



The Town of Leesburg
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

TO: CHIEF JOSEPH PRICE *[Signature]* DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2013
FROM: LIEUTENANT J.A. DUBÉ *[Signature]* RE: AFTER ACTION REPORT -
BACK TO SCHOOL TRAFFIC BLITZ

Overview:

As part of the Leesburg Police Department's Safe Streets Initiative, the department conducted a Back to School Traffic Blitz from September 3-6, 2013. The Operation was coordinated by the Administration and Support Services Division's Operational Support Section and was primarily the responsibility of the Traffic Management Unit. Other sections and agencies participating included units from the Patrol Section's Tailored Response Unit (TRU), and Administration and Support. In addition, the Virginia State Police provided dedicated Troopers to assist.

Seven (7) specific post assignments were identified as part of the operation. Each of these posts was located in the area of the public schools within the Town of Leesburg and was staffed by 1-2 officers depending upon the location/coverage area. The posts were manned during the hours of 0700-1000 in the morning, and then 1400-1700 in the afternoon. These time frames were selected to coordinate with the morning admission, and afternoon dismissal times from the public schools. A total breakdown of operational hours is as follows:

Number of days of operation	4
Number of hours per day	6
Number of Officer/Troopers assigned per day	10
Number of man-hours per day	60
Total number of man-hours for operation	240

The uniformed officers/troopers in both marked and unmarked police vehicles were responsible for traffic related matters and enforcement of the Code of Virginia during morning admission and afternoon dismissal hours. Specific attention was paid to violations regarding Speeding, Aggressive Driving, Stop Sign/Light Violations, Occupant Protection, Distracted Driving, and Pedestrian violations.

In addition to the assignment of Officers/Troopers to the specific Posts, several logistical arrangements were made and/or utilized. These included Variable Message Boards deployed for the duration of the operation indicating that school was back in session along with traffic safety reminder tips placed at the following locations:

1. Battlefield Parkway near Balls Bluff Elementary
2. North King Street near Ida Lee Park (approaching Tuscarora High School)
3. Catoctin Circle near Foxridge Park (approaching Loudoun County High School)
4. Potomac Station Drive (approaching Harper Park Middle School)
5. Battlefield Parkway near Beauregard Drive (approaching Cool Spring Elementary)

Decoy Cars were deployed for the duration of the operation at the following locations:

1. North King Street at Bridgett Place
2. North King Street at the secondary entrance to Tuscarora High School

In addition to the message boards, a media release was sent out on August 19, 2013 announcing the Safe Streets Initiative along with the Back to School Traffic Blitz. A second media release was sent on August 29, 2013 reminding the public that schools would be opening the following week and offered safety reminders to both motorists and pedestrians. This release also contained information about the Back to School Traffic Blitz. Both of these media releases were posted on the Police Department's Facebook Page as well as the front page of the Town of Leesburg's Website. The media releases received significant coverage in the local newspapers in both online and print editions. Traffic safety posters and educational materials were distributed by the School Resource Officers within in the schools and information was displayed at Town Hall.

In addition to the media releases, the Loudoun Alert system was utilized to broadcast traffic safety reminders to the "Traffic" group which encompasses 45,845 registered users.

Results:

Overall, this was a highly successful operation that resulted in positive feedback and comments throughout the operation from motorists and pedestrians as well as school administrators. The total number of citations issued in the below table encompasses both the assigned detail officers as well as patrol units who worked their assigned shift during the operation time period. A breakdown of specific citations and arrests is as follows:

Charge	Number
Speeding	187
Stop Sign/Stop Light	30
Pedestrian/Crosswalk	1
Reckless Driving	6
Defective Lights	12
Expired/No Inspection	66
Defective Glass/Excessive Tint	11
Expired Registration	53
Seat Belt	10
Child Safety Seat	1
No Insurance	3
No Driver's License	13
Revoked or Suspended License	8
DUI	2
Move Over Law	1
Texting While Driving	2
Parking Tickets	2
Criminal	9
Other Traffic	96
Grand Total	513
**total for specifically assigned Blitz Officers	384