

Ramsey County Law Enforcement Leaders

Public Statements for Release (9/7/21)

Non-Public Safety Traffic Stops

City of Saint Paul

"Over the past several years, County Attorney Choi and I have engaged in numerous conversations about traffic stops, public safety and what's in the best interest of our community. Our data show that most traffic stops occur in areas of the city experiencing higher levels of crime, which also happen to be home to our most diverse populations and many people living below the poverty level. The last thing we want to do is add undue hardship to people struggling to make ends meet. I'm encouraged by these conversations, the focus on doing what's right for the people we serve and the commitment across the city to ensuring that our practices equitably align with our community values--from Mayor Carter to our community members to officers and the SPPD workgroup led by Deputy Chief Julie Maidment. Together, we've embraced a clarion call to focus on the most dangerous driving behaviors while minimizing the disparate impacts of some low-level equipment-related traffic stops."

- **Todd Axtell, City of Saint Paul, Chief of Police**

City of Roseville

In 2021, the Roseville Police Department conducted a complete review of all department policies and procedures. We recognized that traffic enforcement based solely on equipment violations disproportionately impacts communities of color and undermines law enforcement's legitimacy. As a result, we released an updated traffic policy on August 1, 2021, that better reflects Roseville's values and commitment to racial equity. In creating our new policy, we relied on the input of our Multicultural Advisory Committee and diverse voices of our community.

One of the top priorities of the Roseville Police Department is to ensure traffic enforcement serves public safety by focusing on driving conduct that contributes to motor vehicle collisions. As a result, since 2017, over 80% of traffic stops in Roseville have been for moving violations.

The Roseville Police Department supports the Ramsey County Attorney's prosecution policy on non-public safety traffic stops. Absent other factors, the Roseville Police Department will not enforce equipment violations, expired registrations, or other non-moving violations that do not create a public safety concern or a dangerous condition.

The City of Roseville is dedicated to creating an inclusive community where the predictability of success is not based on race or ethnicity. To accomplish this goal, all city departments prioritize racial equity in their planning, delivery, and evaluation of programs, policies, and services. The City of Roseville is committed to taking tangible steps to normalize, organize, and implement racial equity principles and tools, with an eye toward impactful and sustainable outcomes that create a more

equitable community. The Roseville Police Department believes that the changes made to the traffic enforcement policy support the Racial Equity and Inclusion goals of the City.

<https://www.cityofroseville.com/3480/Racial-Equity-and-Inclusion>

- **Erika Schieder, City of Roseville, Police Chief**

We prosecute adult non-felony cases on behalf of the City of Roseville consistent with the values, ideals, and policies the City has formally put into place, such as the Roseville Police Department’s policy on non-public safety traffic stops. Similarly, the City Attorney’s Office supports the spirit and intent of the Ramsey County Attorney’s prosecution policy on non-public safety traffic stops, which is applicable to the entire county.

- **Mark Gaughan, Roseville City Attorney**

City of St. Anthony Village

“The St. Anthony Police Department supports the work that you and other police agencies in Ramsey County are doing to ensure that we are adhering to the principles of fair and impartial policing and procedural justice while engaged in public safety traffic stops. We have remained mindful that policing involves a partnership with the entire community. As a partner in the community, all department employees will work cooperatively to ensure we are working towards the goals and traffic/pedestrian safety objectives outlined in our police department’s strategic plan, which we implemented back in 2018. Part of this plan detailed a shift in focus from traffic enforcement to traffic and pedestrian safety. The St. Anthony Police Department recognizes that certain driving behaviors are statistically the most likely to cause injury crashes on our roadways and are of particular concern to community members. Examples of these collision-causing violations include, but are not limited to speeding, stop light and stop sign violations, distracted driving, impaired driving, and seatbelt violations. To that end, officers will focus their attention on moving violations that include the aforementioned driving conduct in an effort to enhance traffic and pedestrian safety. Absent other factors, officers will place these violations ahead of violations relating to vehicle equipment and vehicle registration. Since 2018, our traffic data reveals that we have shifted our reason for traffic stop numbers from 56% moving (2018) to 76% moving (2020).”

- **Jon Mangseth, City of St. Anthony Village Police Chief**

City of Maplewood

The Maplewood police department is taking steps to address the types of stops that its officers conduct, with a focus away from equipment violations and an emphasis on the types of moving violations that are more likely to affect the safety of the motoring public.” “The Maplewood Police Department has had a cultural shift amongst its officers going back several years and will be implementing further guidance related to these types of stops into its strategic plan this fall with the assistance of citizen stakeholders and our Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee.

- **Brian Bierdeman, Maplewood Police Chief**

City of New Brighton

“The City of New Brighton has recently embarked on developing and implementing an Equity Strategic Action Plan. At the same time, thanks to the work of our municipal Complete Count Committee, we have a better understanding of our population demographics with the recent release of Census 2020 data. Over the past year, the City’s Public Safety Commission has extensively analyzed the department’s traffic stop data. That group of appointed citizens will be further considering policy recommendations regarding traffic stops beginning in September, taking into account existing data as well new data and initiatives. As a Public Safety Department, we look forward to working towards policies that promote equal outcomes for all residents and visitors to our city that are also in alignment with our regional partners.”

- **Tony Paetznick, City of New Brighton, Director of Public Safety**