



## Fire and Police Commission

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### Memorandum

To: Leon W. Todd, Executive Director

From: Barbara Cooley, Research and Policy Analyst

Date: December 26, 2024

RE: SOP 070 – Citation Procedures  
SOP 665 – Tire Deflation Devices  
SOP 710 – Victim Witness Rights and Assistance

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#### SOP 070 – Citation Procedures

**The recommended updates, while substantive, are noncontroversial in nature and largely refer to instructions for issuing Operating Without a License and Reckless Driving citations.** Please refer to language designated as additional in the Roll Call version of the SOP.

- Added a reminder that parking citations are not to be sent to the Court Administration Division.
- Added that members shall issue a citation for Operating without a License instead of Operating after Suspension if the person's driving status is suspended but they have never held a driver's license.
- Added additional information for how members shall handle 2<sup>nd</sup> or subsequent Operating without a License criminal traffic violations.
- Added members shall issue an actual reckless driving citation if they observe reckless driving and that they issue a criminal traffic violation if it is the person's 2<sup>nd</sup> or subsequent offense.
- Added reference to the newly created Reckless Driving Envelope for reckless driving violations.

## SOP 665 – Tire Deflation Devices

### **Recommended updates are administrative in nature and largely refer to proper use of Piranha Stop Sticks and Magnum Spike Strips.**

NOTE the difference between the two types of tire deflation devices:

Piranha Stop Sticks are used on stationary vehicles to provide “added control during operations where potential for subject flight is anticipated such as warrant service, SWAT situations and vehicle checkpoint areas. If anyone attempts to drive the target vehicle away, the tire deflates in 5 seconds or less.” [From the product website.]

Magnum Spike Sticks may be used in the same manner as Piranha Stop Sticks or may be used to stop a vehicle which is the object of a law enforcement chase.

Recommended updates are as follows:

- Clarifying the Special Investigations Division and Specialized Patrol Division must provide training lessons for the Piranha Stop Stick and Magnum Spike Strip tire deflations device to the Training Division commanding officer for approval.
- Clarifying the Special Investigations Division’s commanding officer is responsible for Piranha Stop Sticks and the Specialized Patrol Division’s commanding officer is responsible for the Magnum Spike Strip tire deflations devices.
- Adding plain clothes members assigned to the Special Investigation Division may deploy Piranha Stop Sticks with a supervisor’s approval since these are deployed on stationary vehicles to prevent a pursuit.
- Adding Piranha Stop Stick requirements from the vendor’s training manual.
- Updating a reference from the Technical Communications Division to the Department of Emergency Communication.
- Adding that work locations only need to send a copy of the *Stop Stick Deployment Report* to the respective bureau commander if requested.
- Adding requirements for replacing lost or damaged Piranha Stop Sticks and Magnum Spike Strip tire deflations devices.

## SOP 710 – Victim Witness Rights and Assistance

The recommended updates include references from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) model policy on Response to Victims of Crime. **They are substantive but**

**noncontroversial** and emphasize empathy and understanding when dealing with victims of crime.

1. Updating the purpose statement to emphasize that an effective response to the needs of crime victims is an integral part of the department's mission.
2. Adding the physical, psychological, and social needs that crime victims experience and that officers should be aware of when speaking to them.
3. Adding requirements members must follow when responding to calls for service involving crime victims.
4. Adding when members explain the process involved in the prosecution of their case that the explanation should include the member informing the victim of the general direction that the investigation will take, how the department will proceed, who will be responsible for further follow up, and whether the victim should expect to be contacted.
5. Adding members must document in their report that the victim was properly informed of their rights and available protections and was provided with information relating to referrals.
6. Adding if the victim is in need of further assistance from an outside source or agency or requests additional services, the investigating member or victim advocate shall make reasonable efforts to connect the victim with the appropriate service providers.
7. Adding the required training members must receive related to responding to crime victims and that members must be familiar with governmental and community-based victim support and advocacy organizations.
8. Adding a link to the MPD Quick Reference Guide that was created to provide resources to department members with a quick reference to the many community partners who offer education, faith-based, health, youth, and community housing services.
9. Adding members must be attentive to crime victims with special needs and/or the cultural needs of crime victims.