Vehicle Maintenance

702.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE
Employees are responsible for assisting in maintaining Department vehicles so that they are properly equipped, properly maintained, properly refueled and present a clean appearance.

702.2 DEFECTIVE VEHICLES
When a department vehicle becomes inoperative or in need of repair that affects the safety of the vehicle, that vehicle shall be removed from service for repair. Proper documentation shall be promptly completed by the employee who first becomes aware of the defective condition, describing the correction needed. The paperwork shall be promptly forwarded to vehicle maintenance for repair.

702.2.1 DAMAGE OR POOR PERFORMANCE
Vehicles that may have been damaged, or perform poorly shall be removed from service for inspections and repairs as soon as practicable.

702.2.2 SEVERE USE
Vehicles operated under severe-use conditions, which include operations for which the vehicle is not designed or that exceed the manufacturer’s parameters, should be removed from service and subjected to a safety inspection as soon as practicable. Such conditions may include rough roadway or off-road driving, hard or extended braking, pursuits or prolonged high-speed operation.

702.2.3 REMOVAL OF WEAPONS
All firearms, weapons and control devices shall be removed from a vehicle and properly secured in the department armory prior to the vehicle being released for maintenance, service or repair.

702.3 VEHICLE EQUIPMENT
Certain items shall be maintained in all department vehicles for emergency purposes and to perform routine duties.

702.3.1 PATROL VEHICLES
Officers shall inspect the patrol vehicle at the beginning of the shift and ensure that the following equipment, at a minimum, is present in the vehicle:

- Blanket
- Traffic cones
- Field dressing
- Fire extinguisher
- Road flares
- Stroll meter
Vehicle Maintenance

- Sharps container

702.4 VEHICLE REFUELING
Absent emergency conditions or supervisor approval, officers driving patrol vehicles shall not place a vehicle in service that has less than one-quarter tank of fuel. Vehicles shall only be refueled at the authorized location.

702.5 WASHING OF VEHICLES
All units shall be kept clean at all times and weather conditions permitting, shall be washed as necessary to enhance their appearance.

Officers in patrol shall obtain clearance from the dispatcher before responding to the car wash. Only one marked unit should be at the car wash at the same time unless otherwise approved by a supervisor.

Employees using a vehicle shall remove any trash or debris at the end of their shift. Confidential material should be placed in a designated receptacle provided for the shredding of this matter.

702.6 PROFESSIONAL STAFF EMPLOYEE USE
Professional Staff employees using marked vehicles shall ensure all weapons are removed from vehicles before going into service. Professional Staff employees shall also prominently display the “out of service” placards or light bar covers at all times. Professional Staff employees shall not operate the emergency lights or siren of any vehicle unless expressly authorized by a supervisor.