ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER	APPROVED BY: David R. Hines COLONEL DAVID R. HINES SHERIFF

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT	SERIES: 62
	NUMBER: 1
	EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/1/1996
	REVISION DATE: 3/24/2015

ACCREDITATION STANDARDS: CALEA: 1.1.4, 61.1.2, 61.1.3, 61.1.4, 61.1.5, 61.1.6, 61.1.7, 61.1.8, 61.1.9, 61.1.11, 61.1.12, 82.2.4; VLEPSC: ADM.02.04, OPR.02.02, OPR.07.01, OPR.07.02, OPR.07.03, OPR.07.10.

POLICY

Objectives of traffic law enforcement are to reduce traffic crashes and injuries, and to facilitate the safe and expeditious flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic through voluntary compliance with traffic regulations. The Hanover County Sheriff's Office seeks to achieve this objective through a combination of education and enforcement.

The Sheriff's Office seeks to educate the public regarding traffic regulations through programs aimed at exposing specific problems, and by publishing traffic crash and injury statistics.

Enforcement action will be taken upon detection of an illegal and potentially hazardous act, without regard for such factors as attitude, intent, or excuse. Enforcement action may consist of a warning, summons, or arrest.

Traffic enforcement is one of the many tasks performed by officers, but for violators it is frequently an emotionally traumatic experience. In many cases, this is the only contact that a person has with law enforcement. Officers should strive to make each contact educational and to leave the violators with the impression that the officer has performed a necessary task in a professional manner.

The Sheriff's Office conducts statistical and visual surveys to determine by location, time and day of week which violations are causing crashes. Based upon the information obtained, personnel are deployed to take enforcement action. In addition, when complaints are received regarding a specific traffic problem in a particular area, personnel are assigned to investigate and take appropriate enforcement action.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this administrative order is to prescribe procedures for traffic law enforcement, preventive patrol, proactive enforcement, and relationships with motorists, pedestrians, and the courts.

PROCEDURES

4. Uniform Enforcement Policies for Traffic Law Violations.

The following guidelines for uniform traffic law enforcement actions in routine situations are provided to assist officers in making decisions as to whether or not a traffic summons is warranted.

A. Speed violations. Should be a clearly convictable speed in court. May depend on location of violation (congested area, residential neighborhoods, school zone, etc.).

B. Other hazardous violations. Consider degree of hazard, place, previous crash history of location, current directed patrol emphasis, etc.

C. Equipment violations. With only annual inspections now required of vehicles, consider issuance of summons for any essential equipment defects.

D. Public carrier/commercial vehicle violations. Consider the degree of violation and essential equipment defects when determining enforcement action. A Hanover County Sheriff's Office Commercial Motor Vehicle Certified Inspector may be called upon to assist.

E. Other non-hazardous violations. Consider warning unless repetitive or flagrant.

F. Multiple violations. May cite all if deemed necessary normally pick the most serious violation and warn on others.

G. Newly enacted laws and/or regulations. Normally, a reasonable period of time is established during which only warnings will be given. Thereafter, officer should use discretion.

H. DUI. See paragraphs 12 and 13, following.

I. Occupant Protection - See paragraph 18, following.

5. Traffic Law Enforcement Practices

a. Normal traffic enforcement involves visible traffic patrol by officers who

observe and handle traffic violations during the performance of their normal duties.

i. Area patrol involves traffic enforcement within the officer's assigned area of responsibility (zones).

ii. Line patrol involves traffic enforcement along and concentrating on a particular section of roadway (Example: Route 360, 301, etc.).

iii. Directed patrol instructions can specify enforcement efforts in an area, on a line patrol, or at a specific location, depending on the nature of the hazard/violation being concentrated on.

b. Stationary observation, either covert or overt, may be used as a technique to make observations about the flow of traffic at a particular location. Officers are encouraged, when completing reports or doing other activities which will keep them out of service for a short while, to park their patrol vehicles in a conspicuous location, where just the presence of the vehicle will serve to remind the other drivers of the need for compliance with traffic laws. Enforcement which requires the use of a covert location is less well accepted by the motoring public, but may, at times, be the only way to tackle a particular problem.