SPEED MEASRUING DEVICES

new: ✓ **rescinds: 47.4** ✓ **amends: All previous**	**cross-reference:**
effective date: October 1st, 2019 / **amend/update date:** October, 2023	**accreditation standards:** NYSLEAP Standard(s): 47.4

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is to establish and describe the policies, procedures, and specific requirements for operating RADAR/LIDAR equipment owned or authorized by the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office.

II. POLICY

A. Only Office issued RADAR/LIDAR units shall be utilized for traffic speed enforcement.

B. Only New York State certified Doppler RADAR/LIDAR operators will be allowed to utilize office issued RADAR/LIDAR units for traffic speed enforcement.

C. All enforcement shall be conducted in compliance with New York State Vehicle and Traffic section 1180.

III. DEFINITIONS

LIDAR: Light Detection and Ranging. A self-contained transmitter/receiver using light waves (Laser) to detect the speed of moving vehicles.

RADAR: Radio Detecting and Ranging. A self-contained transmitter/receiver using microwaves to detect the speed of moving vehicles.

IV. QUALIFICATIONS

A. Office personnel who use RADAR/LIDAR equipment must be trained and certified prior to issuing citations based on RADAR/LIDAR. Certifications have no expiration date.

1. The Office will conduct in-service training in RADAR/LIDAR equipment and enforcement techniques as needed.

V. PROCEDURES

A. Speed Enforcement

1. Officers who are RADAR/LIDAR certified shall be permitted to conduct RADAR/LIDAR traffic speed enforcement in compliance with their certification only when the following conditions have been met:

   - A pre-use inspection, calibration and test is completed by the officer using the unit PRIOR to enforcement action and notated on the Special Detail Tracking Report; and
   - Conditions for safe operation are satisfactory as per the training guidelines established in the basic RADAR/LIDAR operator's course.

2. Speed enforcement operations shall include covert and overt observation of violations. Covert involves concealing the patrol vehicle from being viewed by violators on the roadway. Overt observation involves the conspicuous positioning of the police vehicle in such a manner that is readily visible to violators.

3. Stationary enforcement should take place in areas identified as high violation areas, and all factors must be considered before setting up a stationary RADAR/LIDAR detail. These factors include:

   - Pedestrian traffic;
   - Time of day;
   - Character of roadway;
   - Community complaints;
   - Ability to establish tracking history of vehicles: and
   - Police vehicles are not creating a traffic or safety hazard and are in a position to easily and safely enter the roadway to initiate a traffic stop, if necessary.

3. While utilizing moving radar, the antenna shall be aimed straight ahead and level horizontally. When taking enforcement action, the officer should verify that the radar patrol speed agrees with the patrol vehicles speedometer.

4. All traffic enforcement shall be conducted in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth in *G.O. 800 Traffic Enforcement & Uniform Traffic Ticket Procedures.*

VI. MAINTENANCE & CALIBRATION OF RADAR/LIDAR EQUIPMENT

A. Maintenance of office RADAR/LIDAR equipment shall be the responsibility of the Fleet Manager or another person so trained and appointed by the Sheriff.

B. All maintenance shall follow guidelines set forth by the Bureau of Municipal Police.

C. All problems with RADAR/LIDAR shall be immediately reported to the Fleet Manager for repair.

D. No unit that is not functioning properly shall be utilized for speed enforcement.

E. The Fleet Manager shall inspect the RADAR/LIDAR equipment on a regular basis to ensure operability. The RADAR/LIDAR units and the tuning forks shall be certified annually.

F. All records, logs and calibration sheets will be maintained properly.

By Order Of

Derek Osborne
Sheriff