
	Ithaca Police Department 120 East Clinton Street Ithaca, New York 14850	
	General Order Number: 591	Police Vehicles
Issuing Authority: Chief John Barber 		Effective Date: 03/01/2017
Rescinds/Supersedes: All previously issued directives		Review Date: 03/2018
Applicable NYSLEA Standards: 41.1,41.2,41.3		Number of Pages: 3

I. Purpose

The purpose of this written directive is to establish guidelines for the proper appearance and use of police vehicles and related equipment.

Policy

- A. It is the policy of the City of Ithaca Police Department to enhance the image of the department and reduce liability through the regulation of police vehicles.
- B. All police vehicles routinely used for general patrol will be conspicuously marked with light bars on the roof and or other forms of clearly visible lighting systems and agency identifiers on the body of the vehicle, as designated by the Chief of Police.
 - 1. This shall not preclude officers from using unmarked department vehicles for law enforcement purposes upon approval from the Chief of Police, Deputy Chiefs or a Shift Commander.
- C. All patrol vehicles which are in service are to be equipped with the following items unless directed otherwise by a command level officer: Patrol vehicles shall be those of American origin (General Motors, Ford, Chrysler/Dodge) and having a specific police designation/rating given by the manufacturer of said vehicle. Police designation shall be that of or equivalent of SSV (Special Service Vehicle) or PPV (Police Pursuit Vehicle)
 - 1. Latex gloves
 - 2. Emergency flares

3. First aid pack
4. Personnel Protection Gear
5. Ice scraper
6. Emergency blanket
7. Crime scene tape
8. Traffic Safety Vest
9. 4 - 18" Safety green traffic cones
10. PFD (personal flotation device) and/or water rescue rope bag
11. Mobile radio programmed to the current county wide emergency frequency
12. Siren/electronic air horn system with integrated switches for emergency lights
13. Electronic gun lock that accepts the current Patrol Rifle System
14. Prisoner transport cage, single transport or full cage systems
15. Computer mount
16. Mobile data terminal and related equipment capable of accessing the county-wide CAD system
17. Vehicle specific console for mounting appropriate equipment
18. Comfort Care Bags for children exposed to traumatic events.

D. Authorized emergency equipment contained in or installed on vehicles used for patrol shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Emergency lighting systems with Rotating/flashing/oscillating red, white and/or blue lights, Emergency flashers; Take-down lights;
2. Spotlight or flashlight;
3. Siren, electronic air horn
4. Public Address System;

E. All unmarked vehicles shall be equipped as deemed necessary by the Chief or Deputy Chief of Police-Operations, contingent upon their use and/or assignment.

F. Use of emergency equipment on/in vehicle

1. The proper use of emergency equipment is essential to the safety of the officer and other citizens. Officers shall utilize emergency equipment when situations warrant such and shall exercise extreme caution while engaged in emergency operations.
2. The use of emergency equipment shall be in accordance with New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law and other relevant statutes. Situations warranting such use shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a) Emergency lights, sirens, electronic air horns and flashers shall be used:
 - i. To protect the patrol vehicle and officer at hazardous locations;
 - ii. To signal traffic violators to stop;
 - iii. While responding to emergency calls for service (i.e.: possible life-threatening situation, serious crime in progress, unusual incident requiring immediate response, etc.).
 - b) Take-down lights, spotlights, high beam head lights or flashlights shall be used:
 - i. To illuminate stopped vehicles;
 - ii. For building checks;
 - iii. To illuminate scenes of incidents.
 - iv. Discretion should be used so as not to blind oncoming vehicles or to illuminate into resident homes with undue annoyance.
 - c) Sirens, electronic air horns and/or emergency lights shall be used:
 - i. When signaling violators to stop where other means have failed;
 - ii. When traffic conditions warrant so while responding to emergency situations.
 - d) The Public Address System shall be used:
 - i. To give instructions to subjects or suspects from a distance
 - ii. For general emergency announcements to the public
 - iii. Other incidents as required
 - e) Safety green traffic cones and/or Flares shall be used when the situations at accidents, roadblocks, safety checks or other potentially hazardous incidents require prior warning to the public coming upon the scene
 - f) The use of other specialized supplies, equipment, markings may be authorized by the Chief of Police or the Deputy Chiefs and adopted for use by/for members of the department