

CITY OF MADISON  
***INTER-DEPARTMENTAL***  
CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: August 5, 2011

TO: Noble Wray, Chief of Police

FROM: Richard Bach, Captain of Police

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

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

In the second quarter of 2011, the Madison Police Department issued 5,864 traffic citations (3,891 citations for hazardous violations and 1,973 citations for non-hazardous violations). These numbers reflect an overall decrease of 17% from the total number of citations issued in the second quarter of 2010. Of the 5,864 total citations issued, 1,540 citations (1,122 hazardous and 418 non-hazardous) were issued by the Traffic Enforcement Safety Team. These numbers represent a 33% decrease in the total number of citations issued by TEST officers over the same time frame last year.

The decrease in ticket numbers observed in the second quarter is particularly pronounced in the number of citations issued for hazardous offenses, which dropped 26% overall, including a 43% drop in the number of citations issued by the TEST team for hazardous offenses. This general decrease was particularly noted in the number of citations issued for speeding, which dropped 36% department-wide (1,835 citations issued in the second quarter of 2011, compared to 2,862 citations issued in the second quarter of 2010). Speeding citations issued by the TEST team decreased 44% (881 in the second quarter of 2011, compared to 1,572 issued in the second quarter of 2010). Citation numbers for non-hazardous offenses increased in the second quarter of 2011 compared to 2010, both for the TEST unit (21% increase) and MPD overall (7% increase).

Much of the increase in the number of citations issued for non-hazardous offenses can be attributed to enforcement of the mandatory insurance requirement. The decreases observed in the citation totals for hazardous violations are likely, in part, a reflection of the continued staffing demands placed on the Madison Police Department by events at the State Capitol related to State Budget deliberations, which continued through the second quarter. Numerous MPD officers, including members of all five CPT's and TEST, were regularly removed from their normal assignments for duty around the Capitol. Additionally the TEST unit was down one officer to injury for half of the quarter. With the return of more customary levels of activity at the Capitol, and the return of the TEST unit to full strength beginning in August, it can be anticipated that opportunity for traffic enforcement will increase and a rebound in the number of traffic citations issued will likely follow. Despite the decreases in citation totals exhibited in the second quarter, 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 in 2011.

The Traffic Complaint Hotline (previously known as the Speeders Hotline) received 317 citizen calls during the second quarter. 140 warning letters were sent as a result of these reported violations. In Madison's school zones, Crossing Guard reports resulted in 39 citations issued for observed violations in the second quarter of 2011.

Fifty one traffic enforcement overtime grant initiatives were scheduled for the second quarter of 2011. These 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. 875 citations were issued as a result of these initiatives.

In the second quarter of 2011, Traffic Specialists investigated six significant traffic crashes. These crashes resulted in the death of four people, including one pedestrian. The use of alcohol is believed to have been a factor in one of these crashes.

Please see attachments for all citation/warning data.