

GENERAL ORDERS | SOUTH MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT



G.O. Number: 29.6	Subject: School Zone Camera Safety Program	
Chapter: School Zone Traffic Enforcement	Number of Pages: 4	
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By Order of Chief of Police: Reo B. Hatfield III 	Revised: N/A Status: New	

SECTIONS:

- 29.6.1 School Zone Camera Selection
- 29.6.2 Selection Criteria for Traffic Enforcement Officers
- 29.6.3 Procedures to Issue a Notice of Violation
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- 29.6.5 South Miami City/Government Vehicles

RESCINDS: All existing orders in conflict.

PURPOSE: To establish the operational criteria of the South Miami Police Department School Zone Camera Safety.

SCOPE: All departmental personnel.

POLICY: The South Miami Police Department is committed to using a multi-faceted approach to increase and promote traffic safety with the City of South Miami. These strategies include infraction detectors to monitor established school speed zones for speeding violations. The South Miami Police Department has chosen to use image capture technologies and radar as a supplemental means of monitoring compliance of F.S.S. 316.1895(10) or 316.183(2). Sworn law enforcement personnel or a certified traffic infraction enforcement officer shall review recorded images prior to the issuance of a Notice of Violation to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the recorded images. All violation notices will comply with F.S.S. 316.008(9).

DEFINITIONS:

- A. **Notice of Violation:** An initial notice and fine issued for a speed violation monitored by a speed detection system.
- B. **Registered Vehicle Owner:** The person or entity identified by the DHSMV or other state registration office as the registered owner of a vehicle. Such a term shall also mean a motor vehicle lessee pursuant to a lease agreement of six months or more.
- C. **School Zone:** A designated area surrounding a school where specific speed limits are enforced during specified hours or the entity of a regularly scheduled school session.
- D. **Speed Detection System:** A portable or fixed automated system used to detect a motor vehicle's speed using radar or lidar and to capture a photograph of the rear of a motor vehicle that exceeds the speed limit in force at the time of the violation.
- E. **Traffic Infraction Enforcement Officer (TIEO):** A sworn law enforcement officer or civilian employee who has successfully completed state-certified training before reviewing violations for prosecution.
- F. **Vendor:** The company contracted by the City of South Miami to provide recorded images by a Traffic Infraction Detector including photographs, electronic/digital images displaying the motor vehicle's rear, clearly identifying the vehicle's license plate.

PROCEDURE:

29.6.1 School Zone Camera Selection

- A. The locations of camera installations shall be at the direction of the South Miami Commission, based on analysis and data obtained from a traffic study.

29.6.2 Selection Criteria for Traffic Infraction Enforcement Officers

- A. The job-related selection criteria for the TIEO are identical to all sworn positions.

29.6.3 Procedures to Issue a Notice of Violation

- A. The Traffic Infraction Enforcement Officer will oversee the daily operations of the School Zone Camera Safety Program.
 - 1. The TIEO shall review the photographic images provided by the vendor to ensure that the vehicle committed a speeding violation through a designated school zone.

2. If the photographic images indicate a speeding violation, the TIEO will approve the infraction electronically and return the information to the vendor. The vendor will then send a Notice of Violation to the vehicle's registered owner.
3. If the TIEO observes questionable circumstances, the offense shall be consulted with the Administrative Captain for disposition.
4. If the TIEO identifies a conflict of interest with a speeding violator to whom a Notice of Violation or citation will be issued, the officer must notify their supervisor immediately. The officer shall provide a detailed account of the nature of the conflict of interest, ensuring transparency and integrity in the enforcement process.
 - a. The officer shall abstain from any further direct involvement in the enforcement, investigation, or adjudication processes related to the specific incident.
 - b. The supervisor will then assign the case to another officer who does not have a conflict of interest.
 - c. This protocol is established to maintain the highest standards of professionalism, fairness, and ethical conduct within the police department.

B. Notice of Violation

1. Upon the approval of the TIOE, the vendor will mail out the Notice of Violation to include all images, vehicle description, and registered owner information as required by law via first-class mail. In the event of joint ownership, the first name appearing shall receive the notice unless the first name appearing on the registration is that of a business; in such case, the second name shall be used.
2. If the fine for the Notice of Violation is not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of issuance or has not been submitted an affidavit, and the violator does not request a hearing within thirty (30) days, an electronic Uniform Traffic Citation shall be issued by the vendor on behalf of the South Miami Police Department via certified mail to the address of the registered owner of the motor vehicle involved in the violation.
3. The TIEO must appear and testify at all municipal hearings and county traffic court.
4. The registered owner of the vehicle involved in the violation is responsible and liable for paying the Uniform Traffic Citation issued unless the owner can establish via affidavit one of the following circumstances listed below:

- a. The motor vehicle was, at the time of the violation, in the care, custody, or control of another person; or
- b. The driver of the vehicle was issued a Uniform Traffic Citation by a law enforcement officer for the alleged violation.
- c. The motor vehicle owner was deceased on or before the date of the alleged violation, as established by an affidavit submitted by the estate representative or other identified person or family member.

29.6.4 South Miami Police Department Vehicles

- A. South Miami Marked and Unmarked Vehicles
 1. If a police vehicle is being used for emergency purposes (e.g., with emergency lights activated), the vendor shall automatically reject the Notice of Violation and not forward it to the South Miami Police Department for review.
 2. If a police vehicle is in violation of a speeding infraction, the violation will be forwarded to the Administrative Captain.
 3. The Administrative Captain will review the violation and investigate the circumstances leading up to it. If the Administrative Captain determines that there was no valid justification for the violation, The violator will have the option of receiving a Notice of Violation that will be issued to the driver of the police vehicle at the time and date of the violation or receive departmental disciplinary action.

29.6.5 South Miami Government/City Vehicles.

- A. If the vendor sends an image of a South Miami government vehicle in violation and a clear emergency purpose cannot be depicted, the appropriate department director will be contacted.