

# STRATFORD & SOMERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENTS

## OPERATION "Safe & Sober Highway 2011"

**STARTING:** Saturday May 21, 2011, 9:00pm  
**ENDING:** Sunday September 20, 2009, 4:30am  
**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 as caused by intoxicated drivers, the Stratford & Somerdale Police Department have combined resources and obtained funding to establish a lawful, effective and efficient DWI checkpoint.

Beginning at approximately 9:00pm on Saturday, May 21, 2011 and ending at approximately 4:30am Sunday May 22, 2011, designated police officers from the Stratford & Somerdale Police Departments will be situated in or about the checkpoint. The duties of each police officer, as outlined on page 5 of the **PLAN OF ACTION** will be co-coordinated by Sergeant Robert Kelly of the Stratford Police Department & Sergeant Paul Sims of the Somerdale Police Department, who are, designated as the "Checkpoint Commanders".

Checkpoint Commanders shall ensure that the procedures, conduct, rules and limitations will be strictly adhered to by 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. Due to this operation being conducted at a location where both law enforcement agencies share jurisdiction for enforcement action, 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.

## **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 all east bound traffic into east bound curb lanes and all west bound 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 will be situated between the orange traffic cones in order to further ensure the safety of motorists and participating police officers. Additional warning signs will be established within the checkpoint area, which will warn motorists to reduce speed while further alerting motorists that a police officer is ahead. Traffic will also 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 pool 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 position. From 12:01am until 4:30am, officers assigned to the P-3 positions will be responsible for directing every other vehicle into the pullover location. 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. In the event that a motorist refuses to stop or continues to pass 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 and introduce themselves by providing them with their rank, name, and department. 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 standardized field sobriety tests. The officers assigned to these positions will be documented as the arresting officer and will forward appropriate written reports to support subsequent case prosecution. Where an operator is deemed eligible to continue to operate the motor vehicle and where no violation of law exists, the driver shall be permitted to continue on 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 remove the vehicle and avoid impoundment. 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 due to minor traffic violations, 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 the Colby Avenue exit. Vehicles will be directed northbound and shall use the traffic control device to reenter Route 30.

#### **TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ACTIVITIES**

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

#### **ATTEMPTS TO EVADE**

In incidents 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 reasonable 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 every 3<sup>rd</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> vehicle in accordance with the time schedule. The officers will also be responsible for directing the motorist safely 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 and 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 entire operation of this plan and will be constantly available to resolve any circumstance or situation that may unfold. And shall be also responsible for ensuring all police reports are completed.

**STATISTICAL DATA**

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During the calendar year of **2009**, the Stratford & Somerdale Police Departments collectively\_arrested **171** motorists for 39:4-50 offenses which occurred on the White Horse Pike (RT # 30)

During the calendar year of **2008**, the Stratford & Somerdale Police Departments collectively\_arrested **188** motorists for 39:4-50 offenses which occurred on the White Horse Pike (RT # 30)

During the calendar year of **2007**, the Stratford & Somerdale Police Departments collectively\_arrested **171** motorists for 39:4-50 offenses which occurred on the White Horse Pike (RT # 30)

During the calendar year of **2006**, the Stratford & Somerdale Police Departments collectively\_arrested **140** motorists for 39:4-50 offenses which occurred on the White Horse Pike (RT # 30)

During the calendar year of **2005**, the Stratford & Somerdale Police Departments collectively\_arrested **115** motorists for 39:4-50 offenses which occurred on the White Horse Pike (RT # 30)

## ADDENDUM A

This is to certify that the administrative plan for "Operation Safe & Sober Highway 2011" 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony R. Campbell /                    /  
Chief of Police  
Somerdale Police Department

**Prosecutorial Review/Approved by:**





**STRATFORD & SOMERDALE POLICE  
PRESS RELEASE NOTIFICATION**

**DATE:** May 15, 2011

**TIME:** 9:00pm - 4:30 am

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

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Between the above hours, Police Officers from the Camden County Drunk Driving Task Force 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

FAXED TO  
COUNCIL POST  
5/16/11

11:51 AM  
W 6320

**ADDENDUM A**

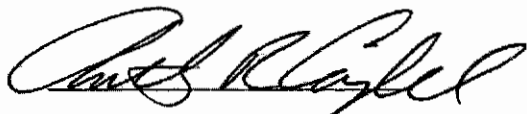
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5/6/11

Ronald M. Morello  
Chief of Police  
Stratford Police Department



5/6/11

Anthony R. Campbell  
Chief of Police  
Somerdale Police Department

**Prosecutorial Review/Approved by:**

AIP MORLENA

5/3/11

**WARREN W. FAULK**  
**CAMDEN COUNTY PROSECUTOR**

**GLADYS E. RODRIGUEZ**  
First Assistant Prosecutor  
**JOSHUA M. OTTENBERG**  
Deputy First Assistant Prosecutor  
**THOMAS J. GARRITY, JR.**  
Chief of Investigators



**Camden County**  
**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR**  
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May 3, 2011

Ronald M. Morello  
Chief of Police  
Borough of Stratford  
312 Union Avenue  
Stratford, NJ 08084

RE: PROPOSED DWI CHECKPOINT FOR SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2011 AT 9:00  
P.M. THROUGH SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2011 AT 4:30 A.M.

Dear Chief Morello

Our office has reviewed the above-mentioned proposal for a DWI checkpoint. Because it complies with the Attorney General's guidelines, we approve your proposal. If you have any questions, please contact me at 225-8569.

Very truly yours,

*Michele G. Morgera*  
**MICHELE G. MORGERA**  
ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR  
SECTION CHIEF, MAJOR CRIMES UNIT

MGM:



Everything Jersey

## Somerdale, Stratford police to conduct sobriety checkpoints

Published: Sunday, May 08, 2011, 8:13 AM



**John Barna/Gloucester County Times**

By

Sobriety checkpoints are scheduled to be conducted May 21 in Somerdale and Stratford, the Camden County Prosecutor's Office has announced.

Checkpoints are operated by local police.

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