

City of Johns Creek Police Department

<i>Subject:</i> Speed Measuring Devices	<i>Number:</i> 02-24	
<i>Reference:</i>	<i>Amends:</i>	
<i>Effective:</i> 07/08	<i>Review Date:</i> Annually	<i># of Pages:</i>

PURPOSE:

Establish procedures for the use of speed measuring devices to enforce speed limits.

POLICY (02-24):

The Johns Creek Police Department shall only utilize those speed measuring devices which meet or exceed the performance specifications established by the Georgia Department of Public Safety, and shall only be operated by state certified police officers. Speed measuring devices will be used in high accident locations when speed is a factor; in areas where speed limit violations are prevalent; in responses to citizen complaints concerning speeding motorists; and to conduct traffic volume and speed percentile studies.

PROCEDURES:

Radar (02-24-01)

Radar should be utilized in those areas where vehicle speed is excessive or a hazard to other motorist and/or pedestrian traffic. The following guidelines are established for use of radar which should always be used in complete compliance with the manufacturers instructions. All departmental radars must meet state standards. Generally the following procedures are applicable to the effective operation of the radar units:

- A. The radar unit must be properly installed in the patrol vehicle and connected to the appropriate power supply.
- B. The effective range of any radar unit must be thoroughly understood by the radar operator so his/her visual observations can support the speed measuring device readings.
- C. The operator must choose an appropriate location at the direction of his/her supervisor and relative to traffic accidents in which speed has been identified as being a causal factor. The location should also be conducive to the effective and safe operation of the unit.
- D. The radar unit should be properly tested (both external and internal calibration) to ensure the accuracy in checking speed. The operator must follow the manufacturers recommended specific methods of testing the calibration without exception. Any problems with the operation of the radar unit or apparent malfunctions should be reported to the shift supervisor. The officer will complete a radar repair request form and forward it to the supervisor of the

Traffic Safety Unit. These tests shall be logged in the unit's logbook.

E. The following elements must be established regarding radar cases:

1. The time, place, and location of the vehicle that was checked, the identification of the operator, the speed of the vehicle, along with the visual and radar speed check.
2. Officers qualifications and training, and the operation of the radar unit.
3. The radar unit was tested (both externally and internally), before and after it was used by an approved method and it was operating properly.
4. Speed limit in the zone for which the officer was operating and location where such signs are properly posted.
5. The officer will need to testify as to the grade of the roadway.

F. Radar training is available to all officers employed by the Johns Creek Police Department. In court, the officers should be able to cite/display training received and /or the certificate issued.

G. The officer assigned to maintain the radar equipment and logs will ensure the radar units received proper care and upkeep, all required maintenance, and the appropriate radar certificates are kept on file with the Municipal Court. It is the Traffic Safety Unit supervisors responsibility to maintain all records and certificates on each radar and update the records maintained at the Municipal Court.

Maintenance of Equipment (02-24-02)

Care and upkeep will be done on a continuing basis on all speed measuring devices which are owned and operated by the Johns Creek Police Department. This includes the cleanliness of the units, repair to all units, and daily inspections by officers who are assigned to operate this equipment. The supervisor of the Traffic Safety Unit will be responsible for the oversight of this equipment.

Training (02-24-03)

All speed measuring device operators will complete a course of instruction and must be properly certified prior to engaging in speed enforcement activities according to current State law. The Traffic Safety Unit supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that operators receive proper certification, periodic in-service training and recertification.

Speed Detection Equipment Licenses (02-24-04)

Radar and laser units which are used by the Johns Creek Police Department will need to be in compliance with Department of Public Safety rule 570-7-05. The Department will maintain all necessary licenses for the speed detection equipment.

Pacing (02-24-05)

The officer should follow the vehicle being paced at a constant interval for an adequate distance, usually two or more city blocks, to obtain a continuous reading on the speedometer of the patrol vehicle, indicating the violators speed is exceeding that speed which is posted.

Speedometer: A secondary method used to measure the speed of a violator is a certified speedometer. Before speedometer pacing is used as a basis for issuing a traffic citation for speeding, the officer shall have confirmed certification or had the speedometer checked for calibration and accuracy and certified by qualified personnel. The certification card shall be kept on file at all times and presented in court when necessary.

Laser Procedures (02-24-06)

Prior to using the laser, the officer shall have the calibration verified by each of the following tests:

- A. Internal calibration test; and
- B. External distance and alignment test.

Each of these tests must be performed as outlined with the manufacturers procedures.

Programmed Maintenance of Radar and Laser Units (02-24-07)

The Traffic Safety Unit supervisor will ensure adequate and necessary maintenance, calibration, and the operational record systems are developed and maintained. The Traffic Safety Unit supervisor will also ensure all operators receive the proper certification, periodic in-service training, and recertification. Preventive maintenance will include:

- A. Programmed maintenance on an annual basis, which will check all lights, readout windows, connectors, tuning forks, mounting brackets, and all other vital parts of the units or their casing and mounts; and
- B. Professional calibration of each operational radar and laser unit on at least one occasion each year by the factory authorized technician.

Maintenance and Calibration Records (02-24-08)

Records will be maintained on each radar and/or laser unit owned and/or operated by the Johns Creek Police Department. This maintenance record is to include:

- A. Statement of origin and the accuracy;
- B. All calibrations performed, including certificates of calibration; and
- C. All reported defects or repairs to each unit.

Operator Training and Certification (02-24-9)

Officers using speed measuring devices must have successfully completed the initial basic operator program and have obtained their certification prior to issuing a citation (O.C.G.A. 35-8-12.) This program shall include:

- A. Familiarization with the theories of operation of speed detection devised through the readings of approved instructional materials provided in the course;
- B. Receive instructions on speed detection equipment characteristics and the operation, by a properly trained instructor;
- C. Have at a minimum of 40 hours of in car, on the job instruction in the detection, tracking, and documentation of violations (by issuing warning citations). This should be conducted under the direct supervision of an experienced certified operator and/or instructor;
- D. The officer must have demonstrated his/her proficiency in the use of the radar or laser to a certified instructor and have received his/her certification;
- E. Any written tests which are determined to be necessary by the governing authority to ensure the proficiency with the instrument /device; and
- F. Demonstrate the minimum requirements, as required by P.O.S.T., for the officers certification.