



# LONGPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Chief of Police

<b>Order Number:</b> 04-27	<b>Issue Date:</b> 08 13 2004	<b>Effective Date:</b> 08 15 2004	<b>Distribution:</b> All Officers
<b>Subject:</b> D.W.I. Checkpoints			
<b>Status (New or Revised)</b> NEW		<b>Supersedes Order#</b> N/A	

1. The purpose of the DWI checkpoints is to identify the roadways within the Borough of Longport with a high number or frequency of arrests for driving intoxicated and observation of and or arrests/summons for erratic driving. Also, relevant is the general nature of the area in which the roadway may traverse, such as the general route that a person may travel after imbibing in alcohol or drugs. The DWI checkpoints will be instituted at specific locations based on empirical data combined with the knowledge of the general travel patterns of motorists used to justify the site selection. The use of checkpoints will enhance the drinking/drugged driver's perception of the risk of being detected, thus a beneficial result of this enforcement strategy will be a deterrent to potential drunk/drugged drivers. By implementing the DWI checkpoints it is the objective and goal of the Longport Police Department to measurably reduce alcohol related incidents.
2. Driver sobriety will be monitored utilizing DWI Checkpoints conducted at selected roadway locations. The selection of these locations will be based on standard selective enforcement criteria considering the following factors; time of day, day of week, location and number of accidents/arrests involving alcohol. In addition, roadways known to be frequently traveled by persons that are traveling to/from locations for imbibing in alcoholic beverages, as well as locations known for erratic driving may be considered. The relative safety of a particular location for the citizens as well as the police personnel will be a primary consideration when selecting the location.
3. The DWI checkpoint site will be selected by the Longport Police Department staff officers and approved by the Chief of Police, based on empirical data related to the DWI arrests and accidents involving alcohol. The sites selected shall be a safe location for the stopping of motorists and must afford oncoming traffic sufficient site distance for the driver to safely negotiate a stop at the designated location.

4. Every DWI Checkpoint shall be staffed by one officer of the rank of Sergeant or above that will be designated the "Checkpoint Supervisor". The Checkpoint Supervisor will conduct a pre-deployment briefing of the administrative plan and then remain at the location of the checkpoint to supervise ~~and direct the enforcement activities in addition to the duties listed in Section~~ eight (8) listed below. Each checkpoint will be staffed by a sufficient number of uniformed officers to maintain a safe and efficient site. Uniformed officers utilizing flashlights and/or proper signage will conduct traffic direction. Each officer that will be in the roadway shall wear a retro reflective safety vest while engaged in the checkpoint assignment. Existing street lighting, police vehicle lighting, emergency flashing lights and 28-inch (min) traffic cones with at least two (2) retro reflective collars will be used to illuminate the checkpoint site and aid in traffic direction. Under no circumstances will barricades of any type be used to block oncoming traffic. Warning signs designed to give advance notice of the impending stop will be conspicuously displayed.
5. Once the checkpoint is established into operation the following procedure will be followed:
  - I. The approach officer will stop each incoming vehicle, greet the driver by stating, "I am (rank and name) of the Longport Police Department. You have been stopped at a DWI checkpoint set up to identify drunk/drugged drivers." The approach officer will look for signs of intoxication, or any other violations of criminal or motor vehicle laws and hand the driver educational information on drunk driving. The officer will suggest that this educational material be read at a later time for a more detailed explanation of the stop. The motorist will then be permitted to proceed unless subsection III or IV (below) applies.
  - II. A recording officer will record on the DWI Checkpoint Log, the registration number and state of every incoming vehicle, including the time of stop, with the exception of all emergency vehicles, as defined in NJ 39:1.1, whether enroute to an emergency or not, or vehicles involved in the transportation of the public for hire, such as taxi cabs, buses, jitneys, limousines, etc.

- III. The approach officer will send a predetermined numbered vehicle of the vehicles entered onto the log, to the secondary area located ~~out of the flow of traffic, for further investigation. The pre-~~ predetermined number for the vehicles will begin at every fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) vehicle, if congestion or delays occur the checkpoint supervisor may increase this number or open the checkpoint completely until the congestion or delays clear. Once the congestion clears the predetermined number will revert back to every fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) vehicle and the vehicle count will resume at one (1). Any change in the operation of the checkpoint will be notated on the Checkpoint log.
- IV. In addition to the predetermined vehicle, the approach officer is required to send vehicles to the secondary area if;
- a. He had probable cause to believe that a vehicle's occupant was in violation of a criminal or motor vehicle law. and/or
  - b. He had reason to suspect that an individual was driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- V. The approach officer will advise the recording officer and the officers in the secondary area the reason the vehicle is being sent to the secondary area out of sequence. In the event that the approach officer feels that allowing the driver to operate the vehicle or the occupants to remain in the vehicle would compromise the safety of the public or other officers he/she will request assistance from the other officers and remove the driver/occupants at the initial approach location without delay.
- VI. At the secondary area the officers will look for facts such as the odor of alcoholic beverages on the operators breath, slurred speech, general appearance, open containers of alcoholic beverages and any other behavior that is normally associated with the intoxication as well as any violations of criminal or motor vehicle law. The driver may be asked to exit the vehicle and perform certain psychophysical coordination tests and if sufficient evidence and probable cause is present of intoxication the driver will be arrested.

VII. The transportation / checkpoint avoidance officer(s) or a uniformed officer(s), from the working shift will transport the arrestees to the testing area of the Longport Police Department for follow-up testing and processing. ~~The assigned transportation/ checkpoint avoidance officer (s) or any other uniformed officer(s) will stop any operator of a vehicle that attempts to avoid the checkpoint, and shall be interviewed and directed to the secondary staging area.~~

VIII. At the termination of the checkpoint, the area will be policed and all equipment removed and secured.

6. At least one Breathalyzer operator shall be assigned to every checkpoint operation.

7. Checkpoint Supervisor Responsibilities;

- I. Pre-deployment briefing of the administrative plan for the officers assigned to the checkpoint.
- II. Ensuring proper set-up of checkpoint area.
- III. Supervise and direct enforcement activities.
- IV. Safety of all citizens and officers.
  - a. If a hazardous condition caused by the checkpoint is identified the checkpoint will be discontinued until the condition can be corrected. In the event the hazardous condition caused by the checkpoint cannot be corrected the checkpoint supervisor may move the operation to another approved location.
  - b. DWI checkpoints will not be established or will be discontinued in case of hazardous weather conditions. If the checkpoint is cancelled prior to initiation all off duty officers shall be immediately advised.
- V. The maintenance of the DWI Checkpoint Log and all entries thereon.
- VI. The policing of the checkpoint location.

8. The checkpoint supervisor will complete a summary report after the termination of the checkpoint. This report will detail the staffing of the checkpoint detail, ~~the general operation of the checkpoint, the arrest made during the checkpoint~~ operation and any unusual incidents occurring during the operation of the checkpoint. The report will be submitted to the Chief of Police, through the proper chain of command. The DWI checkpoint log and a copy of the checkpoint diagram are to be attached to the summary report when it is submitted.
9. A copy of the DWI Checkpoint Log and a sample checkpoint diagram are attached to this order for informational purposes.

By Order of

  
A. Scott Porter  
Chief of Police