

PROVIDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
  
 HEADQUARTERS  
 COLONEL OSCAR L. PEREZ  
 CHIEF OF POLICE

| TYPE OF ORDER                | NUMBER/SERIES | ISSUE DATE                                    | EFFECTIVE DATE |
|------------------------------|---------------|---|----------------|
| General Order                | 350.04        | 5/30/2024                                     | 5/31/2024      |
| SUBJECT TITLE                |               | PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DATES                       |                |
| Traffic – Ancillary Services |               | 5/18/2021; 5/8/2018; 10/14/2014;<br>7/14/2014 |                |
| REFERENCE                    |               | RE-EVALUATION DATE                            |                |
| CALEA 61.4.1; 61.4.2         |               | 5/8/2027                                      |                |
| SUBJECT AREA                 |               | DISTRIBUTION                                  |                |
| Law Enforcement Operations   |               | All Sworn Personnel                           |                |

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide all personnel with information regarding the Department’s role in the provision of traffic-related services to the public.

**POLICY**

It is the policy of the Providence Police Department to provide to the public traffic-related services that fall within the parameters outlined herein.

**DISCUSSION**

N/A

**PROCEDURE**

**I. DISABLED MOTOR VEHICLES**

- A. Disabled motor vehicles shall be towed in accordance with General Order 350.06, “Motor Vehicle Tows”.
- B. Department vehicles shall not be used to push or otherwise move disabled motor vehicles.
- C. An officer or his/her sworn relief shall remain on scene whenever the situation involving a disabled motor vehicle represents a hazard to public

safety or to the personal safety of the parties involved, or whenever the motor vehicle obstructs a highway or roadway.

- D. An officer may, at his/her discretion and only when neither public safety nor infringing upon the rights of others is an issue, grant to the operator of a disabled motor vehicle permission for the vehicle to remain in an otherwise illegal parking place. The officer will inform the Public Safety Communications Center (PSCC) of the location and vehicle description, as well as the time when the vehicle will be removed.
- E. Officers shall neither jump-start another motor vehicle nor transport gasoline in accordance with RI General Law (RIGL) 31-23-49.

## **II. LOCKOUTS**

- A. Officers shall not use tools to unlock or otherwise force entry into a locked motor vehicle except in emergency situations where human or animal life is endangered.
- B. If the locked vehicle represents a public safety hazard, or if the caller expresses concern for his/her safety, an officer shall be dispatched and shall provide/summon assistance as would be provided/summoned in the case of a disabled motor vehicle.

## **III. ROADWAY HAZARDS**

- A. As roadway and roadside hazards may be contributing factors in motor vehicle accidents, such hazards must be addressed and remedied as soon as possible. All officers shall be alert to and shall report the following to the PSCC:
  - 1. Traffic light malfunctions such as burned-out or broken bulbs, downed or otherwise damaged traffic lights, cycle malfunctions (stuck lights), or any other problem with traffic lights.
  - 2. Missing, damaged, or obscured traffic control devices.
  - 3. Potholes or any other hazardous roadway defects.
  - 4. Missing, broken, or improper street markings.
  - 5. Downed utility lines.
  - 6. Debris in the roadway.
- B. Officers shall reroute traffic in order to prevent any further jeopardy to motorists whenever a roadway or roadside hazard is of such magnitude that it represents a threat to public safety.

1. Officers shall contact the PSCC to request that notification be made to the appropriate City/State department so that a resolution can be effected.
2. In such situations, officers shall remain on-scene until the threat is mitigated to the extent that it no longer represents a public safety hazard.

**IV. REQUESTS FOR DIRECTIONS**

- A. Officers shall provide assistance to motorists who requests directions to destinations within the City of Providence.
- B. Officers shall attempt to provide assistance to motorists who request directions to destinations outside of the City limits.

**V. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

- A. Officers shall assist motorists with:
  1. Obtaining medical assistance.
  2. Obtaining fire service assistance.
  3. Obtaining transportation to the nearest phone or shelter.
- B. In fire and medical emergencies, officers will make it a priority to notify the PSCC and request aid.

**VI. PROTECTION TO STRANDED MOTORISTS**

- A. Officers are responsible for the safety of stranded motorists that they encounter. Officers shall either standby on-scene with stranded motorists as they await assistance, or shall transport them to a safe location.

**APPROVED:**



COLONEL OSCAR L. PEREZ  
CHIEF OF POLICE