

**TITLE: ROADBLOCKS AND CHECKPOINTS**

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**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines regarding the use of roadblocks and checkpoints by Department personnel.

**DISCUSSION**

There are circumstances that may necessitate the use of roadblocks or checkpoints, including but not limited to the following types:

- A. Fleeing Felon.
  - Routing a fleeing felon away from densely populated areas;
- B. Containment/Isolation
  - Containing or isolating of crime scenes, civil disorders or riots;
- C. Traffic Emergency/Planned Events
  - Limiting or stopping of traffic during emergency/non-emergency situations,
- D. D.U.I.
  - Determining if motorists are under the influence of alcoholic beverages or narcotics.

**POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

**ROADBLOCKS**

**65.1.01** Roadblocks shall not be used when the hazards or risks to the general public exceed the benefits of the roadblock.

**65.1.02** Fleeing Felon

- A. The extreme danger inherent in the use of roadblocks (obstruction of the roadway or portion thereof) mandates that they should be used only after lesser means of traffic control have failed or have been determined to be ineffective.
- B. A field sergeant or other competent authority may authorize the use of a stationary roadblock:
- C. To route a fleeing felon away from densely populated areas. For the purpose of this section, the person pursued must have committed an act in which the use of deadly force would have been justified at the time the decision to pursue is made.
- D. The roadblock shall be established. An escape route for law enforcement officers, the suspect and the public will be provided.
- E. The roadblock shall be immediately discontinued upon accomplishing its goal or if the risks involved are outweighed by public safety.
- F. The Supervisor shall continuously monitor the roadblock to insure that it is fulfilling its function, meeting criteria and is not presenting unnecessary safety risks.

**65.1.03** Containment/Isolation

- A. When necessary to preserve crime scenes, in emergency situations, or in the event of road obstructions, fires, riots, civil disorders, to limit or stop traffic.

**65.1.04** Traffic Emergency/Planned Events

- A. In non-emergency situations such as parades, sporting events, and other planned events involving large gatherings of people or traffic, to limit or stop traffic flow.
- B. Personnel and equipment necessary shall be assembled.
- C. All involved personnel shall be briefed on the purpose of the roadblock, limitations imposed and specific duties to be performed.
- D. The Supervisor shall continuously monitor the roadblock to insure that it is fulfilling its function, meeting criteria and is not presenting unnecessary safety risks.
- E. The supervisor and the Communications Center shall be advised at the time the roadblock is discontinued.

**CHECKPOINTS**

**65.1.12** Driving Under the Influence (DUI) checkpoints will normally be the responsibility of the Special Operations Sergeant. The supervisor will insure that all uniform procedures are followed as required by New Mexico Case Law (Betancourt vs. Las Cruces).

**65.1.13** The location will be published to the public prior to the checkpoint.

**65.1.14** The Supervisor in charge shall insure placement of:

- Signs informing the public of the reason for the checkpoint;
- Cones and/or flares, as needed;
- Barricades and other safety devices required.

**65.1.15** A report will be prepared upon completion to include:

- The name and rank of the supervisor in charge;
- The name and rank of all personnel involved;
- The number of citations issued, categorized, i.e.; number of DL, equipment, registration violations and arrests;
- The sequence or method used for vehicle selection.

**65.1.16** Checkpoint statistical information will be maintained by the Special Operations Sergeant.

**65.1.17** Only uniformed personnel will conduct traffic checkpoints.

**65.1.18** All personnel involved will be briefed by the supervisor in charge, to include but not limited to:

- The purpose of the checkpoint;
- Safety precautions;
- Assignments;
- The planned vehicle stop sequence (the order in which vehicles will be stopped);
- The manner and procedure to be used when contact is made with the public.

**65.1.19** The Supervisor in charge shall organize and correlate the availability of personnel and equipment, to provide for;

- The safety of the public;
- Transportation of arrested persons;
- The towing of vehicles;
- The collection of evidence;
- Breath testing operations;
- Other personnel and equipment as required.

**65.1.20** The Supervisor in charge may temporarily discontinue operations in order to facilitate the safe flow of traffic.

**65.1.21** Officers will:

- Identify themselves and inform the operator of the reason for the stop;
- Adhere to the stopping sequence, unless an enforceable violation occurs;
- Be observant for signs of criminal activity;
- Conduct investigations at the designated location;
- Wear a reflective vest while controlling traffic.

DRAFTED(awm)03/04

APPROVED:   
BEVERLY K. LENNEN  
Chief of Police

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