



Policy 1502

Subject	
HIGH VISIBILITY PATROL	
Date Published	Page
8 February 2017	1 of 1

By Order of the Police Commissioner

POLICY

1. **Crime Reduction.** The policy of the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) is to deploy officers using patrol tactics that promote high visibility and accessibility so as to combat crime and increase the effectiveness of police presence within the community.
2. **Community Engagement.** The BPD strives to maximize its visibility and alert citizens of police presence so that police patrol units are readily recognizable in the event immediate assistance is needed.

GENERAL

This policy communicates procedures members shall follow when operating patrol vehicles equipped with an emergency light bar.

REQUIRED ACTION

Member

Members operating a patrol unit equipped with an emergency light bar shall activate the cruise lights (solid, non-flashing lights) at all times. This includes while responding to routine calls for service, while on routine patrol, when stationary, etc. Members operating a patrol unit equipped with an emergency light bar without the cruise light feature are exempt from this requirement.

EXCEPTION: A very limited exception shall be granted when a stealthy response is needed to protect the safety of the member or others, and/or to apprehend a suspect. Immediately re-activate cruise lights when safe to do so and be prepared to explain to a supervisor why it was necessary to deactivate cruise lights in any given situation.

Supervisor

Ensure subordinates adhere to this policy at all times unless specific circumstances make this an unsafe measure or prevents approved covert operations.

COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

This policy is effective on the date listed herein. Each employee is responsible for complying with the contents of this policy.