

WEST PALM BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

III-32 MANUAL TRAFFIC DIRECTION

EFFECTIVE: 01/01/2005

CALEA Standards: 61.3.2

CFA Standards: 24.01, 24.02

I. POLICY: Officers, when assigned to manual traffic control, will use uniform traffic control signals and gestures. A combination of hand signals and whistle signals is the preferred method. The major objective of the person carrying out manual traffic direction and control is to maintain or restore the safe and efficient movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

II. TRAFFIC DIRECTION AND CONTROL FUNCTIONS:

A. All sworn police officers may be used for traffic direction and control functions. All officers will have access to the necessary equipment to safely direct and control traffic in situations that may include, but are not limited to, the following;

1. Traffic accident scenes;
2. Special events;
3. Emergency conditions;
4. Signal light failure;
5. Inclement weather conditions; and
6. Disabled vehicles.

B. Certain non-sworn members of this Police Department may be involved in traffic direction and control. Those positions include Parking Enforcement Officers, Code Enforcement Officers and School Crossing Guards. Non-sworn personnel will be equipped with the necessary equipment to safely conduct their duties which include, but are not limited to:

1. Parking meter enforcement;
2. Handicap parking violations;
3. Loading zone violations; and
4. The safe direction of pedestrians and vehicles in school zones.

III. TRAFFIC DIRECTION HAND SIGNALS:

A. Stop Signal - Basic signal to stop is an upraised hand at the end of an extended arm raised to well above shoulder level, with the palm of the hand clearly facing the approaching driver for whom the signal is intended.

B. Starting Signal - The signal for a stopped vehicle to start moving begins at shoulder level, with the officer extending his arm toward the stopped vehicle (pointing) and waving the car onward by bending his or her arm at the elbow and drawing his or her hand toward his or her chest.

1. Once traffic in one direction starts to move, the officer turns and faces the opposing traffic and delivers the same signal.

C. Pull Up Signal - The signal to pull up to a position, indicated by the officer directing traffic at an intersection, is usually reserved for turning traffic facing opposing vehicular or pedestrian traffic. It is started by the officer pointing to the position at which the driver should pull his or her stopped or slowly approaching vehicle. It is completed by maneuvering the driver forward to the selected position to hold the turning vehicle until conditions are safe for the turning movement.

D. Turning Traffic - Once it is safe for the motorist to complete the turn, the opposing traffic should be stopped using the standard stop signal, and motioning the left turning vehicle to complete its turn by making a come-a-long signal with the other hand.

1. Right turning traffic requires little traffic direction unless the turning movement is crossing a heavily traveled crosswalk or has to merge into heavy vehicular traffic. Natural gaps are best used for turning vehicles when available.

IV. WHISTLE SIGNALS:

- A. Stop - A single, long blast,
- B. Start - Two short blasts, and
- C. Emergency Stop - Three or more short blasts.

V. HIGH VISIBILITY CLOTHING:

A. Members engaged in manual traffic control will use Department issued reflective vests. The reflective vests will be used to enhance officer safety and driver recognition and response. During inclement weather, officers may wear the Department issued rain gear instead of the reflective vests.

VI. ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT:

- A. Police vehicle.
- B. Flares.
- C. Traffic cones.
- D. Portable traffic barriers.
- E. Flashlight with cone

Delsa R. Bush, Chief of Police

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Revision Dates: 07/15/98, 12/15/98, 01/01/2005

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