



Office of the County Prosecutor

Mary Eva Colalillo  
Camden County Prosecutor

County of Camden

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Camden, New Jersey 08103

Telephone: 856-225-8400 Fax: 856-963-0080

Dana R. Petrone  
First Assistant Prosecutor

Jeffrey S. Dunlap  
Acting Chief of Detectives

August 19, 2019

Ronald M. Morello  
Chief of Police  
Stratford Police Department  
315 Union Avenue  
Stratford, New Jersey 08084

Re: Proposed DWI Checkpoint: September 21, 2019 (9:00 p.m.) until  
September 22, 2019 (4:00 a.m.)

Dear Chief Morello:

Kindly be advised that our office has reviewed the above-mentioned proposal for a DWI checkpoint coordinated between law enforcement personnel from the Borough of Stratford and the Borough of Somerdale for September 21, 2019, (9:00 p.m.) until September 22, 2019, (4:00 a.m.).

Upon review, the proposal is approved as it complies with prevailing case law.

If you have any questions and/or I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 856-225-8463.

Sincerely,

*Jason Magid*  
Jason Magid  
Deputy Section Chief  
Motions & Appeals Unit

## Morello, Ronald

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**From:** Magid, Jason <magidj@ccprosecutor.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2019 2:30 PM  
**To:** Morello, Ronald; Martinez, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** RE: Stratford-Somerdale DWI Checkpoint  
**Attachments:** approval.ltr.pdf

Good Afternoon Chief,

Attached is the approval letter regarding the proposed DWI checkpoint.

Good luck,

Jason

Jason Magid  
Assistant Prosecutor  
Deputy Section Chief-Motions & Appeals Unit  
Camden County Prosecutor's Office  
856-225-8463  
856-963-0080 (Fax)



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**From:** Morello, Ronald <RMorello@stratfordpd.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 17, 2019 10:02 AM  
**To:** Magid, Jason <magidj@ccprosecutor.org>; Martinez, Elizabeth <martineze@ccprosecutor.org>  
**Subject:** Stratford-Somerdale DWI Checkpoint

Attached for your review, is our proposed administrative plan for the upcoming DWI checkpoint on Saturday September 21, 2019.

Thank you for your time.

# **STRATFORD & SOMERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENTS**

## **OPERATION “Safe & Sober Highway Fall 2019”**

**STARTING: 9:00pm Saturday September 21, 2019**

**ENDING: 4:00am Sunday September 22, 2019**

**LOCATION: White Horse Pike & Colby Avenue, East & Westbound**

### **SOCIAL UTILITARIAN PURPOSE**

Due to the statistical data and research conducted by both law enforcement agencies and the continual instances of DWI offenses that occur on this particular roadway. This multi-jurisdictional enforcement effort, is being conducted as a proactive approach to the very serious problem of intoxicated motorists occupying and creating a danger on the highways within the State of New Jersey. To combat the senseless havoc upon the highways caused by intoxicated drivers, the Stratford, Somerdale Police Department have combined resources and obtained funding to establish a safe, lawful, and efficient DWI checkpoint.

Beginning at approximately **9:00pm** on Saturday September 21, 2019 and ending at approximately **4:00am** Sunday September 22, 2019, designated police officers from the named police departments will be situated in or about the checkpoint. The duties of each police officer, as outlined on page five of the **PLAN OF ACTION** will be co-coordinated by Sergeant Frank Gagliardi of the Stratford Police Department & Sergeant Brian Usher of the Somerdale Police Department, who are designated “Checkpoint Commanders”.

Checkpoint Commanders shall ensure that the procedures, conduct, rules and limitations will be strictly adhered to by the police officers assigned to their respective positions. The Checkpoint Commanders will resolve any problems or unexpected occurrences that may arise during this Checkpoint.

# PLAN

## ESTABLISHING A BASE OF OPERATION

The operational headquarters for all aspects of this operation will be held at the Somerdale Police Headquarters located at 105 Kennedy Boulevard, Somerdale, New Jersey. All persons arrested for DWI and related offenses will be processed at the Somerdale Police Headquarters. The location of the processing, however, will not determine the venue as to where the violations of the law are prosecuted. Because the operation being conducted is at a location where the primary law enforcement agencies share enforcement jurisdiction, the decision regarding venue for prosecution shall be determined on-scene, by the Checkpoint Commanders.

