

CHARLOTTESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Note: This directive is for internal use only and does not enlarge an officer’s liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by the Charlottesville Police Department and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

Type of Directive: GENERAL ORDER	Number: 110-00
PROFESSIONAL TRAFFIC STOPS	Date: October 31, 2019
VLEPSC Number: OPR.07.04, ADM.02.05	Manual Number: 541.18
	Effective Date: Oct. 31, 2019
Authorization: Chief R.M. Brackney <i>Rm Brackney</i>	Follow-up Date: Annually

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to provide guidelines for the execution of traffic stops while maintaining safety, avoiding bias and gaining respect.

II. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Charlottesville Police Department to patrol in a proactive manner, to aggressively investigate suspicious persons and circumstances and to actively enforce the motor vehicle laws of the City of Charlottesville and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Charlottesville Police Department insists that citizens will only be stopped or detained when there exists reasonable suspicion to believe that they have committed, are committing, or are about to commit a violation of the law. Our objective is to arrest the problems as well as the offenders and to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

A limited number of the enclosed City of Charlottesville Police Department General Orders have been redacted. The redactions ensure that that Police Department’s operational and tactical responses are withheld for community and Officer Safety (e.g., bank alarm response, response to an active threat, and Tactical Operations).