

CITY OF MADISON
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL
CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: January 26, 2009

TO: Noble Wray, Chief of Police

FROM: David Jugovich, Lieutenant of Police

SUBJECT: **2008 Fourth Quarter Traffic Activity Report**
(October - December 2008)

The information provided herein represents the Madison Police Department's traffic enforcement activity for the fourth quarter of 2008.

In summary, all traffic citations issued for the fourth quarter totaled 4,957, which includes 3,739 citations for hazardous violations and 1,218 citations for non-hazardous violations. In addition, 229 traffic warnings were issued. Of these totals, the Traffic Enforcement Safety Team (T.E.S.T.) issued 1,050 citations, which included 908 hazardous citations and 142 non-hazardous citations during this period. The previous fourth quarter two-year (2006-2007) average for total citations issued by the Department was 4,289. Also during the fourth quarter of this period (2006-2007), the average total number of citations issued by the Traffic Enforcement Safety Team was 644.

The Speeders Hotline received 699 citizen calls during the fourth quarter of 2008, resulting in the mailing of a total of 620 warning letters. Of those, Crossing Guard observations resulted in 501 warning letters being mailed and 16 citations issued during this period.

During the fourth quarter of 2008, traffic enforcement overtime grants were scheduled. These grants were coordinated through the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Safety. Impaired driver (OWI) and excessive speed enforcement initiatives occurred at the end of November and during December. Because of these enforcement efforts, 65 citations and 17 warnings were issued.

During the fourth quarter of 2008, Traffic Specialists investigated four (4) significant traffic crashes, which involved serious injuries. Overall in 2008, there were twelve (12) significant vehicle crashes, of which five (5) involved fatalities. One of these traffic crashes resulted in three (3) deaths. Consequently, in 2008, a total of seven (7) people died in vehicle-involved crashes within the City of Madison.

Of note is that statewide in 2008, the total number of traffic crashes involving a fatality was down approximately 17% and the total number of traffic crash fatalities was down approximately 20% from 2007. This decline represents the lowest number of annual traffic related deaths that have occurred statewide since 1944. Within the City of Madison, the total number of traffic crashes involving a fatality in 2008 was down approximately 67% and the total number of traffic crash fatalities was down approximately 53% from 2007.

Statewide, causes affecting this decline have been attributed to record high gas prices and long stretches of severe weather patterns that decreased traffic volume and moderated vehicle speeds. However, efforts from law enforcement, traffic safety advocates, emergency medical services and a responsible motoring public have positively impacted this decline as well.

Please refer to the attachment for further details.