## PRE-OPERATION BRIEFING

Before the start of this operation, all police officers participating in this checkpoint will review this plan of action, and will be thoroughly versed with their designated duties, responsibilities and restrictions. A pre-operation briefing will occur at the Stratford Police Headquarters.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHECKPOINT

At the start of this operation, the roadblock/lane shift will be established by the placing of orange traffic cones beginning approximately 300 feet west and east bound of the White Horse Pike & Colby Avenue. A lane shift will be established by traffic cones, which will merge eastbound traffic into eastbound curb lanes and all westbound traffic into west bound passing lanes. At the beginning of the lane shift and checkpoint zone, reflective traffic signs will be established, which will warn motorists that a police checkpoint is imminent. Once into the checkpoint and past the initial warning sign, traffic flares maybe situated between the orange traffic cones in order to further ensure the safety of motorists and participating police officers. Traffic will be slowed and controlled by uniform police officers that will be responsible to guide and direct traffic passing east and west bound through the checkpoint.

## STOPPING OF MOTOR VEHICLES

The stopping or directing of motor vehicles into the designated pull over zone will be the Aldi Food Store parking lot. This operation will be conducted by police officers assigned to **Position 3 of the Checkpoint**. In consideration of general heavy traffic volume on Route 30 from **9:00pm until 12:00am**, the officers assigned to **Position 3** (east & west bound) will be responsible for the waving and the directing of **every fifth vehicle** into the pullover zone. From **12:01am until 4:00am**, officers assigned to the P-3 positions will be responsible for directing **every other vehicle** into the pullover zone. During all times, the officers assigned to the P-3 position will also be responsible for directing into the pullover zone, those vehicles that display observable traffic, criminal, and ordinance violations. For clarification purposes, observable violations are directed into the pullover zone **based upon the violation** and these vehicles **ARE NOT COUNTED AS VEHICLES FOR THE PURPOSE OF RANDOM STOPS**.

In the event that a motorist refuses to stop or continues to past the officer in the P- 3 position, the Checkpoint Commander will be responsible for deploying a marked patrol vehicle to pursue a violator.

### **ONCE STOPPED**

Once in the pullover zone, the officers assigned to the **P-4 position** will courteously greet the motorist. Officers will explain the reason for the roadblock, and evaluate the operator's ability to further operate the vehicle. The officers assigned to the P-4 position will make the determination whether the operator will be asked out of the vehicle and shall administered a series of field sobriety tests. The officers assigned to these positions will be documented as the arresting officer and will forward any appropriate written reports to support subsequent case prosecution. Where an operator is deemed eligible to continue to drive the motor vehicle and where no violation of law exists, the driver shall be permitted to continue without any unreasonable delay. In accordance with "John's Law" & Attorney General Guidelines, all persons arrested for the offense of DWI will result in the impoundment of their motor vehicle unless another eligible person is on location to drive the vehicle. Removal of vehicles from the pullover zone shall be the duty of the tow contractors representing the Stratford and Somerdale Police Departments.

### **TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT**

To avoid an overloaded pullover zone the Checkpoint Commanders shall ensure that traffic enforcement efforts are limited to serious or substantial violations. However, nothing contained herein shall prohibit enforcement of less serious violations if deemed prudent at the particular time by a Checkpoint Commander.

### **TRAFFIC FLOW OF DEPARTING VEHICLES**

Motor vehicles exiting the pullover zone will be directed to exit the Aldi parking lot, via Colby Avenue.

### **TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ACTIVITIES**

In order to safeguard motorists and officers from any condition that may occur or exist, the Checkpoint Commanders may suspend the stopping of motor vehicles. The Checkpoint Commanders will again commence when conditions are deemed safe.

## **ATTEMPTS TO EVADE**

In instances where a motorist attempts to avoid the Checkpoint, the vehicle will be stopped by a police officer if:

- a. The motorist initiates an unlawful turn in the roadway.
- b. The motorist commits any other traffic violations while attempting to evade the checkpoint.
- c. An observable violation is noted.
- d. The driver has past the point in which he/she is reasonably committed to further approach the Checkpoint.

## **STAFFING ASSIGNMENTS**

### **POSITION 1**

Officers assigned to the P-1 positions will be responsible for directing traffic to the lane shift zone. In addition, the P-1 officers shall slow the entering vehicles to a controlled speed and shall report to the Checkpoint Commanders any evading vehicles that have attempted to elude the motor vehicle stop.

