

# PUBLIC SAFETY

## Update from Police Chief Mangseth: Traffic and Pedestrian Safety



As One of the top concerns that we hear from our community focuses on issues related to traffic and pedestrian safety. Our goal is to facilitate a safe and expeditious flow of traffic through the public's voluntary compliance with regulations to reduce collisions and injuries.

The St. Anthony Police Department (SAPD) uses a combination of data analysis, education, community input and enforcement to help make our roads safer to use. We educate the public by publishing traffic-stop data, collision and injury data, and by providing notice and warnings of changes in regulations prior to taking further action of enforcement. If deemed necessary (and depending upon the violation), enforcement can vary and consist of a warning, citation, application for complaint, or physical arrest.

### Driving behaviors that statistically lead to injury

We recognize that certain driving behaviors are statistically most likely to cause injury crashes on our roadways, and are of particular concern to community members. Examples of these moving violations include (but not limited to):

- Speeding
- Light signal and stop-sign violations
- Distracted driving
- Impaired driving
- Seatbelt violations

Therefore, officers focus on the above moving violations to enhance traffic and pedestrian safety. They will place these violations ahead of vehicle equipment and vehicle registration violations (in absence of other factors).

### Traffic and pedestrian safety deployment plan

Several factors are considered in the development of traffic and pedestrian safety deployment schedules for

our officers. Information provided by the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety and our in-house Record Management System are valuable resources for traffic-collision occurrences and officer deployment. Some of the factors include:

- Location
- Time
- Day of week
- Violation factors
- Traffic-collision data
- Electronic traffic monitoring devices (Jamar Box, speed cart)

### Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Toward Zero Deaths

Our agency participates in the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Toward Zero Death grant program that places more officers on our roadways that will monitor for dangerous driving behaviors. We also utilize detection devices to determine problem areas so that resources can be better allocated to those locations. Active devices, such as mobile speed carts, are used to record traffic data and vehicle speeds. Most importantly, we rely on input from you, our residents, to help us focus on problem areas within the community.

### Fair and impartial policing and procedural justice

Through policy and training initiatives, the SAPD will continually work to ensure that we are adhering to the principles of fair and impartial policing and procedural justice while engaged in public safety traffic stops. We remain mindful that policing involves a partnership with the entire community. And as a partner, we will continue to work cooperatively to ensure that we are aligned with the goals of traffic and pedestrian safety that are outlined in our department's strategic plan.

### Future topics to cover

Do you have a topic of interest that you would like me to address in an upcoming Chief Update? Please send your suggestions and ideas to [jon.mangseth@savmn.com](mailto:jon.mangseth@savmn.com). ■