



Office of the County Prosecutor

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Jeffrey S. Dunlap
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July 1, 2021

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

Re: Proposed DWI Checkpoint: September 10, 2021 (9:00 p.m.) until
September 11, 2021 (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 10, 2021, (9:00 p.m.) until September 11, 2021, (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
Special Deputy Attorney General
Acting Assistant Prosecutor
Deputy Section Chief
Motions & Appeals Unit

STRATFORD & SOMERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENTS

OPERATION

“Safe & Sober Highway Summer 2021”

STARTING: 9:00pm Friday September 10, 2021
ENDING: 4:00am Friday September 11, 2021
LOCATION: White Horse Pike & Colby Avenue (Eastbound & Westbound)

SOCIAL UTILITARIAN PURPOSE:

Due to the statistical data and research conducted by both law enforcement agencies, along with 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 combat the very serious problem of intoxicated drivers. These intoxicated motorists wreak havoc upon the highways within the State of New Jersey and the Stratford and Somerdale Police Departments have combined resources to combat this issue. These departments have obtained funding to establish a safe, lawful, and efficient DWI Checkpoint.

Beginning at approximately 9:00pm Friday September 10, 2021 and ending at approximately 4:00am Saturday September 11, 2021, designated police officers from each department 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 Vincent Jess of the Stratford Police Department and Sergeant Brian Usher of the Somerdale Police Department. These two individuals will be designated as the “Check Point 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 Stratford Police Department located at 315 Union Avenue, Stratford, New Jersey. All persons arrested for DWI and related offenses will be processed at Stratford Police Headquarters. 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 both law enforcement agencies share enforcement jurisdiction, the decision regarding the 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 of the intersection of White Horse Pike and Colby Avenue. A lane shift will be established by traffic cones, which will merge eastbound traffic into the eastbound curb lane and westbound traffic into the westbound curb lane. 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 may be 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 uniformed police officers that will be responsible to guide and direct traffic passing eastbound and westbound through the checkpoint.

STOPPING OF MOTOR VEHICLES:

The stopping or directing of motor vehicles into the designated pull-over zone will be conducted by police officers assigned to **position 3** of the checkpoint. The designated pull-over zone will be the Aldi Food Store parking lot (1102 North White Horse Pike, Stratford). In consideration of generally heavy traffic volume on Route 30 from **9:00pm until 12:00am**, the officers assigned to **position 3** will be responsible for the waving and directing of **every fifth vehicle** into the pull-over zone. From **12:01am until 4:00am**, officers assigned to **position 3** will be responsible for directing **every other vehicle** into the pull-over zone. During all times, the offices assigned to **position 3** will also be responsible for directing those vehicles with observable traffic, criminal, and ordinance violations into the pull-over zone. For clarification purposes, observable violations are directed into the pull-over 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 past the officers in **position 3**, the **Checkpoint Commander(s)** will be responsible for deploying a marked patrol vehicle to pursue the violator.

ONCE STOPPED:

Once in the pull-over zone, the officers assigned to **position 4** will courteously greet the motorist, explain the reason for the roadblock, and evaluate the operator's ability to further operate the vehicle. The officers assigned to **position 4** will make the determination whether the operator will be asked out of the vehicle and shall administer a series of field sobriety tests. The officers assigned to **position 4** 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 with any unreasonable delay. In accordance with "John's Law" and Attorney General Guidelines, all persons arrested for the offense of Driving While Intoxicated will result in the impoundment of their motor vehicle, unless there is another eligible person who is on location to drive the vehicle. Removal of vehicles from the pull-over zone shall be the duty of the tow contractors representing the Stratford Police Department and Somerdale Police Department.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:

To avoid an overloaded pull-over 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 pull-over zone will be directed to exit the Aldi Food Store 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 Commander(s)** may suspend the stopping of motor vehicles. The **Checkpoint Commander(s)** will again commence operations 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:

1. The motorist initiates an unlawful turn in the roadway.
2. The motorist commits any other traffic violations while attempting to evade the checkpoint.
3. An observable violation is noted.
4. 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 **position 1** will be responsible for directing traffic to the lane shift zones. In addition, officers in **position 1** shall slow the entering vehicles to a controlled speed and shall report to the **Checkpoint Commander(s)** any evading vehicles that have attempted to elude the checkpoint.

POSITION 2:

Officers assigned to **position 2** shall situate themselves within the coned lane shift. In addition these officers are responsible for keeping traffic moving forward and communicating with motorists if necessary.

POSITION 3:

Officers assigned to **position 3** shall be responsible for counting and stopping **every fifth vehicle or every other vehicle**, in accordance with the time schedule previously stated, as well as directing motorists with **observable violations** into the pull-over zone. These officers are responsible for safely directing motorists into the pull-over zone, which will be situated within the Aldi Food Store parking lot (1102 North White Horse Pike, Stratford).

POSITION 4:

Officers assigned to **position 4** shall be responsible for greeting motorists in the pull-over zone. These officers shall evaluate the operator of the vehicle and determine if he/she is under the influence of alcoholic beverages and/or drugs. Officers assigned to **position 4** will administer standardized field sobriety tests when alcohol and/or drugs are suspected. The **position 4** officer who makes contact with the driver shall be documented as the arresting officer for all DWI offenses.