### **POSITION 2**

Officers assigned to the P-2 position shall situate themselves within the cone lane shift, in addition to being responsible for keeping traffic moving forward and communicating with motorists when necessary.

### **POSITION 3**

Officers assigned to the P-3 positions shall be responsible for counting and **stopping of every other vehicle or every 5<sup>th</sup>** vehicle in accordance with the time schedule. The P-3 positions will **direct in observable violations** as well. These officers are to safely direct motorists into the pullover zone, which will be located in the Aldi Store parking lot.

### **POSITION 4**

Officers assigned to the P-4 positions shall be responsible for greeting motorist in the pullover zone. The officers shall evaluate the operator of the vehicle and determine if he/she is under the influence of alcoholic beverages or drugs. In addition, the P-4 officers will administer standardized field sobriety tests when alcohol or drugs are suspected. The P-4 officers shall be documented as the arresting officers for all DWI offenses.

### **POSITION 5**

The P-5 officers shall be positioned around the checkpoint area and shall be responsible for determining motor vehicle stops for evading vehicles, under the direction of the Checkpoint Commander.

### **POSITION 6**

Officers assigned to the P-6 position shall be positioned within the Somerdale Police Headquarters. These officers shall be responsible for conducting the Alcotest, processing and

releasing persons arrested for DWI. These officers will also be responsible for signing all complaints for DWI and related offenses.

### **POSITION 7**

The Checkpoint Commanders shall be within the Checkpoint zone or within Somerdale Police Headquarters. The Checkpoint Commanders are responsible for the overall administration of this plan and will be constantly available to resolve any circumstance or situation that may unfold and shall be responsible for ensuring all police reports are completed.

## **STATISTICAL DATA**

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During the calendar year of **2018**, the Stratford & Somerdale Police Departments collectively arrested over **120** motorists for 39:4-50 offenses that occurred on the White Horse Pike (RT # 30)

During the calendar year of **2017**, the Stratford & Somerdale Police Departments collectively arrested over **100** motorists for 39:4-50 offenses that occurred on the White Horse Pike (RT # 30)

During the calendar year of **2016**, the Stratford & Somerdale Police Departments collectively arrested over **135** motorists for 39:4-50 offenses that occurred on the White Horse Pike (RT # 30)

During the calendar year of **2015**, the Stratford & Somerdale Police Departments collectively arrested over **150** motorists for 39:4-50 offenses that occurred on the White Horse Pike (RT # 30)

During the calendar year of **2014**, the Stratford & Somerdale Police Departments collectively arrested over **150** motorists for 39:4-50 offenses that occurred on the White Horse Pike (RT # 30)

During the calendar year of **2013**, the Stratford & Somerdale Police Departments collectively arrested over **140** motorists for 39:4-50 offenses that occurred on the White Horse Pike (RT # 30)

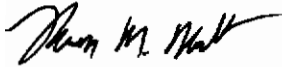
During the calendar year of **2012**, the Stratford & Somerdale Police Departments collectively arrested over **160** motorists for 39:4-50 offenses that occurred on the White Horse Pike (RT # 30)

In addition to the drunk driving data, there have been **4 traffic fatalities** in Somerdale & Stratford over the past 30 months.

## ADDENDUM A

This is to certify that the administrative plan for "Operation Safe & Sober Highway Fall 2019" has been formulated by supervisory personnel of the Stratford & Somerdale Police Departments.

In addition, by virtue of the signatures contained below, the Chief Law Enforcement Officers of the participating municipalities have reviewed and approved this plan of operation.



