

To All,

All city owned/operated vehicles are equipped with a device that monitors the vehicles actions, mechanical status and locations. The devices are part of a fleet management system, GeoTab, which is maintained by the city IT department. Information gathered by these devices are compiled and sent, weekly, to authorized supervisors and administrators. This information includes, but is not limited to the vehicle GPS location and tracking, but it also alerts to vehicles exceeding posted speed limits for extended periods of time, the usage of seatbelts, harsh turning, harsh acceleration, harsh braking, engine performance and other information.

According to the Officer Down Memorial Page (ODMP), there have been **twenty-one (21)** officers killed in traffic crashes in 2020 already. In 2019, **twenty two (22)** officers lost their lives in traffic accidents. Although the statistics do not reflect the usage, or non-usage, of seatbelts and speed, the fact that some deaths could have possibly been prevented. There are a lot fewer instances of any one of us cutting a seatbelt off of a deceased driver than there are of us rescuing a live victim of a traffic accident who was wearing the seatbelt.

There were also over **sixty five (65)** incidents just last week where police vehicles were driven in excess of 100 mph for extended periods of time. In the month of April there were over **two hundred ninety three (293)** entries where the vehicle exceeded 100 mph. Although accelerated speeds are often necessary in every day operations, such as responding to priority calls or catching up to a traffic violator, **the majority** of these violations have been recorded when the vehicle is not on active calls or in some cases, not even in our jurisdiction. The GeoTab program is very specific as to where and when violations occur. Traveling to and from work is not the time to be traveling at excessively high speeds. Not only is it inherently dangerous, but we should all be an example to the public.

**Florida State Statute 440.09 Worker's Compensation: Coverage.** (5) *"If injury is caused by the knowing refusal of the employee to use a safety appliance or observe a safety rule required by statute or lawfully adopted by the department, and brought prior to the accident to the employee's knowledge, or if injury is caused by the knowing refusal of the employee to use a safety appliance provided by the employer, the compensation as provided in this chapter shall be reduced 25 percent."*

When an officer is injured in any type of incident, Risk Management references all available material and information pertaining to the incident. That is to include incident reports, traffic crash reports, Axon footage and GeoTab information, to list a few. Although the information gathered by the GeoTab program is primarily not intended to be utilized for disciplinary purposes, it can and most likely will, be reviewed in the event of a city vehicle traffic accident involving any member of this department.

This email is not meant to be a scare tactic or a warning, but merely informational and hopefully an eye-opener for many if not all. Stay Safe.

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