

PALM BEACH GARDENS POLICE DEPARTMENT

FELONY VEHICLE STOPS

POLICY AND PROCEDURE 4.2.1.26

Effective Date :

09/15/94

Accreditation Standards:

CALEA

CFA

Review Date:

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PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for felony vehicle stops.

SCOPE: All Sworn Officers/Majors/Supervisors

REVIEW RESPONSIBILITY: Patrol Operations Bureau Major

POLICY: The intent of this procedure is to plan in a general outline, the proper procedures for a felony vehicle stop, before any action is taken. By following this procedure it will minimize the risk to officers, innocent bystanders and suspects.

1. FELONY VEHICLE STOPS

- a. Felony vehicle stops shall be conducted by distinctively marked patrol cars, if at all possible.
- b. The officer initially observing the vehicle or suspect is in charge of conducting the stop. An unmarked unit should not be the primary unit in a felony stop unless supported by marked units. The only exception to this would be for narcotic unit vehicles.
- c. Secondary units shall be called in to assist with the stop by request of the primary unit, or designated by the supervisor to assist. Secondary (back-up) units may be either marked or unmarked vehicles.

2. INITIAL OBSERVATION OF VEHICLE(S):

- a. When an officer first observes a vehicle that is occupied by a suspected felon, this unit will immediately report to the dispatcher the following descriptions:
 - i. Color of vehicle.
 - ii. Year of vehicle.
 - iii. Make of vehicle.
 - iv. Body style.
 - v. License number and state.
 - vi. Location and direction.
- b. Unless absolutely essential to prevent escape, a one-man unit will not attempt a vehicle stop until back-up arrives. Until a back-up unit joins the pursuit, the primary unit will broadcast the following:
 - i. Direction of traffic.
 - ii. Speed of travel.
 - iii. Number of occupants.
 - iv. Unusual activity.
 - v. Intended stopping site.

- vi. Number of secondary units required.
- vii. Reason for stop.
- c. The back-up unit should take over radio traffic when possible, to allow the pursuing unit to concentrate on the pursuit.
- d. Prior to the stop, the primary unit will have completed all essential radio traffic and the secondary units assigned and in position.
 - i. All units involved in the stop will be sure of the reason for the stop and their assignments.
 - ii. Any questions should be clarified prior to initiating the stop.

3. SITE CHOICE FOR THE STOP:

- a. A site shall be chosen that provides the greatest advantage to the officer, including:
 - i. Familiarity of site.
 - ii. Maneuverability.
 - iii. Lighting.
 - iv. Minimum escape potential.
 - v. Traffic flow.
 - vi. Safety of bystanders.
 - vii. Safety of officers.
- b. The primary unit will direct the suspect vehicle to the exact location desired, either by voice command or utilization of public address system.
- c. The primary unit should position the vehicle behind the suspect's vehicle with consideration to maximum protection of the officer and maximum visibility of the suspect(s). Exact positioning of the primary unit must be determined by individual circumstances (i.e., traffic flow, etc.). All officers shall be familiar with the several acceptable positioning method and/or tactics. (As taught by the department).
- d. Primary officer's role -The officer in charge of the felony stop will be the primary (or control) unit. The control officer only will issue the verbal commands to any and all suspects. This will lessen the likelihood of any conflicting commands that might confuse or cause unexpected movement.

4. GLOSSARY:

Felony Vehicle Stops -The stopping of a vehicle when the officer has advance knowledge or reasonable cause to believe the vehicle contains a felony suspect.


INDEX AS:

- FELONY VEHICLE STOPS

RESPONSIBILITY INDEX

- MAJORS
- SERGEANTS
- OFFICERS

DRAFTED: 06-15-1994 FILED: 4.2.1.26.pdf

APPROVED:  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 60%;"> <p>_____ Stephen J. Stepp Chief of Police</p> </div> <div style="width: 35%; text-align: center;"> <p><u>03/10/2003</u> Date</p> </div> </div>	
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