Ronald M. Morello  
Chief of Police  
Stratford Police Department

8 / 17 / 19

**Prosecutorial Review/Approved by: AP Jason Magid**  
(See approval letter)





**ADDENDUM B  
SIGNAGE DISPLAYED**

**#1      SOBRIETY CHECKPOINT AHEAD**

WEST BOUND PRIOR TO THE CHECKPOINT

**#2      DWI CHECKPOINT AHEAD**

WEST BOUND AT THE BEGINNING THE  
CHECKPOINT

**#3      ALL VEHICLES CONTINUE STRAIGHT**

WEST BOUND APPROXIMATELY 100 FEET INTO  
THE CHECKPOINT

**#4      SOBRIETY CHECKPOINT AHEAD**

EAST BOUND PRIOR TO THE CHECKPOINT

**#5      DWI CHECKPOINT AHEAD**

EAST BOUND AT THE BEGINNING THE  
CHECKPOINT

**#6      ALL VEHICLES CONTINUE STRAIGHT**

EAST BOUND APPROXIMATELY 100 FEET INTO  
THE CHECKPOINT

Signage Verified by: \_\_\_\_\_

Badge#

**STRATFORD & SOMERDALE POLICE  
PRESS RELEASE NOTIFICATION**

**DATE OF PRESS RELEASE: Wednesday September 18, 2019**

**DATE OF DWI CHECKPOINT: Saturday September 21, 2019**

**TIME: 9:00pm – 4:00 am**

**LOCATION: White Horse Pike & Colby Avenue east & west bound**

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Between the above hours, Police Officers from Stratford & Somerdale Department will establish a Drunk Driving Sobriety Check point on the White Horse Pike. The primary purpose of the checkpoint is to deter intoxicated drivers from getting behind the wheel in the first place. Those persons found to be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs will be arrested and their vehicles will be subject to impoundment.



Ronald M. Morello  
Chief of Police  
Stratford Police Department

Sent to: *CUNBER POST JIM WALSH  
NY AQUANUM MORA*  
via fax, electronically, mail

Sent date: *9/18/19* *VEA EMAIL (ATTACHED)*

Sent by: Chief R. Morello

## **Morello, Ronald**

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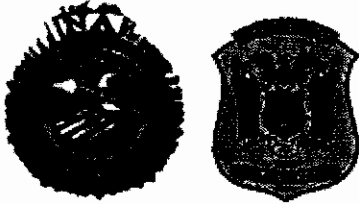
**From:** Morello, Ronald  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 18, 2019 9:17 AM  
**To:** 'Walsh, Jim (Cherry Hill)'  
**Subject:** DWI Checkpoint Press Release  
**Attachments:** DWI checkpoint Press Release.pdf

Mr. Walsh

Attached you will find a press release statement regarding a joint DWI Checkpoint scheduled for Saturday September 21, 2019 between 9:00pm – 4:00am. The operation will be conducted on the White Horse Pike & Colby Avenue.

Thank you for considering this publication.

**Chief Ronald Morello**  
**Stratford Police Department**  
**315 Union Avenue**  
**Stratford, NJ 08084**  
**Office: (856) 783-8621**  
**Facsimile: (856)-782-7046**  
**CHIEFRMORELLO@COMCAST.NET**  
**RMORELLO@STRATFORDPD.ORG**



**Session #243**

**From:** Walsh, Jim (Cherry Hill) <[JWalsh@gannettnj.com](mailto:JWalsh@gannettnj.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2019 12:44 PM  
**To:** Morello, Ronald <[RMorello@stratfordpd.org](mailto:RMorello@stratfordpd.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: reporter's request for information

Thanks for getting back to me. Sheri and I are working at different locations today, so I hadn't realized she was already on this.

Sorry for the inconvenience.

## Morello, Ronald

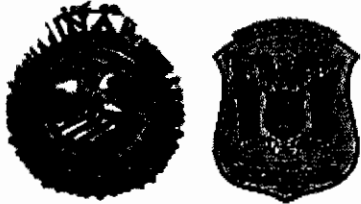
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**From:** Morello, Ronald  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 18, 2019 9:23 AM  
**To:** 'reverett@njadvancemedia.com'  
**Cc:** 'tharris@njadvancemedia.com'; 'bduhart@njadvancemedia.com'; 'Morello, Ronald (RMorello@stratfordpd.org)'  
**Subject:** DWI Checkpoint Stratford - Somerdale PD  
**Attachments:** DWI checkpoint Press Release.pdf

Please see the attached press release notification for an upcoming DWI checkpoint scheduled for this weekend

**Respectfully,**

**Chief Ronald Morello**  
**Stratford Police Department**  
**315 Union Avenue**  
**Stratford, NJ 08084**  
**Office: (856) 783-8621**  
**Facsimile: (856)-782-7046**  
**CHIEFRMORELLO@COMCAST.NET**  
**RMORELLO@STRATFORDPD.ORG**



Session #243