



TOWN OF EAST TROY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Press Release No. 2021-002

MEDIA ADVISORY / PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 18, 2021

Law enforcement is a very dangerous profession. Officers must always be alert and aware of their surroundings. One of the most dangerous aspects of their job is conducting traffic stops. At times, procedures may appear unnecessary but even the most routine traffic stop can turn into a potentially dangerous situation to both the citizen, the officer and the passerby.

If you understand what may happen during a traffic stop and what is expected of you during the stop, common misunderstandings may be eliminated. Chief Jensen would like to share with you some common-sense advice that can help ensure both your safety, the officers safety and the safety of those around you.

When you observe the flashing red/blue lights in your rear-view mirror please follow these guidelines:

- Pull over to the right side of the roadway and try to position your vehicle out of the traffic lane. If you are in the far-left lane on the freeway, pull over to the left side of the roadway and try to position your vehicle out of the traffic lane.
- Turn off your radio and other electronic devices. Roll down your driver's window. Keep your seatbelt on. Turn on your hazard lights, especially if it is dark.
- **STAY CALM** - Tell your passengers to be quiet and calm too. As the officer walks up to your vehicle stay in your car, put your hands on the steering wheel and only make slow movements. Remember, the officer is watching carefully to make sure a weapon is not being produced or a driver or in some instances a passenger(s) are trying to hide something.
- The officer will ask you for your driver's license and proof of insurance. Remember, you do not have to be told why you were stopped but in most instances, the officer will tell you why you were stopped.
- Answer all questions politely and honestly. Remain calm.
- Follow the officer's directions concerning getting out your vehicle. You may be asked to exit the vehicle if you are suspected of alcohol use, possession of illegal objects, or safety violations. Officers may pat you down. Do not resist a pat down.
- Remember, be polite and courteous. Do not argue about a ticket if you receive one. Citations can be contested in court. The courtroom is the proper place to argue about your ticket. Not the street.
- Do not be surprised if other patrol cars come upon the scene. It is common for other officers to drive by to check on their fellow officer. After all, traffic stops are one of the most dangerous aspects of police work.

Chief Jensen stated "the Town of East Troy Police Department, and all police departments, strive to provide professional service to everyone. The best way to avoid a traffic stop ... drive safe and obey all traffic laws".

For more information, you may contact the Town of East Troy Police Department at 262-642-3700

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