



**CHEVY CHASE
VILLAGE
POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

Police Chief: John M. Fitzgerald

GENERAL ORDER: 5-20 SPEED MEASURING DEVICES

DATE: 1/20/2021 Pages: 2 ◇ New ◆ Amended

DISTRIBUTION: Sworn Personnel

I. POLICY

The policy of the Chevy Chase Village Police Department is to use speed measuring devices in high or potentially high collision locations when speed is a possible factor contributing to the collisions as well as those areas identified by observation or citizen complaints as having a speeding problem. The Chevy Chase Village Safe Speed Program will incorporate the use of photo speed cameras on roadways with a history of speeding violations and/or collisions.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to provide guidance in the proper use of speed measuring devices in traffic enforcement. The effective use of speed measuring devices and their acceptance by the public is dependent upon the operator's understanding of the specific limitations of the speed measuring device itself. Adequate training and certification to show operator efficiency is required.

III. EQUIPMENT

- A. Equipment specifications for laser speed measuring devices shall meet or exceed National Highway Traffic Safety Administration standards.
- B. Handheld laser speed measuring devices per the manufacturer do not need calibration.
- C. The speed camera units used in our SafeSpeed Program will be calibrated in accordance with §21-809 of the Transportation Article. Specifically, the SafeSpeed Program Manager shall ensure that:
 - 1. Our units undergo an annual calibration check performed by an independent calibration laboratory that is unaffiliated with the manufacturer of the speed camera units;
 - 2. The independent laboratory issues a signed certificate of calibration for each unit;
 - 3. The certificate of calibration is kept on file, and
 - 4. The certificate is admitted into evidence, as appropriate, in a court proceeding related to a speed camera violation.

- 5. Officers who are certified operators set up daily deployment logs and report any equipment issues to the tech section of the selected vendor.

D. Equipment calibration certificates and a list of device specifications and serial numbers shall be retained in the files.

- E. The speed measuring devices shall be kept dry at all times and when not in use, they shall be securely stored in their cushioned carrying case.

IV. TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

- A. Officers must successfully complete certification training prior to using handheld speed measuring devices or deploying the automated speed cameras.
- B. Each officer successfully completing the course will be authorized and certified by the Chevy Chase Village Police Department to operate speed measuring devices or to deploy the speed camera units.

V. HANDHELD SPEED MEASURING DEVICE USAGE

The precise method for using a handheld speed measuring device and the enforcement of laws applying to speed will vary according to the type of speed measuring device used. Generally, the following procedures are applicable:

- A. The device must be properly installed and connected to the appropriate power supply.
- B. The effective range of the particular speed measuring device must be thoroughly understood by the operator to ensure that visual observations can support the speed readings.
- C. The operator must choose an appropriate location that is conducive to the effective and safe operation of the device.
- D. Officers must perform a function test of a speed measuring device *prior to beginning an enforcement detail.*

VI. OPERATOR PROCEDURES

- A. Officers will operate only those speed measuring

devices which they have been certified to use.

- B. Officers must wear the full police uniform at all times when conducting a speed enforcement detail utilizing speed measurement devices.
- C. Handheld laser operators will sign out the unit on a log established by the Lieutenant who will maintain the records for a period of three (3) years. Operators will be held responsible for the loss or damage of the unit.
- D. The speed measuring device operator will be responsible for the care of speed measuring devices used. This includes taking the device out of service if it does not meet calibration checks or is otherwise inoperable. The operator shall place the device out of service and write a memorandum to the Lieutenant outlining the problems associated with the device.
- E. Officers stopping cars on foot will only do so during daylight hours and will wear their reflective, high-visibility traffic vest over their full uniform at all times.
- F. Police vehicles may be used at any time to stop violators with safety for the public, working personnel and equipment being primary considerations.
- G. Whenever a handheld speed measuring device is connected to a power source, it should be held in the hands of the operator or secured in a safe location where the device cannot be damaged from abrupt movement. When the device is not connected to a power source it will be properly stored.
- H. A laser operator shall, when requested by a violator, provide available information about the laser equipment, unless the request interferes with ongoing enforcement activities or officer/violator safety, at which time the person inquiring will be referred to the Lieutenant.
- I. The following elements must be established by the officer for court presentation when a speed measuring device is used to place charges:
 - 1. The time, place, and location of the vehicle that was checked, the identity of the operator, the speed of the vehicle, and the visual and speed measuring speed checks;
 - 2. An overview of officer qualifications and training in the use of speed measuring devices;
 - 3. That the speed measuring device was operated properly;
 - 4. That the device was tested for accuracy before use and after use by an approved method;
 - 5. The identity of the vehicle coordinated with

visual and audible tracking history to establish approximate speed;

- 6. The speed limit in the zone in which the officer was operating and where the speed limit signs were posted.

This directive voids the previous version dated 12/30/2020.