

	POLICY & PROCEDURE	SERIES # 113	PAGE 1 OF 2
	SUBJECT		EFFECTIVE DATE
	<b>TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PHILOSOPHY</b>		<b>07/27/86</b>
			OVERSIGHT <b>Operations</b>
DISTRIBUTION <b>ALL MANUALS</b>	AMENDS/SUPERSEDES/CANCELS P&P # 113 dated 10/01/76		

I. PURPOSE:

To set forth the Police Division's philosophy on Traffic Law Enforcement.

II. POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the Division to provide effective traffic enforcement operations so as to prevent and reduce the number and severity of accidents occurring in the city.

III. PHILOSOPHY:

The traffic obligation of any police organization is to prevent accidents. Accidents that cannot be prevented, should be reduced in severity, and those that cannot be either prevented or reduced in severity, should have legal sanctions controlling the violating operators as a deterrent to other violations.

In the Division's effort to provide a viable and effective Selective Enforcement Program, it is essential to have an accurate base of information. The information that is needed will correlate accident and traffic violations with times, locations and causes. This information is obtained mainly from accident reports. Traffic Engineering and Traffic Safety programs are designed around need based information which comes from accident reports and court records. It is a proven fact that the quality and quantity of traffic enforcement directly relates to the reduction of injury accidents, frequency rates and fatal crashes.

Police Officers are required, by law, to report violations of the Motor Vehicle Code of Virginia. One method of reporting violations is through the judicial system. It is through the enforcement process that DMV and the courts become aware of habitual offenders, revocations may be imposed. When a police officer does not place a charge in an accident, it many times leads to more difficult litigation for the parties involved when the civil issue is to be resolved.

The very vast majority of complaints pertaining to police officer misconduct stem from misunderstandings involving accidents that are not charged. If the officer maintains a bearing on the traffic obligations that are placed before him from a legal and moral

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APPROVED:  
CHIEF OF POLICE



posture both, then the question of discretion is placed in it's proper perspective as a most valuable police tool.

It is the Division's policy that it's officers utilize all the resources and tools available to them in order to prevent and/or reduce accidents. Discretion should be used judiciously, and if so done, will be one of the most valuable assets attributable to good traffic enforcement.

