

CITY OF MADISON
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL
CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: November 9, 2009

TO: Noble Wray, Chief of Police

FROM: Richard Bach, Acting Assistant Chief of Police

SUBJECT: **2009 Third Quarter Traffic Enforcement Activity Report**
(July - September)

The information provided herein represents the Madison Police Department's traffic enforcement activity for the third quarter of 2009. It should also be noted that during this period, a position remained vacant on the Traffic Enforcement Safety Team due to the retirement of an officer earlier in the year.

In summary, all traffic citations issued for the third quarter of 2009 totaled 6,856 (4,952 citations for hazardous violations and 1,904 citations for non-hazardous violations). Additionally, 837 traffic warnings were issued. Of these totals, the Traffic Enforcement Safety Team (T.E.S.T.) issued 1,802 citations (1,516 hazardous citations and 286 non-hazardous citations). This reflects a **12% increase** in the issuance of overall citations department wide and a **96% increase** in the issuance of overall citations by the Traffic Enforcement Safety Team, when compared to third quarter data from 2008. The 2009 year-to-date department citation total is 20,251 in comparison to 15,790 citations issued during the same period in 2008, which represents a **28% increase**.

Included in the above data are 2,798 speeding citations issued department-wide during the third quarter of 2009, which reflects a **37% increase** when compared to 2,038 citations issued in the third quarter of 2008. Also included in the department-wide totals were citations issued to pedestrians and bicyclists for various violations, including 128 citations issued for motorists failing to yield to pedestrians.

The significant increase in citation activity is attributed to several factors that were identified in the 2009 first quarter report, which continued in the third quarter. These factors include increased staffing department wide which has allowed officers more time to do pro-active enforcement, additional enforcement funding through state grants, a more structured enforcement approach involving TEST, patrol and CPT officers that focused on addressing District traffic issues, as well as officers and supervisors continuing to recognize this as a department and community priority.

The Traffic Complaint Hotline (previously known as the Speeders Hotline) received 409 citizen calls during the third quarter of 2009, resulting in the mailing of a total of 123 warning letters. In addition, Crossing Guard observations resulted in 367 warning letters being mailed and 17 citations issued. Complaints involving the Boom Car Ordinance resulted in the issuance of 1 citation and 5 warnings letters during this period.

Within the third quarter of 2009, traffic enforcement overtime grant initiatives were scheduled. These grants were coordinated through the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Safety. Impaired driver (OMVWI), excessive speed and pedestrian safety enforcement initiatives were conducted during this time period, resulting in the issuance of 878 citations and 95 warnings, which included 7 physical arrests for OMVWI (impaired driving). In addition, bicycle enforcement initiatives resulted in 164 citations and warnings being issued as well. This activity is reflected in the Department citation totals.

In the third quarter of 2009, Traffic Specialists investigated 7 significant traffic crashes. Of those, 3 crashes involved serious injuries and 4 crashes resulted in 4 fatalities. Alcohol was a factor in 4 of the crashes during that period.

Please refer to the attachments for further details.