

# ***POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND RULES***

<b>Subject:</b> 61.3 Traffic Direction and Control	<b>Effective Date:</b> November 6, 2020
<b>Reference:</b> 61.1	<b>Version:</b> 3
<b>CALEA:</b> 61.3.1 NT, 61.3.2, 61.3.3, 61.4.1, 61.4.2, 61.4.4 NT	<b>No. Pages:</b> 4

## **I. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to establish the procedures that enable the Fayetteville Police Department to execute its traffic related direction and control responsibilities and services.

## **II. Policy**

### **A. Traffic Direction and Control**

1. The following protocol will govern performance of agency activities related to traffic engineering. Goals of this identification and reporting should be directly related to the discovery and remedy of collision and congestion hazards [CALEA 61.3.1]:
  - a. Officers of the Fayetteville Police Department that observe what is believed to be a traffic engineering deficiency or investigate a collision which is caused by a deficiency, should report it to the City of Fayetteville Transportation Division [CALEA 61.3.1 a.].
  - b. The Patrol Captain shall include a summary of collision and enforcement data in the annual traffic report which will be provided to the City of Fayetteville Transportation Division [CALEA 61.3.1 b.].
  - c. When requested, the department will participate in local and regional transportation system management planning and will provide a department representative to serve on active planning boards. Fayetteville Police will participate in criminal justice planning committees and will provide a department representative to active planning committees.
2. The following protocol will pertain to traffic direction and control [CALEA 61.3.2]:
  - a. Traffic collisions often leave roadways partially or fully blocked. Officers should perform the following at a collision scene of this variety [CALEA 61.3.2 a.]:
    - (1) Officers should first attempt to protect the collision scene by properly positioning their police vehicles while using adequate emergency lighting.

- (2) Officers may require and may therefore request additional officers to assist in directing traffic until the roadway can be cleared.
  - (3) Officers at the scene should coordinate their traffic direction to eliminate confusion on the part of motorists.
  - (4) In cases of fatal or serious collisions, it may be necessary to completely or partially block the roadway for an extended time. The use of barricades, as well as additional officers, is authorized for such collisions.
- b. Officers of the Fayetteville Police Department will make use of the following uniform hand signals and gestures for manual traffic direction when working traffic:
- (1) Officers should take charge of traffic and provide clear and professional gestures.
  - (2) Officers should stand with a confident and balanced posture. When not providing signals, officers should let their hands hang easily at their sides.
  - (3) For stopping traffic, officers should first point with their arm and finger while looking directly at the driver he or she intends to stop. Officers should watch the driver and hold this point until the driver sees them. Officers should then raise their pointed hand and palm toward the driver and maintain until the driver comes to a safe stop.
  - (4) Once the officer has halted traffic, the officer should hold that hand in the stop position while turning to the other side. To start traffic, officers should point with their arm and finger toward the car they desire to start and hold until they gain the driver's attention. With the officer's palm up, the officer should swing their hand up and over to their chin while bending the arm at the elbow.
- c. Officers may be requested to assist with traffic direction at scenes of critical incidents:
- (1) Officers, depending on assignment and self-initiated determination, may be asked to divert traffic flow away from the incident, stop traffic from entering, or bring traffic out of the area of the incident.
  - (2) Officers shall ensure motorists/citizens follow instruction and shall ensure they are not allowed to interfere with officials or apparatus. When assisting the fire department, officers shall prevent motorists from driving over fire hoses.
- d. Officers will also be required to assist during periods of adverse road and weather conditions. Severe weather can cause trees and other debris to block roadways that require traffic control by police. Flooding may occur, and ice and snow may make roadways impassible. Officers encountering roadway traffic hazards should initially block the affected roadway with their patrol car. Officers may be required to work traffic manually, using uniformed hand signals described in this policy, or by accessing and manually operating the traffic light box. Officers may need to request assistance from street department personnel who can be contacted by radio or telephone by Central Dispatch Center [CALEA 61.3.2 b.].
- e. Traffic light locations may at times need manual operation by officers in times of special events, ballgames, or adverse weather conditions. Typically, officers will be assigned manual operation of traffic control devices during a planned event or will be dispatched at times where a need arises [CALEA 61.3.2 c.].

