

## Law Enforcement Support for Senate Bill 168

**Sgt. Richard D. Bratz, Public Information Director of the Delaware State Police** commented, “The Delaware State Police is committed to public safety as well as providing resources essential to sustain healthy and secure communities. As such, we are proud to partner with the Delaware Department of Transportation, Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles and law enforcement agencies throughout Delaware to spread this vital message of best practices when interacting with law enforcement during a traffic stop. It is our mission to work with our communities to leverage innovative ideas and technology to deliver quality police services to reduce crime and improve public safety while respecting the rights of all citizens.

Please take the time to educate yourself and your family on the law, rules, and procedures of what to expect during a traffic stop. We thank the Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles for including this important information for our newest drivers to our veteran drivers for a safer Delaware.”

**Lt. Andrew Rubin, Administration Division Commander of the Newark Police Department** states “the Department is committed to respecting the rights of all citizens that we encounter. A traffic stop can be a stressful encounter for both the citizen being stopped and the police officer affecting the stop. There are specific rules and procedures that officers must follow during a traffic stop, and various laws and case law dictate what an officer and the citizen can do during the stop.

The Newark Police were happy to partner with the Division of Motor Vehicles to help inform the public of best practices for interacting with a police officer during a traffic stop. We encourage the public to familiarize themselves with the procedures that DMV is disseminating.

Remember – when a police officer stops a vehicle, they likely do not know who is in the car at the time and whether the occupant(s) has committed a crime other than a traffic offense. This can be stressful for all parties involved. Please follow the procedures outlined in the guide from DMV to minimize the stress of a traffic stop.”

**Chief Bruce E. Von Goerres, of the Ellendale Police Department** added “the most effective weapon against crime and promoting public safety is the cooperation and support of a community in which a Law Enforcement agency serves. The Ellendale Police Department and all Law Enforcement Agencies throughout Delaware are responsible for the protection of the public in their sworn jurisdictions, with the #1 Goal to, "Protect the Public and Conduct Traffic Stops in a manner that Protects the Safety of everyone involved."

**Chief Torrie James, of the Smyrna Police Department** commented “the Smyrna Police Department has pledged transparency and education, especially relating to traffic stops. It is crucial that the police and community alike understand the dangers involved in every single encounter and the procedures that are followed. When citizens know what is expected of them during a traffic stop, it eliminates confusion and lowers the stress level of the situation. This helps to ensure the safety of both the officer and the citizen.

By partnering with the Delaware Department of Motor Vehicle, the Smyrna Police Department aims to educate the drivers of Delaware on traffic stop procedures with the goal of better protecting the safety of our officers and the public.”

**Chief Dan A. Wright, of the Laurel Police Department**, added they are “Dedicated to providing our citizens with informative education. We have partnered with the Department of Transportation, Delaware

Division of Motor Vehicles along with other law enforcement agencies throughout the state to educate our citizens to the best practices for interacting with law enforcement officers during a traffic stop.

Educating our citizens, especially our younger drivers, will help reduce the stress associated with citizen/law enforcement officers' interactions. The understanding of all parties involved in the proper procedures during a traffic stop must be followed. This will create a safer outcome for all parties.

The Laurel Police Department encourages all of our citizens to review the information provided by the Division of Motor Vehicles related to what to expect during a traffic stop.”

The Delaware Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles wants to ensure the safety of all citizens in the State of Delaware. Partnering with local law enforcement for this initiative was an important step to ensure everyone is educated and aware of what to expect during a traffic stop.

For more information on Senate Bill 168, “Driver Education on Traffic Stop Procedures,” please visit <https://www.dmv.de.gov/newsy/sb168/index.shtml>