activities. Police officers normally receive such training at the law enforcement training center and during their probationary period at the Department.
- 2.3 Officers assigned to traffic control at the scene of a critical incident will be under the command of the incident commander or a designated assistant. The primary duty of officers assigned to traffic control and direction at these scenes will be to maintain access to and egress from the scene by emergency service vehicles. They will also serve or assist in crowd control.
- 2.4 Adverse driving conditions may be caused by various situations such as downed power lines or trees, fog, heavy rain or snow, and ice. When officers become aware of such conditions, they should notify the communications center and request the assistance of the appropriate agency to address the condition. Officers should take reasonable steps to warn oncoming motorists and pedestrians of hazardous situations until the hazard has been removed or temporary barricades can be set up. [CALEA 61.3.1b]
- 2.5 With the approval of the on-duty police supervisor, officers are authorized to manually operate traffic control devices under the following circumstances: [CALEA 61.3.2c]
 - 2.5.1 When the malfunction of a traffic control device has created traffic congestion that can only be cleared in a timely manner by manual control of the device.
 - 2.5.2 Upon notification of a special event (usually pre-planned) which may result in congestion that can be reduced by the manual operation of selected traffic control devices.
 - 2.5.3 When authorized to do so by any supervisor during any emergency situation.
- 2.6 Temporary traffic control devices may be used in pre-planned events, emergency situations, or any other traffic hazard which may be reduced by the use of such devices. Temporary traffic devices include, but are not limited to, the use of traffic cones, barricades, stop signs, or detour signs. Officers should advise Communications of the location and times such devices are to be used. [CALEA 61.3.2d]
- 2.7 All Officers directing traffic or performing other duties which require them to perform traffic control, must wear Department authorized reflective clothing at all times. The use of a reflective vest or reversible reflective jacket

are examples of clothing that meet this requirement. Officers will also use the official Department issue whistle to gain the attention of motorists when directing traffic. Shouting, lip whistling, or other such actions to gain motorist attention are not appropriate for traffic direction. [CALEA 61.3.2e]

3 Escorts

- 3.1 The Department may conduct vehicular escorts for special events only when authorized by the Chief of Police or designee. These escorts will be for protective, honorary, or traffic control purposes and will be conducted within posted speed limits and with appropriate safety measures at controlled intersections. [CALEA 61.3.3]
- 3.2 Emergency escorts of civilian vehicles or other emergency vehicles will not be conducted. This should not be construed as preventing an officer from conducting a non-emergency escort to a medical facility to assist a citizen not familiar with the location. [CALEA 61.3.3]

Patrick Thessing
Chief of Police