- f. Officers will at times make use of temporary traffic control devices that may include barricades, traffic cones, and illuminating instruction signs. During special events and ballgames with heavy traffic, these will normally be placed in the form of planned assignments. Temporary traffic control devices can also be requested and placed during serious collisions and for critical incidents that occur on a random basis [CALEA 61.3.2 d.].
  - g. Any Fayetteville Police Officer directing traffic, or in the roadway controlling traffic, will be required to wear their department issued reflective vest at all times [CALEA 61.3.2 e.].
3. The following protocol will govern escorts [CALEA 61.3.3]:
- a. Planned escorts will be channeled through the Special Events Division for approval and assignment of personnel. Planned escorts may include ballgame request escorts, protection escorts of dignitaries and public officials, escorts of emergency vehicles, escorts of oversized vehicles, or escorts of hazardous vehicles [CALEA 61.3.3].
  - b. Sudden requests for the aforementioned types of requests that were not planned or pre-approved will be channeled through the on-duty supervisor. These requests should be accommodated when at all possible and will depend on staffing levels weighted against circumstances surrounding safety issues and the nature of the assignment [CALEA 61.3.3].
  - c. Funeral escorts may be assigned to patrol by dispatch personnel as a routine function.
  - d. Escorts of civilian vehicles in medical emergencies are not authorized. Officers shall have the option of letting the civilian vehicle proceed to the hospital on its own or call for emergency medical services to respond. In very extreme circumstances, officers may transport injured individuals to the hospital [CALEA 61.3.3].

## B. Other Services

1. The following protocol will govern the provision of assistance to individuals or motorists [CALEA 61.4.1]:
- a. Fayetteville Police Officers will provide general assistance to motorists in the following capacities [CALEA 61.4.1]:
    - (1) Officers performing routine patrol should stop and provide reasonable assistance to motorists.
    - (2) Officers should demonstrate a willingness to provide the public with information and directions.
    - (3) When en-route to a non-emergency call, officers should divert from that call and assist a stranded motorist where there is an appearance of emergency [CALEA 61.4.1].
  - b. Officers should assist stranded motorists by calling for mechanical or towing services [CALEA 61.4.1].
    - (1) When necessary for the safety of a stranded motorist, officers should position their unit(s) utilizing the police vehicle's emergency lights to assist in protecting the motorist from other traffic.

- c. Officers should ensure the vehicle is towed and persons are safely moved in cases that involve a hazardous or dangerous location [CALEA 61.4.1].
  - d. When necessary, officers will request the fire department or ambulance service through dispatch and provide assistance to the extent possible [CALEA 61.4.1].
- 2. Roadway hazards are contributing factors in many traffic collisions. The following will provide protocol for taking action to correct hazardous highway and road conditions [CALEA 61.4.2]:
  - a. Officers who locate or are dispatched to debris on the roadway or roadside that is easily removable by one person are encouraged to utilize their emergency lighting and position their vehicle for safety purposes as they remove the debris from the roadway.
  - b. For dealing with debris or animals that are larger or more problematic, officers should utilize dispatch to notify the appropriate city service to remove it. For debris on highways with faster moving traffic where there is a likelihood of a collision, the police department will make every attempt to provide traffic control until such time the debris can be removed.
  - c. Officers locating or being dispatched to defects in the roadway, highway safety equipment, signs, or damaged mechanical traffic control devices should report to dispatch in order to make proper and immediate notification.
- 3. The Fayetteville Police Department will utilize the department's website, social networking sites and various media outlets for dissemination of traffic safety information to the public. The Department's Community Oriented Policing Division will be in charge of this service [CALEA 61.4.4 NT].