



LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER: 2030
TOPIC: DEPARTMENT MOTOR VEHICLES
ISSUED BY: JEFF BLIEMEISTER, CHIEF OF POLICE
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SUPERSEDES: G.O. 2030, 2017
REFERENCE:

I. POLICY

The fleet superintendent is responsible for the control, maintenance, and repair of all department vehicles. Employees are expected to set an example for the public in safe, lawful and courteous driving, and will operate vehicles in accordance with all applicable General Orders. (41.1.3)

II. PROCEDURE

A. Vehicle Assignment

1. The fleet superintendent will equitably assign vehicles to the teams and units of the department. The teams and units are responsible for assigning vehicles directly to officers. In assigning vehicles, the following factors shall be considered:
 - a. Minimizing overlap in the assignment of vehicles and time lost by officers waiting for vehicles. If at all possible, assigned vehicles should be available for officer pickup 30 minutes prior to the shift.
 - b. Special purpose vehicles shall be operated only by trained and approved personnel. These employees must be familiar with the unique operating and handling characteristics of these vehicles prior to operation. Familiarization should include review of the owner's manual supplied by the vehicle manufacturer.(41.1.3)
 - c. Mileage on each vehicle will be reviewed quarterly to ensure mileage is evenly distributed among vehicles.

B. Checking Out and Returning Vehicles

1. Vehicles must be checked out from the police garage. No vehicle will be removed from the garage without following the proper check out procedure.
2. To check out a vehicle, obtain the keys and check out the vehicle via the LPD internal homepage.

3. Before leaving the garage, officers will conduct a physical search of the vehicle for contraband or weapons. Officers will conduct a visual and safety inspection. (70.1.2)
4. An officer may reject any vehicle that is unsafe.
 - a. If a vehicle is rejected, the reason should be brought to the attention of the fleet superintendent or his representative.
 - b. When a vehicle is rejected, the fleet superintendent will review each case to ensure the problem has been corrected.
5. Department vehicles must be returned to their assigned location at the end of the tour of duty.
6. Officers are required to ensure the vehicle is serviced and interior and exterior are in an acceptable state of cleanliness for use by the next assigned officer. Contracted commercial car wash facilities may be used.
 - a. Officers whose duty hours coincide with the business hours of the car wash are responsible for having the vehicle washed and cleaned as needed.
7. Police supervisors are responsible for conducting periodic vehicle inspections to ensure that department vehicles have appropriate equipment and have an acceptable level of cleanliness.

C. General Motor Vehicle Operating Requirements

1. All police vehicles shall be operated in a manner which does not jeopardize the safety of the public and in accordance with all laws and General Orders governing their use.
2. To safeguard the vehicle and equipment, the ignition key shall be removed and vehicle locked when unattended.
3. Citizens shall be transported in police vehicles only when necessary to accomplish a police purpose. Any exception must be approved by a supervisor.

D. Maintenance

1. Vehicle repairs and maintenance shall be directed by the fleet superintendent.
 2. Garage employees will ensure each patrol vehicle is equipped the appropriate vehicle equipment while servicing the vehicle. (41.3.2)
 3. Whenever a police vehicle needs roadside service as a result of a flat tire, mechanical failure, etc., the vehicle driver shall request dispatch of the city contracted tow vendor or police garage personnel.
 4. When a drivable vehicle requires repair, it may be driven to the police garage if safe and prudent to do so.
 5. Officers shall park vehicles in need of repair inside the garage or in the front stalls of the garage parking lot. If possible, the officer should discuss the problem with garage personnel. If garage staff are not present, an email should be sent to police_garage_all@lincoln.ne.gov noting the vehicle number, location and details of the problem.
 6. When garage personnel take a vehicle to an outside vendor for repair, they shall remove officers' equipment and the assigned weapon from the vehicle. These items will be placed in the appropriate area at the garage.
- E. Parking at the Police Garage
1. Officers may park their personal vehicle at the garage only during their tour of duty or while out of town on official business.
 2. Officers shall park in their team parking area, and observe all parking restrictions, signs, and markings at the garage.
- F. Special Equipment
1. Mobile Data Computers
 - a. Only officers who have been trained in the use of mobile data computers shall utilize these devices.
 - b. Mobile data computers will be protected from unauthorized use or access by passwords assigned to each officer authorized to operate such equipment. Officers shall protect their password, and shall not allow unauthorized access to mobile data computers.(43.1.8)
 - c. The driver shall not operate mobile data computer while the police vehicle is in motion, except that single key operations, such as function keys, may be used. The vehicle shall be stopped before the driver performs other keystroke operations and entries.
 - d. Officers operating mobile data computers shall follow all applicable NCIC/NCIS guidelines as instructed, and shall abide by the pertinent provisions of General Order 1420, "Standards of Conduct."
 - e. Audits may be conducted of all electronic communications, including MDC messages, to determine conformance with these directives. (41.3.7)
 - f. These directives shall pertain equally to mobile data computer systems not installed in vehicles.
2. MACH – Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL)
- a. All operations staff who operate a marked police vehicle shall be assigned a MACH – AVL account.
 - (i). Other department staff may request a MACH account through the assistant chief of police.
 - b. Officers shall sign-in to their MACH account at the start of their shift and remain signed in until the end of their shift.
 - (i). Use of MACH is required when a marked police vehicle is part of the assignment (including outside employment)
 - c. Malfunctions or inoperable MACH systems shall immediately reported by email to lpdmdc@cjis.lincoln.ne.gov.
 - (i). Vehicles with inoperable MACH technology may be pulled from service.
 - d. MACH messaging is available to facilitate communication between units and with dispatchers when appropriate.
 - (i) No one is assigned to monitor MACH messaging in real-time.
 - (ii) Absent radio system failure, MACH messaging should never be used to replace normal radio procedures.
 - e. An audit of MACH AVL and MACH messaging may be conducted.