



<b>FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>    <b>GENERAL ORDER</b>	<b>SUBJECT:</b> <b>NORMAL VEHICLE OPERATIONS</b>		<b>NUMBER:</b> <b>502.0</b>
	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> <b>January 1, 2019</b>	<b>REVIEW:</b> <b>December 2022</b>	
	<b>TOPIC:</b> <b>PURPOSE AND POLICY</b>		
<b>RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
<b>ACCREDITATION STANDARDS</b>	<b>CALEA:</b> Not Applicable	<b>VLEPSC:</b> Not Applicable	

I. PURPOSE

This General Order series is issued for delineating policy, providing guidelines, and establishing rules governing the normal driving of County-owned police vehicles and Department-leased vehicles.


II. POLICY

The safety of all people is of paramount importance in the operation of County-owned police vehicles or Department-leased vehicle. It is the policy of the Fairfax County Police Department that all departmental employees, while using normal driving, will operate County-owned police vehicles and Department-leased vehicles within the limits of state law and Fairfax County ordinances.

<b>FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>    <b>GENERAL ORDER</b>	SUBJECT: <b>NORMAL VEHICLE OPERATIONS</b>		NUMBER: <b>502.1</b>
	EFFECTIVE DATE: <b>January 1, 2019</b>	REVIEW: <b>December 2022</b>	
	TOPIC: <b>DEFINITIONS</b>		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: Not Applicable	VLEPSC: Not Applicable	

I. DEFINITIONS


- A. Normal Driving: That driving which relates to the maintenance of vehicle speed concurrent with the normal flow of traffic, the obedience to motor vehicle laws and requirements of posted vehicular control signs, and the practice of being a courteous, responsible driver.

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	EFFECTIVE DATE: <p style="text-align: center;">January 1, 2019</p>	REVIEW: <p style="text-align: center;">December 2022</p>	
	TOPIC: <p style="text-align: center;"><b>GENERAL GUIDELINES</b></p>		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41.2.1	VLEPSC: OPR.01.01	

I. GENERAL GUIDELINES


Police response must, of necessity, be governed by the nature of the occurrence, the amount of information a caller or complainant provides, and the credibility of that information.

During normal day-to-day police operations, many calls are received from individuals that concern mostly matters of routine services and complaints. In the majority of these calls, the situation reported is neither urgent nor of an emergency nature; hence, an officer responding to such an assignment would not be justified operating a police vehicle in a manner other than that defined as normal driving.


<b>FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>    <b>GENERAL ORDER</b>	SUBJECT: <b>NORMAL VEHICLE OPERATIONS</b>		NUMBER: <b>502.3</b>
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	TOPIC: <b>NORMAL VEHICLE OPERATIONS</b>		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY		<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41.3.1, 41.3.3, 61.3.2  VLEPSC: OPR.01.04, OPR.01.06, OPR.07.08		

I. NORMAL DRIVING

- A. During normal driving of County-owned police vehicles and Department-leased vehicles, all Department employees shall obey all motor vehicle laws.
- B. While operating a County-owned police vehicle or a Department-leased vehicle, seat belts shall be worn by the operator and any passenger, whenever the police vehicle is so equipped. This includes any commercial or privately owned vehicles operated while on duty. For prisoner transports, refer to [Regulation 203.3](#), Transportation of Prisoners.
- C. All department employees shall operate a County-owned or Department-leased vehicles in a reasonable manner.
- D. The operator of a County-owned police vehicle or a Department-leased vehicle has the responsibility to inspect the safety features of the vehicle, which includes, but not limited to, all lights, brakes, fluid levels, siren, horn, and steering, prior to commencing operation. No officer or employee shall operate any County-owned police vehicle or a Department-leased vehicle which is believed to be operationally unsafe. The County-owned police vehicles shall not be operated without fully functioning emergency equipment. A County-owned police vehicle with serious mechanical defects shall be towed, not driven, to the County garage. All weapons shall be removed from any County-owned police vehicle prior to delivering it to a County garage or other service location.
- E. No operator of a County-owned police vehicle shall modify, remove, deactivate, or otherwise tamper with the vehicle safety belts, supplemental restraint systems (airbags), emission control devices or any part of the vehicle which affects its operation, or the Computer Aided Dispatch system.


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	<b>TOPIC:</b> <b>NORMAL VEHICLE OPERATIONS</b>	

- F. The operator of a County-owned police vehicle, when made aware of any unsafe condition, shall advise their supervisor who shall ensure the vehicle is transported to the respective Department of Vehicle Services facility as soon as practical. Department of Vehicle Services shall determine the condition of the police vehicle and its suitability for service
- G. The operator of a County-owned police vehicle or a Department-leased vehicle shall exercise caution before turning or backing any vehicle. During normal operations of police vehicles, the police vehicle shall be operated with due regard to safety at all times.
- H. A County-owned police vehicle or a Department-leased vehicle shall not be left unsecured with its engine in operation.
- I. The operator of a County-owned police vehicle or a Department-leased vehicle must recognize the variable factors of weather, road surface conditions, road contour, and traffic congestion, all of which directly affect the safe operation of any motor vehicle, and shall operate the vehicle with due regard for these factors.
- J. During periods of inclement weather when County-owned police vehicles cannot be washed regularly, the operator of a County vehicle must ensure that the headlight, the bar light, and the taillight lenses are kept clean as circumstances permit.
- K. When officers must block a lane of travel or when conducting police business, officers should be cognizant not to create a traffic hazard. If it is necessary to warn other drivers approaching the location, the emergency lights, four-way flashers, traffic flares or cones, or other warning devices shall be used.
- L. The public-address system located in County-owned police vehicles shall be used for official purposes only. The system may be used for purposes such as crowd control, felony vehicle stops, evacuation, riot scene control, and other similar incidents. The specific use shall be at the discretion of the officer when an articulable need exists.
- M. The spotlights and alley lights located on County-owned police vehicles shall be utilized in accordance with state law and for official purposes only. The

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system may be used for vehicle stops, checking businesses, or other patrol related functions.

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	<p>EFFECTIVE DATE: <b>January 1, 2019</b></p>	<p>REVIEW: <b>December 2022</b></p>	
	<p>TOPIC: <b>LEGAL REFERENCES</b></p>		
<p>RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> New Directive</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Revised</p>	
<p>ACCREDITATION STANDARDS</p>	<p>CALEA: Not Applicable</p>		
	<p>VLEPSC: Not Applicable</p>		

**I. LEGAL REFERENCES**

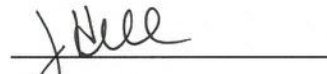
General Order 502.0 through 502.4 become effective on January 1, 2019 and rescind all previous rules and regulations pertaining to the subjects.

ISSUED BY:



Chief of Police

APPROVED BY:



County Executive