

	PARADISE VALLEY POLICE GENERAL ORDER Traffic Enforcement	Order Number
		61.1 Date 01-19-17

61.1 Traffic Enforcement

- A. Enforcement of traffic laws is the responsibility of all patrol *officers* and is considered one of an *officer's* routine duties while on patrol. Traffic enforcement is intended to encourage compliance with traffic laws, prevent accidents and ensure the smooth flow of traffic.
- B. *Officers* are required to render assistance to motorists as *may* be necessary. This *may* include answering questions, providing directions, assisting stranded motorists in obtaining assistance and other such actions.
- C. Traffic *stops* have been and continue to be high-risk contacts for police *officers*. *Officers must* remain alert when approaching a *stopped* vehicle and *must* exercise appropriate tactics and *officer* safety practices. When an *officer* has articulable facts to believe that the occupant of a vehicle presents a threat to the *officer*, the vehicle *stop should* be handled as a high-risk vehicle *stop*, which *should* be performed consistent with the training on high-risk vehicle *stops*.
- D. For their own safety, *officers should* complete a vehicle license plate check prior to stopping and/or approaching a vehicle. *Officers shall* advise Communications of the vehicle's license plate and the location of the *stop* prior to leaving their vehicle. *Officers should*, when possible, have the driver pull off of the roadway, position the *officer's* vehicle safely and approach the *stopped* vehicle from the right side.
- E. *Officers will* maintain a professional demeanor during all contacts with members of the public, including those persons *stopped* for traffic violations. *Officers shall* advise the driver of the reason for the *stop*, obtain the required information and issue whatever citation or written warning is, in the *officer's* discretion, appropriate.
- F. *Officers may* direct the violator to remain in or return to the vehicle, or to get out of the vehicle, as the *officer* believes appropriate. If the person refuses to obey the *officer*, the *officer may* use reasonable force to enforce compliance with the *officer's* directions.
- G. *Officers shall* maintain visual contact with the vehicle and its occupants.