

CITY OF MADISON  
**INTER-DEPARTMENTAL**  
CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: November 16, 2011

TO: Noble Wray, Chief of Police

FROM: Richard Bach, Captain of Police

SUBJECT: **2011 Third Quarter Traffic Enforcement Activity Report**

The information provided in this document represents the Madison Police Department's traffic enforcement activity for July-September, 2011.

In the third quarter of 2011, the Madison Police Department issued 6,192 traffic citations (4,194 citations for hazardous violations and 1,998 citations for non-hazardous violations). These numbers represent a slight rebound from the total citation numbers posted in the second quarter of this year, although still considerably lower than the third quarter citation totals from 2010. Of the 6,192 total citations issued in the quarter, 2,005 citations (1,469 hazardous and 536 non-hazardous) were issued by the Traffic Enforcement Safety Team. These numbers represent an increase of approximately 4% as compared to the number of traffic citations the TEST unit issued in the third quarter of 2010, and an increase of approximately 30% in the number of traffic citations that were issued the second quarter of this year.

There were 2035 citations issued for speeding in the third quarter of 2011. This reflects an 11% increase from the second quarter of this year, and a 9% decrease from the third quarter of 2010. The TEST unit issued 1205 speeding citations in the third quarter of 2011, an increase over the 1087 citations issued by the unit in the third quarter of 2010, and also over the 881 issued by the team in the second quarter of this year. Total OMVWI arrests in the third quarter remained steady from the same time frame last year, and increased from the second quarter of this year. Citation totals for most other violations remained fairly stable, or reflected a modest decrease, from those in the third quarter of 2010.

It is possible that some of the general decrease observed in the third quarter citation totals for this year, compared to last year, may have been influenced by some of the events that occurred in Madison over that time frame. From July through September, the Madison Police Department investigated three homicides that occurred in Madison, and a significant missing child incident. These can be lengthy and labor intensive investigations which require application of significant resources, both in response to these crimes, and in their investigation. The resources committed to thoroughly investigate these incidents impacts the Madison Police Departments ability to provide services beyond a level of basic service, as numerous officers, often including those from the TEST unit, are pulled from their regular duties and reassigned, leaving less opportunity for traffic enforcement. Another possible contributing cause in the observed decline for certain offenses could have been the decrease in grant funding in 2011 for pedestrian and bicycle right of way enforcement. In 2011, the Madison Police Department received one third less funding for these grants than the year before. Regardless, Madison Police officers and supervisors remain cognizant of the vital role that traffic enforcement plays in the safety of our community, and will continue to make traffic enforcement a priority.

The Traffic Complaint Hotline (previously known as the Speeders Hotline) received 287 citizen calls during the third quarter of 2011. 124 warning letters were sent as a result of these reported violations. In Madison's school zones, Crossing Guard reports resulted in 15 citations issued for observed violations in the third quarter of 2011.

Forty eight traffic enforcement overtime grant initiatives were scheduled for the third quarter of 2011. These grant initiatives were coordinated through the Department of Transportation Bureau of Transportation Safety. The grant initiatives focused on impaired driver (OMVWI), excessive speed, bicycle enforcement and pedestrian safety. 752

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citations were issued as a result of these initiatives.

In the third quarter of 2011, Traffic Specialists investigated seven significant traffic crashes. These crashes resulted in the death of six people. The use of alcohol is believed to have been a factor in at least three of these crashes.

Please see attachments for all citation/warning data.