




**NORTHGLENN POLICE MEMORANDUM**  
**#02-2019**

**DATE:** February 25, 2019

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Carol Dodge and City Council Members

**THROUGH:** Heather Geyer, City Manager 

**FROM:** ~~Jim May, Chief of Police~~   
Peter Rice, Interim Commander 

**SUBJECT:** Traffic Enforcement in School Zones for December 2018

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**PURPOSE**

To update and inform City Council on the traffic enforcement done in school zones, in particular, near Hulstrom Elementary, Stukey Elementary and the Grant Drive corridor from 104th to Malley Drive during December of 2018.

**BACKGROUND**

Traffic control and complaints continue to be of major concern to the community, especially near school zones. Northglenn is home to 14 schools inside its City limits. Northglenn Schools are "neighborhood schools" built decades ago for children to walk to or be taken to via bus. The majority of students are driven to these schools and the infrastructure of the neighborhoods are not designed to handle the influx of several hundred cars at the same time, creating traffic congestion.

The Police Department understands the importance of traffic safety and the concerns voiced by the community. The reduction of traffic accidents and traffic infractions is directly related to an increased police presence in these areas. On-duty officers will continue to enforce traffic violations. Due to current staffing, the best way to achieve enhanced traffic enforcement in the areas of concern is the continued allocation of overtime.

Northglenn Police offered two hours of overtime for traffic enforcement during days school was in session. The hours were from 7-9 a.m. and two officers were authorized to work each shift. The primary focus of the traffic enforcement included violations at the crosswalk, illegal turns, illegal parking, speeding, and failure to stop at stop signs. The officers took a "no tolerance" approach for the aforementioned violations.

The traffic enforcement overtime was for weekdays in which school is in session for two hours per day. The department offered 56 overtime hours from the period of December 3, 2018, through December 20, 2018, which included 14 school days. The time was divided between two officers. Officers signed up for 32 of the possible 56 hours of overtime. The 32 hours of overtime had a cost of \$1,541.54 in overtime due to various officer hourly overtime rates.

Officers issued 73 summons for various traffic violations during the 32 hours of overtime. Several arrests were also made after contacting occupants of the vehicles for traffic violations.

In 2018 officers issued an average of 10.62 municipal summonses a day. Municipal summonses increased 21% in December of 2018 from December of 2017.

School Resource Officers at Vantage Point, Northglenn Middle and the Northglenn High School assist in traffic enforcement when time permits. They are often on foot patrol near crosswalks to provide a visual presence to the motoring traffic. They assist crossing guards to ensure no violations take place where children are walking. On duty patrol supervisors for dayshift instruct their officers do the same throughout the City at various schools. This increases visibility and creates a partnership with the school's employees working the crosswalks. The school can then pass on complaints or inform officers of specific areas they should focus on with their enforcement.

The creation of a fully dedicated traffic team is scheduled to be implemented in 2021 per the staffing plan presented to City Council in September of 2018. The phasing in of a traffic team will begin once staffing is at 30 patrol officers. Traffic enforcement will remain a responsibility of each patrol officer.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Northglenn Police recommends further use of overtime to impact high traffic areas, beginning with school zones through the end of the school year in May. This is needed to supplement the shortage of current officers that are handling calls for service in the community. By doing this, it allows the officers to focus solely on traffic enforcement. Once staffing allows and a traffic team is formed, the traffic team can enforce traffic violations and complaints throughout the city.

#### **BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS**

Beginning March 1 through the end of the Adams 12 School Year in May, there are approximately 50 days of school remaining. By offering two hours of overtime from 7-9 a.m., Monday-Friday, for two officers, there would be approximately 200 hours of overtime. The officers' hourly overtime pay range is between \$39.95 and \$59.78, depending on the officers' current hourly rate. If the department offers the overtime throughout the end of the school year, the cost would range between \$7,990 and \$11,956 for two officers to work the 200 overtime hours.

#### **STAFF REFERENCE**

If Council members have any comments or questions, they may contact Jim May, Chief of Police, 303-450-8967, [jmay@northglenn.org](mailto:jmay@northglenn.org).