

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

No. 120

Supersedes: 1-96 41.2.20

Effective: June 11, 2018

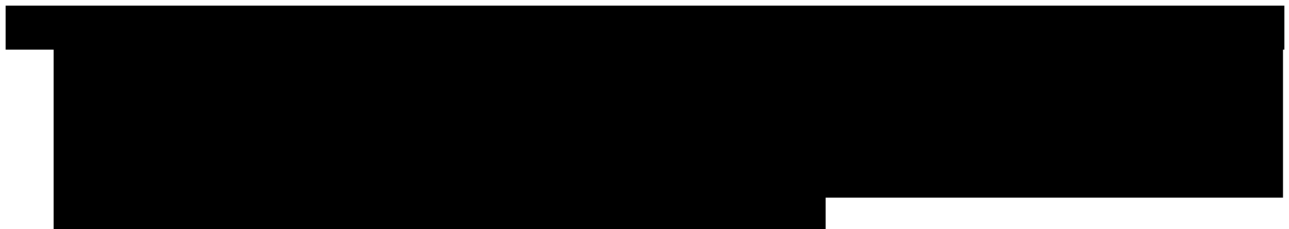
Page: All Section: All

Page: 1 OF 2

Date: September 10, 1996

VEHICLE STOPS IN UNMARKED VEHICLES

- I. **PURPOSE:** To enhance the safety and welfare of the public and police personnel through the proper use of unmarked vehicles. To increase the probability that motorists will recognize unmarked vehicles as actual police vehicles while maintaining the capability of police to enforce traffic and criminal violations. To outline recommended procedures for department personnel while operating unmarked vehicles.
- II. **POLICY:** It shall be the policy of the Upper Merion Township Police Department to use unmarked vehicles to detect and stop motorists for traffic and criminal offenses. Officers in unmarked vehicles stopping violators shall follow recommended procedures to ensure motorists realize that the unmarked vehicle is an actual police vehicle. Officers will be tolerant of motorists who take reasonable measures to verify the authenticity of unmarked vehicles.
- III. **GUIDELINES:** The following guidelines will dictate the use of unmarked vehicles by officers:
1. Unmarked vehicles may be assigned as float cars when the primary emphasis of the operator of the unmarked vehicle is criminal surveillance or selective traffic enforcement. Unmarked vehicles should not be utilized for routine patrol. Patrol officers operating an unmarked vehicle must document the time spent in specific patrol areas on their daily reports.



3. Uniformed personnel may use unmarked vehicles for routine traffic stops.



5. Whenever an officer in an unmarked vehicle stops a violator's vehicle all emergency lights must be activated. Only unmarked vehicles approved by a Command Officer and equipped with the proper emergency lights and siren will be utilized for routine traffic stops.

6. Any motorist who does not immediately stop for an unmarked vehicle will not be penalized if that motorist drives, at a reasonable speed, to a populated or lighted area prior to stopping.

APPROVED: *Chief Thomas Nolan*

DATE: *06/11/18*

APPROVED: *Captain Jeremy Johnson*

DATE: *05/31/18*

TO BE REVIEWED: ANNUALLY

DISTRIBUTION: All police officers
All police dispatchers
Township Manager
File