

MOTORIST

Developing Professional Traffic Stops

Professionalism at the TRAFFIC STOP & STRENGTHENING Community Partnerships

**Improving Communications
Between the Citizens and Law
Enforcement Officers of Rialto**



This brochure is designed to educate both citizens and law enforcement about expectations during a traffic stop. Understanding what is expected from both parties improves communication, helps to reduce anxieties, and improves the public's understanding about the need for traffic law, eliminating community-based divisiveness and creating community-based partnerships. Building bridges to the community should occur one traffic stop at a time.



Some things to remember:

An average of three in every ten Americans will be involved in alcohol-related crash at some point in their lives.

The driving behaviors associated with aggressive driving - speeding, red light running, following too closely, and others - cause hundreds of crash-related deaths and thousands of injuries each year.

Lap/shoulder safety belts, when used correctly, significantly reduce the risk of crash-related fatalities and injuries

Traffic stops often result in the identification of criminals who are suspected in other crimes.

To effectively address these public health and safety issues, law enforcement agencies across the country enforce traffic laws. Traffic law enforcement is a time proven method of:

increasing pedestrian safety, seat belt, child safety seat, and helmet use;

reducing the incidence of impaired and aggressive driving;

increasing the apprehension of dangerous criminals.

However, in recent years, the public has been made aware of incidents that have occurred between citizens and law enforcement during traffic stops. Some of these incidents were positive and did much to advance the public's perception of law enforcement. Other incidents were negative and disturbing, and created public mistrust.

If you are a motorist, here are some ways to improve your traffic stop experience:

- ◆ Invoke the "Golden Rule" and treat the officer the way you would like to be treated.
- ◆ Remember that you are required to cooperate with all reasonable requests. If an officer signals for you to stop, remain calm and pull over safely.
- ◆ Be prepared to produce your driver's license and other documents. Remain in the vehicle unless the officer tells you otherwise. Keep your hands visible.
- ◆ If you are stopped by a non-uniformed officer in an unmarked vehicle, you can ask the officer for identification.
- ◆ If you believe the reason for the stop is vague or unclear, you can ask the officer for details.
- ◆ If you are uncomfortable about stopping because an area is deserted or not well-lit, explain this to the officer and ask if you can proceed to a more populated or better illuminated place.
- ◆ If you feel the citation was unlawful, you may request a hearing before a Traffic Commissioner (instructions are on the reverse side of the citation).
- ◆ If you feel the officer treated you in an unprofessional manner, you should request to see a supervisor.
- ◆ Don't speed, drive aggressively, or drive while you're impaired. Always wear your seat belt and correctly buckle up any children who are riding with you. Yield to pedestrians when they have the right-of-way. If you follow all traffic laws, you reduce your chances the police will stop you.



City of Rialto Police Department
128 N. Willow Ave., Rialto CA 92376
(909) 820-2550 www.rialtopd.com

