

CITY OF MADISON
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL
CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: December 6, 2012

TO: Noble Wray, Chief of Police

FROM: Richard Bach, Captain of Police

SUBJECT: **2012 Third Quarter Traffic Enforcement Activity Report**

The information provided in this document represents the Madison Police Department's traffic enforcement activity for July-September, 2012.

The Madison Police Department issued 6,635 traffic citations (4,131 citations for hazardous violations and 2,504 citations for non-hazardous violations) in the third quarter of 2012. These numbers reflect a significant increase over the total number of citations issued in the third quarter of 2011(6,192), though somewhat fewer than the 6,875 citations that the Madison Police Department issued for the third quarter of 2010. Of the 6,635 total citations issued, 2,331 citations (1,531 hazardous and 800 non-hazardous) were issued by the Traffic Enforcement Safety Team in the third quarter. These numbers represent an increase in the total number of citations issued by TEST officers over the same time frame last year (2,005 citations) and in 2010 (1,930 citations).

Citations for speeding totaled 2,298 in the third quarter of 2012. This is significantly more than the 2,035 citations issued in 2011, and slightly more than the 2,225 issued in the third quarter of 2010. Citations issued for many other hazardous offenses showed a decrease in the third quarter of 2012, while citations for non-hazardous offenses showed an increase. Although no conclusions for this can be drawn from these numbers, it is possible that the close of the 2012 traffic grant cycle in mid-September had an impact on these numbers. It is also possible that with the relatively new mandatory insurance law and the expanded seat belt law in effect, officers are more often issuing multiple citations while on traffic stops. Regardless of the causes for observed variations in citation totals during this time period, Madison Police Department officers and supervisors are cognizant of the vital role that traffic enforcement plays in the safety of the Madison community and are committed to continuing to make traffic enforcement a priority in 2012.

The Traffic Complaint Hotline (previously known as the Speeders Hotline) received 394 citizen calls during the third quarter of 2012. 208 warning letters were sent as a result of reported violations. In Madison's school zones, reports from Crossing Guards resulted in 150 warning letters being sent and 21 citations issued for observed violations in the third quarter of 2012.

Fifty-nine traffic enforcement overtime grant initiatives were scheduled for the third quarter of 2012. These were coordinated through the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Safety. The grant initiatives focused on impaired driver (OMVWI), excessive speed, seat belt, bicycle violations and pedestrian safety enforcement. In addition, the Madison Police Department participated in a multijurisdictional grant sponsored by the State of Wisconsin and administered by the Dane County Sheriff's Department which focused on enforcement of traffic violations in and along the beltline corridor. These grant initiatives resulted in 1460 citations, and 207 warnings being issued.

In the third quarter of 2012, Traffic Specialists investigated four significant traffic crashes. These crashes resulted in three deaths and in significant injury to three others. The use of drugs/alcohol is being examined as a possible factor in two of these crashes. One of the crashes involved a pedestrian.

Please see attachments for all citation/warning data.