

Traffic Function and Responsibility

500.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for improving public safety through education and enforcement of traffic-related laws.

[Reno Police Department Procedures Manual: 503.1 PROCEDURES](#)

500.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Reno Police Department to educate the public on traffic-related issues and to enforce traffic laws. The efforts of the Department will be driven by such factors as the location and/or number of traffic crashes, citizen complaints, traffic volume, traffic conditions, and other traffic-related needs. The ultimate goal of traffic law enforcement and education is to increase public safety.

500.3 DEPLOYMENT

Enforcement efforts may include such techniques as geographic assignment of department members and equipment, the establishment of preventive patrols to deal with specific categories of unlawful driving, and a variety of educational activities. These activities should incorporate methods that are suitable to the situation; timed to events, seasons, past traffic problems, or locations; and, whenever practicable, preceded by enforcement activities.

Several factors will be considered in the development of deployment schedules for department members. State and local data on traffic crashes are a valuable resource. Factors for analysis include but are not limited to:

- Location.
- Time.
- Day.
- Violation factors.
- Requests from the public.
- Construction zones.
- School zones.
- Special events.

Department members assigned to uniformed patrol or traffic enforcement functions will emphasize the enforcement of violations that contribute to traffic crashes, and also will consider the hours and locations where traffic crashes tend to occur. Members will take directed enforcement action on request, and random enforcement action when appropriate.

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500.4 ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement actions are commensurate with applicable laws and take into account the degree and severity of the violation committed. This department does not establish ticket quotas and the number of arrests or citations issued by any officer shall not be used as the sole criterion for evaluating officer overall performance (NRS 289.035).

500.4.1 REFUSAL TO SIGN TRAFFIC CITATION

If a person refuses to sign a copy of the traffic citation but physically receives a copy of the citation delivered by the officer, the officer shall not take the person into physical custody for the violation (NRS 484A.630).

500.4.2 MAGISTRATE APPEARANCE

Traffic violators shall be taken without unnecessary delay before the proper magistrate when the person (NRS 484A.720):

- (a) Demands an immediate appearance before the magistrate.
- (b) Fails to furnish sufficient evidence of identity.

500.5 ARRESTS FOR TRAFFIC-RELATED MISDEMEANORS

Physical arrests may be made on a number of criminal traffic offenses as outlined in NRS 484A.710. If an officer has reasonable cause to believe a traffic violator has committed a non-felony traffic offense, the officer shall issue a traffic citation unless the violation constitutes a repeat offense or a prohibited offense (as defined in NRS 484A.730), in which case the officer has discretion to issue a traffic citation or take the person without unnecessary delay before the proper magistrate (NRS 484A.730).

500.6 HIGH-VISIBILITY VESTS

The Department has provided American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Class II high-visibility vests to increase the visibility of department members who may be exposed to hazards presented by passing traffic, or by maneuvering or operating vehicles, machinery, and equipment (23 CFR 655.601).

Although intended primarily for use while performing traffic related assignments, high-visibility vests should be worn at any time increased visibility would improve the safety or efficiency of the member.

500.6.1 REQUIRED USE

Except when working in a potentially adversarial or confrontational role, such as during vehicle stops, high-visibility vests should be worn when increased visibility would improve safety of the department member or when the member will be exposed to the hazards of passing traffic or will be maneuvering or operating vehicles, machinery, and equipment.

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Examples of when high-visibility vests should be worn include traffic control duties, crash investigations, lane closures, and disaster scenes.

When emergency conditions preclude the immediate donning of the vest, members should retrieve and wear the vest as soon as conditions reasonably permit.

Use of the vests shall also be mandatory when directed by a supervisor.