

TRAFFIC PATROL TECHNIQUES AND STRATEGIES

1. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines for visible traffic patrol, use of unmarked patrol vehicles and off-street observation.
2. **POLICY:** It shall be the policy of the Huntsville Police Department to utilize strategies and tactics for traffic law enforcement consistent with the nature of the violation and its potential to interfere with the free and safe flow of traffic.
3. **SCOPE:** This directive is applicable to all sworn personnel of the Huntsville Police Department.
4. **RESPONSIBILITY:** It shall be the responsibility of all sworn members of the Huntsville Police Department to read and comply with this written directive.
5. **PATROL TECHNIQUES:** The most effective deterrent to traffic law violations is visible patrol in a marked vehicle. Officers shall operate patrol vehicles in accordance with existing laws and in such a manner as to demonstrate exemplary driving behavior.
6. **PATROL TACTICS:** Traffic patrol may involve one or more of the following tactics and strategies.
 - A. **LINE PATROL:** Patrol between two specific points on a given street.
 - B. **AREA PATROL:** Moving patrol within a given area.
 - C. **STATIONARY TRAFFIC OBSERVATION:**
 1. **TRAFFIC SAFETY CHECKPOINTS:** Traffic safety checkpoints will be utilized by the Huntsville Police Department to deter and apprehend impaired drivers. Traffic safety checkpoints shall be utilized in accordance with the Huntsville Police Department written directive concerning safety checkpoints.
 2. **VISIBLE STATIONARY TRAFFIC OBSERVATION:** In those areas where stationary observation is necessary to maximize the effectiveness of enforcement efforts, officers should park in a conspicuous location and in such a manner that traffic flow is not impeded.
 3. **CONCEALED STATIONARY TRAFFIC OBSERVATION:** Officers shall not use fully concealed traffic observation. This will avoid the appearance of a “speed trap”, in the interest of maintaining a posture of prevention as opposed to apprehension.
 - D. **UNMARKED/UNCONVENTIONAL VEHICLES:** Unmarked/unconventional vehicles may be used for traffic enforcement during the course of routine patrol duties. Vehicles

used in this manner shall be equipped with emergency lights and siren. Traffic enforcement conducted in unmarked or unconventional vehicles shall be in accordance with the Huntsville Police Department written directive concerning unmarked unit traffic enforcement.