

# THE RALEIGH POLICE DEPARTMENT

**1109-25**

## VEHICLE CHECKING STATIONS

### PURPOSE

To establish uniform procedures related to fixed checking stations.

### VALUES REFLECTED

This directive reflects our values of *Service and Integrity*. We will engage in preventive and proactive traffic enforcement activity in a fair, impartial, professional and courteous manner to earn community confidence and support, to promote the safety of the community and to gain voluntary compliance with motor vehicle law.

### UNITS AFFECTED

All Divisions / All Personnel

### REFERENCES/FORMS

N.C.G.S. 20-16.3A Checking Stations and Roadblocks  
DOI 1109-10 "Traffic Enforcement"  
DOI 1109-11 "Traffic Investigations"  
Attachment A: "Checking Station Authorization Form"

May be Released to the Public

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Effective Date: 10-06-14  
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Chief of Police

Supersedes: 08-18-08  
Approved By: Ruffin Hall  
City Manager

## **AUTHORIZED CHECKING STATIONS**

A fixed checking station may be utilized as allowed by and under the provisions of the North Carolina Constitution, the United States Constitution and state law. Authorized purposes include: checks to determine compliance with motor vehicle law; informational checks; and emergency checks likely to result in the apprehension of a suspect who poses a danger to life or the rescue of a hostage or abducted person.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL CHECKING STATIONS**

The site for every checking station shall be selected with due regard for the safety of motorists and the officers operating the checking station. Sufficient distance must be provided to allow a motorist, traveling at the speed limit, to stop his/her vehicle in a normal manner under the existing conditions. All checking stations will be conducted with at least four uniformed officers and one supervisor, of sergeant rank or higher, present and at least one marked police vehicle equipped with blue lights.

All checking stations shall be marked by signs and/or activated emergency lights, marked police vehicles parked in conspicuous locations, or other ways to ensure that motorists are on notice that a checking station is being conducted.

Blue lights, on at least one marked police vehicle, shall be in operation at all times while a checking station is being conducted.

Each checking station authorization form will designate, in advance, the pattern for stopping vehicles. Individual officers working at a checking station will not have discretion in deciding which vehicle(s) to stop. All officers involved in a checkpoint will be assigned to this duty and must maintain contact with ECC. Officers conducting a checkpoint must wear reflective traffic safety vests at all times. The officer in charge will notify ECC and the Watch Commander prior to beginning the checkpoint and when the operation of the checkpoint has concluded.

In accordance with General Statute 114-10.01, any officer performing a traffic stop shall complete a Racial Profile Form. This form will be completed by the officer prior to the end of the officer's shift.

When working a checking station, officers issuing verbal warnings, written warnings, or uniform traffic citations, making physical arrests, or conducting searches will be required to complete a Racial Profile Form. For the purposes of generating an electronic Racial Profile Form, officers are required to self-initiate a traffic stop for each enforcement action taken. The Racial Profile Form requires the officer to submit a "purpose" for the stop. Officers will indicate "Checkpoint" as the reason for the stop. Officers participating in checkpoints outside their jurisdiction should use "000" in lieu of the beat number.

## **CHECKING STATIONS FOR MOTOR VEHICLE LAW COMPLIANCE**

All standard checking stations conducted for determining compliance with motor vehicle law shall be approved in writing by a Captain, or their designee, utilizing a Checking Station Authorization form.

The authorization form will designate the purpose, location and approximate time of the operation of the checking station. The placement of the checking station should be random or statistically indicated. Supervisors shall avoid placing checking stations repeatedly in the same location or proximity.

The authorization form will designate whether drivers shall be asked to produce a driver's license, registration or insurance information. Officers working the checking station will have no discretion to deviate from the designation unless there is reasonable suspicion to investigate further.

If an officer determines that there is reasonable suspicion to believe that a driver or other vehicle occupant has violated a provision of NCGS Chapter 20 or other laws, then the officer may detain the driver or occupant for a reasonable period of time in order to investigate further.

Regardless of the designated purpose of the checking station, the operator of any vehicle stopped at a checking station may be requested to submit to an alcohol screening test under GS 20-16.3 if during the course of the stop the officer determines the driver had previously consumed alcohol or has an open container of alcoholic beverage in the vehicle. The officer will consider the results of the alcohol screening test, or the driver's refusal, to determine if there is reasonable suspicion to investigate further.

The authorization form will designate whether a checking station is being operated under another agency's policy.

Specific written directions may be provided for a particular checking station. Any additional directions must be approved by the supervisor in charge of the checking station, attached to the Checking Station Authorization form, and considered additional policy for that checking station.

### **INFORMATIONAL CHECKING STATION**

An informational checking station may be conducted for the purpose of providing information to motorists and for the purpose of seeking assistance from motorists regarding crime.

A supervisor shall approve an informational checking station utilizing the Checking Station Authorization form to designate the purpose, location and approximate time of operation.

Because an informational checking station is not designed to determine compliance with motor vehicle law, the driver will not be asked to produce a driver's license, registration or insurance information. If, however, during the course of the stop, an officer determines that there is reasonable suspicion to believe that the driver or other occupant has violated a provision of the motor vehicle law or any other provision of law, then the officer may detain the driver or occupant for a reasonable period of time for the purpose of investigation. If at any time during the stop an officer determines that the driver has previously consumed alcohol or has an open container of alcohol in the vehicle then the officer may request the driver to submit to an alcohol screening test.

### **EMERGENCY CHECKING STATION**

The Chief or designee may approve an emergency checking station when it is determined that it may likely result in the apprehension of a suspect who poses a danger to life or property or to the rescue of a hostage or abducted person. The authorization does not have to be in writing but must otherwise be conducted pursuant to this procedure.

### **MULTI-AGENCY CHECKING STATION**

Checking stations involving other law enforcement agencies must be approved by the Chief, or his/her designee, and conducted pursuant to the provisions of this procedure or the regulations of another participating agency as designated.

### **DISPOSITION OF COMPLETED CHECKING STATION AUTHORIZATION FORMS**

Completed Checking Station Authorization forms will be maintained by the Records Division of the Raleigh Police Department.

## RALEIGH POLICE DEPARTMENT CHECKING STATION AUTHORIZATION

Vehicle Checking Stations shall be operated pursuant to DOI 1109-25 and NCGS 20-16.3A.

Officers are authorized to conduct a checking station on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ as follows:  
(Date) (Time)

### Primary Purpose:

<input type="checkbox"/> DWI	<input type="checkbox"/> Driver's License	<input type="checkbox"/> Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> Seatbelt	<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> Information Seeking
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### Location (to be random or statistically indicated):

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### Primary Vehicle Stop Pattern:

<input type="checkbox"/> All vehicles
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Neutral Pattern (describe):

### Officers shall ask the driver of every vehicle for the following:

<input type="checkbox"/> Driver's License	<input type="checkbox"/> Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance
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(At an information only checking station, officers will not request the above information unless there is reasonable suspicion to believe criminal activity is occurring.)

### Checking Station being conducted pursuant to policy of another LEO agency?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Agency Name:

### Additional Specific Checking Station Instructions

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorizing Supervisor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
On Site Supervisor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date