

WINONA POLICE DEPARTMENT

NUMBER: 102-02 PAGES: 3

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 27, 2004

SUBJECT: ROADBLOCKS

1.0 PURPOSE:

It is the purpose of this general order to establish policy and procedures for the use of roadblocks by officers of the Winona Police Department.

2.0 DEFINITION:

An enforcement effort designed for stopping or diverting traffic in instances of accidents, fires, riots, jail escapes, or natural disaster and for apprehending wanted criminals driving motor vehicles.

3.0 POLICY:

3.1 A roadblock may be activated:

3.1.1 for all felony crimes and any gross misdemeanor or misdemeanor crimes where delay of apprehension of the suspect could endanger the safety of officers or the public.

3.1.2 to stop or divert traffic from an accident, fire, or unsafe area.

3.1.3 when otherwise required, at the discretion of the Shift Supervisor.

3.2 The location of a roadblock should be based on making the best use of available manpower and natural terrain. The best place for a roadblock provides safety and convenience in stopping vehicles. Care in choosing the site can reduce any potential hazard.

3.3 Officers should be deployed individually and not grouped. Grouping provides a single target for gunfire or an oncoming car. Officers should remain on the same side of the road so they will not get in each other's line of fire.

3.4 Blocking off a roadway completely is never recommended. Officers should leave a narrow passage for traffic to pass through when possible. At night, the officer investigating a stopped vehicle should stay off the road and out of the way of oncoming vehicles. There should be sufficient illumination from another light source, e.g., street lights, for the officer to be readily recognized as a police officer and for the officer to be able to easily observe all occupants' activities within the vehicle. Officers should never cross in front of the vehicle after it has stopped.

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3.5 Deployment of the Stop Stick System is at the discretion of the on-duty Supervisor.

4.0 THE DECISION TO ACTIVATE A ROADBLOCK FOR APPREHENDING WANTED SUSPECTS SHOULD ALWAYS BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

- 4.1** The seriousness of the crime.
- 4.2** Sufficient information and description of wanted persons and vehicles.
- 4.3** The elapsed time between the criminal act and its discovery.
- 4.4** Approval from the on-duty Supervisor.

5.0 TYPES OF ROADBLOCKS:

5.1 A one-car roadblock is most practical when used off the roadway. It allows the officer to concentrate on the suspect vehicle and minimize his attention to traffic control.

5.1.1 Patrol unit parked at angle with right door opened for shield.

5.1.2 All red and amber lights activated on the patrol unit.

5.1.3 Deployment of the Stop Stick System at the discretion of the Supervisor.

5.2 The two-car roadblock is most effective for felony apprehensions. The two-car roadblock restricts traffic and provides cover for the officers and allows for immediate pursuit.

5.2.1 Patrol units parked at an angle facing in opposite directions.

5.2.2 Patrol units parked far enough apart so that if required, a vehicle could be driven in between them and to allow deployment of the Stinger Spike System.

5.2.3 All red and amber lights on the patrol unit activated.

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5.2.4 Deployment of the Stop Stick System at the discretion of the Supervisor.

6.0 Use of Stop Sticks

6.1 Stop Sticks will be stored in the trunk of each marked patrol car.

6.2 Stop Sticks will not be used on vehicles with less than four wheels or on ATVs (All Terrain Vehicles).