



Fitchburg State University Police Department

Subject: TRAFFIC ESCORTS	
Reference: MPAC: 61.3.3 IACLEA: 10.3.3	
Effective Date: September 29, 2020	Review Date:
By Order of: Michael J. Cloutier, Chief of Police	

General Order

10.3.1

PURPOSE:

The department performs a number of traffic related functions; such as traffic control, parking control, rendering emergency assistance, providing motorist information, identifying and reporting hazards, checking on abandoned vehicles, recovering stolen vehicles, and providing traffic safety information and recommendations. The university community also relies upon the Fitchburg State University Police Department for assistance and advice when faced with many routine and emergency traffic situations such as vehicle escorts. It is the expectation of this department that vehicle escort requests and assignments will be handled in the manner proscribed in this policy.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Fitchburg State University Police Department to assist with the safe and orderly flow of traffic in emergency and non-emergency situations.

PROCEDURES:

A. Escorts:

1. **Emergency Situations:** Fitchburg State University Police vehicles will not escort civilian vehicles in emergency situations. In medical emergencies, the patient should be transported by ambulance. This section does not prevent a Fitchburg State University police vehicle from escorting another emergency vehicle to locations.
 - a. Officers following an ambulance to the hospital will obey all traffic laws and travel at a safe distance.

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- b. If situation arises where the need for an officer to be present due to a patient being violent, they will ride in the back of the ambulance.
2. **Non-Emergency Situations:** Escorts of civilian vehicles in non-emergency situations are permitted in the following circumstances: visits by public officials and dignitaries, assistance with funeral escorts, oversized/ hazardous/unusual cargo vehicles and other circumstances as approved by the Chief of Police.
3. Before oversized/hazardous/unusual cargo vehicles are allowed on the University, the Chief will ensure that between the police and the private carrier that the escort is adequate to maximize the safety of the University community as well as to minimize the inconvenience experienced on campus.
4. Operational guidelines for escorts:
 - a. Officers will obey all traffic laws;
 - b. The vehicle will not be given preferential treatment unless dignitary protection is involved and authorized by the Chief of Police;
 - c. Officers will notify the shift supervisor of the escort event including the following information: starting and ending points, number of vehicles, size, hazards, and needs for other assistance;
 - d. Officers will notify the dispatch center of their status involved in the escort as well as when the escort has terminated.

Approval:

M. A. Clau
Chief of Police

09/29/2020
Date