

# SPECIAL ORDER



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Title	<b>Handling Traffic Lane Closures</b>
Number	<b>SO-12-02</b>
Effective Date	<b>January 6, 2011</b>
Related to:	GO-SPT-401.03 (Traffic Crash Reports)

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## I. BACKGROUND

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is often faced with the need to implement traffic lane closures in response to handling traffic crashes and other events which affect the normal flow of traffic lanes. The purpose of this directive is to enumerate procedures for members in handling the closure of one (1) or more traffic lanes that result from traffic crashes or other events.

## II. DEFINITIONS

1. Morning Rush Hour – 0530 to 1000 Monday through Friday.
2. Evening Rush Hour – 1500 to 1900 Monday through Friday.
3. Traffic Desk – Position located within the Command Information Center (CIC) that is staffed during morning and evening rush hour. The member assigned to the traffic desk is responsible for monitoring events that have an effect on or are directly caused by traffic conditions. The member is responsible for the timely dissemination of information to the Department, our agency partners, and members of the media/public pertaining to these incidents and providing guidance to field units on traffic control in accordance with CIC procedures.

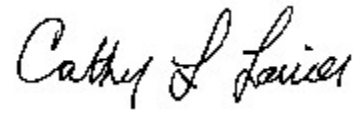
### III. PROCEDURES

- A. When a traffic lane closure is necessary due to a traffic crash or other event, responding members shall:
1. For self-initiated (i.e., non-dispatched) events, ensure that the appropriate Patrol District Zone Dispatcher is aware of the location and type of event.
  2. Switch their radio to the City-Wide 1 Radio Zone.
  3. Provide as much detail as possible regarding the traffic lane closure (e.g., streets and cross-streets affected, scope of closure).
  4. Provide guidance regarding possible alternate routes/re-routing of traffic.
  5. During morning and evening rush hour, notify the Traffic Desk, Command Information Center (CIC), through the City-Wide 1 Zone of the traffic lane closure. At all other times, notifications shall be made to the Watch Commander, CIC.

NOTE: The Traffic Desk is operational between the hours of 0530 – 1000 and 1500 – 1900, Monday through Friday.

6. Advise the CIC and the City-Wide Dispatcher that they will be returning to their original radio zone.
  7. Ensure vehicles are removed from the roadway and traffic lanes are reopened as soon as practicable so as not to impact any ongoing investigation and to continue to ensure the safety of all involved parties, emergency response personnel, and the public.
- B. Upon notification of a traffic closure, the CIC shall:
1. Notify the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) twenty-four (24) hour hotline at 202-671-3368.
  2. Notify the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (DCHSEMA) at 202-727-6161.
  3. During morning and evening rush hour, ensure the member assigned to the Traffic Desk provides, in accordance with CIC procedures:

- a. Timely dissemination of information to members of the Department, our agency partners, and members of the media/public pertaining to the closure; and
- b. Guidance to field units on traffic control.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy L. Lanier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathy L. Lanier  
Chief of Police

CLL:PAB:MOC:GHE