POSITION 5:

Officers assigned to **position 5** shall be position around the checkpoint area in marked patrol vehicles and shall be responsible for conducting motor vehicle stops of vehicles evading the checkpoint under the direction of the **Checkpoint Commander(s)**.

POSITION 6:

Officers assigned to **position 6** shall be positioned within Stratford Police Headquarters. These officers shall be responsible for conducting the Alcotest, processing of the arrest, and releasing persons arrested for DWI in accordance with "John's Law." These officers will also be responsible for signing all complaints for DWI and related offenses.

CHECKPOINT COMMANDERS:

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

STATISTICAL DATA

During the calendar year of **2020**, the Stratford Police Department and the Somerdale Police Department collectively arrested over **50** motorists for violation of 39:4-50 that occurred on the White Horse Pike (U.S. Route 30).

During the calendar year of **2019**, the Stratford Police Department and the Somerdale Police Department collectively arrested over **130** motorists for violation of 39:4-50 that occurred on the White Horse Pike (U.S. Route 30).

During the calendar year of **2018**, the Stratford Police Department and the Somerdale Police Department collectively arrested over **120** motorists for violation of 39:4-50 that occurred on the White Horse Pike (U.S. Route 30).

During the calendar year of **2017**, the Stratford Police Department and the Somerdale Police Department collectively arrested over **100** motorists for violation of 39:4-50 that occurred on the White Horse Pike (U.S. Route 30).

During the calendar year of **2016**, the Stratford Police Department and the Somerdale Police Department collectively arrested over **135** motorists for violation of 39:4-50 that occurred on the White Horse Pike (U.S. Route 30).

During the calendar year of **2015**, the Stratford Police Department and the Somerdale Police Department collectively arrested over **150** motorists for violation of 39:4-50 that occurred on the White Horse Pike (U.S. Route 30).

During the calendar year of **2014**, the Stratford Police Department and the Somerdale Police Department collectively arrested over **150** motorists for violation of 39:4-50 that occurred on the White Horse Pike (U.S. Route 30).

During the calendar year of **2013**, the Stratford Police Department and the Somerdale Police Department collectively arrested over **140** motorists for violation of 39:4-50 that occurred on the White Horse Pike (U.S. Route 30).

In addition to the drunk driving data, there have been **2 traffic fatalities** in Stratford and Somerdale since 2018.

ADDENDUM "A"

This is to certify that the administrative plan for the "Operation Safe and Sober Highway Summer 2021" has been formulated by supervisory personnel of the Stratford Police Department and Somerdale Police Department.

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

Prosecutorial Review / Approved by:

(See approval letter)

ADDENDUM "B"
SIGNAGE DISPLAYED

WESTBOUND:

- #1 SOBRIETY CHECKPOINT AHEAD**
 Placed prior to checkpoint
- #2 ALL VEHICLES CONTINUE STRAIGHT**
 Placed at the beginning of the checkpoint
- #3 DWI CHECKPOINT AHEAD**
 Placed approximately 100 feet into the checkpoint

EASTBOUND:

- #1 SOBRIETY CHECKPOINT AHEAD**
 Placed prior to checkpoint
- #2 ALL VEHICLES CONTINUE STRAIGHT**
 Placed at the beginning of the checkpoint
- #3 DWI CHECKPOINT AHEAD**
 Placed approximately 100 feet into the checkpoint

Signage Verified by: _____ Badge # _____

**STRATFORD POLICE
SOMERDALE POLICE
PRESS RELEASE NOTIFICATION**

DATE OF PRESS RELEASE: Wednesday September 9, 2021

DATE OF DWI CHECKPOINT: Friday September 10, 2021

TIME: 9:00pm – 4:00am

LOCATION: White Horse Pike & Colby Avenue (eastbound and westbound)

Between the above hours, Police Officers from the Stratford Police Department and Somerdale Police Department will establish a Drunk Driving Sobriety Checkpoint 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:

Date Sent:

Sent by: Chief R. Morello

**DWI CHECKPOINT FIELD AND
HEADQUARTERS REPORT**

- SUSPECT'S NAME _____
- LICENSE PLATE # _____
- DATE OF ARREST _____ TIME OF ARREST _____
- DIRECTED INTO PULL-OVER ZONE BY _____
- RANDOM PLAN BASED STOP YES / NO
- VIOLATION BASED STOP if yes, what offense _____
- DIRECTION OF TRAVEL EASTBOUND / WESTBOUND
- FIELD EVALUATIONS CONDUCTED BY _____
- INSTRUCTION ADMINISTERED IN
 ACCORDANCE WITH TRAINING YES / NO
- ARRESTING OFFICER _____
- TRANSPORTED TO HEADQUARTERS BY _____
- TIME OF ARRIVAL AT HEADQUARTERS _____
- ALCOTEST OPERATOR OBSERVATION START TIME _____
- ALCOTEST OPERATOR _____
- MOUTH CAVITY CLEAR YES / NO if no, detail in notes
- POLICE RADIOS AND CELLULAR
 DEVICES TURNED OFF AND STOWED YES / NO

Notes:
