

General Order E.5 Appendix A: Traffic Law Enforcement, July 2007

STATEMENT OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF PROACTIVE TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT

Traffic law enforcement is important to the overall safety of any community. However, proactive enforcement by police officers should be conducted in a manner that strikes a balance between the right of citizens to enjoy safe streets and the right to be free from unnecessary inconvenience and unreasonably intrusive police conduct. These guiding principles are adopted by the Annapolis Police Department in order to provide a framework that will strike a balance:

- ◆ Traffic laws will be enforced equally and impartially.
- ◆ We will continue to develop partnerships with our community to address traffic safety, crime, neighborhood concerns and other quality of life issues.
- ◆ Experienced and well trained officers can use the routine traffic stop as a tool in the effort to apprehend criminal suspects.
- ◆ In selecting locations for traffic safety assignments, we will concentrate our efforts in areas where there is a high incidence of traffic crashes and/or a high likelihood that criminal suspects may be apprehended.
- ◆ Active collaboration with the news media will be central to our public information efforts.
- ◆ All Department sponsored traffic enforcement training will emphasize the requirement to respect the right of all citizens to be free from unreasonable and unlawful traffic stops, searches and seizures, and other inappropriate police actions.
- ◆ All Department traffic enforcement efforts will be complemented by effective and professional supervisory oversight.
- ◆ Traffic stops will be made when officers have articulable suspicion that the person being stopped has committed a traffic violation or crime.
- ◆ Appropriate enforcement action will always be completed at traffic stops, generally in the form of a warning, citation, or arrest.
- ◆ Once warned or cited, motorists will not be detained beyond the point where there is a reasonable suspicion of further criminal activity.
- ◆ Officers making traffic stops will not do so based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, or socioeconomic status.