

JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy: 16-8
Effective: 01-01-10
Revised: 01-18-21

SEATBELT USE

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to provide Department personnel with guidelines for the use of seatbelts while operating Department vehicles on or off duty.

POLICY: It is the policy of this Department to mandate the use of seatbelts by employees while operating Department vehicles, whether as a passenger or the actual driver of the vehicle. Due to the nature of employees who serve as officers, there are exceptions during certain tactical and emergency situations when the seatbelt may not be used while in, or removed at some point while in, a Department vehicle.


PROCEDURES:

I. USE OF SEATBELTS GENERALLY

- A. All Department employees shall comply with all City ordinances and State laws regarding the use of seatbelts when operating Department owned, rented, leased, or seized vehicles of the City.
- B. All Department employees shall wear a properly adjusted seatbelt as a passenger or when operating Department owned, rented, leased, or seized vehicles of the City while that vehicle is in motion. This does not apply to vehicles not equipped with seatbelts by the manufacturer.
- C. Officers shall seatbelt an arrested person or prisoners, except when they are combative to the point it makes the procedure hazardous to the officers.
- D. Officers working undercover assignments are not required to wear seatbelts while in the immediate presence of an informant or suspect.
- E. Officers responding to a call for service or making a traffic stop or field contact may release the seatbelt within one hundred (100) yards of their destination to facilitate a quick exit for officer safety reasons.
- F. Seatbelt use is not required by the primary officer or those officers assigned to assist during the pursuit of a suspect who is on foot.
- G. Department employees will not alter or tamper with seatbelts.
- H. Department employees will use the proper child safety restraints when transporting a child in non-emergency situations and when the proper equipment is available.

II. SEATBELT INSPECTIONS

- A. Department employees shall inspect the seatbelt safety system prior to operating a Department vehicle.
- B. Department employees who identify an inoperative seatbelt safety system in a Department vehicle shall notify their immediate supervisor and the vehicle will be removed from service until the seatbelt repairs are completed.

ALEAP: 7.22


Brett C. Hibbs
Chief of Police