



Effective: 07/19/1999
Last Revised: 09/15/2019

**CSU FULLERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 4-9 [CALEA 41.3.3]**

SAFETY BELT POLICY

SUBJECT: Use of vehicle safety belts by Department employees.

PURPOSE: This directive establishes guidelines with regard to the use of vehicle safety belts by Department employees.

POLICY: The University Police Department supports California Vehicle Code section 27315 which states that: All Law Enforcement Agencies shall establish a policy and issue an order, in writing, which states whether or not their officers are required to wear seat belts.

(a): which reads, in part, "The legislature finds that a mandatory seat belt law will contribute to reducing highway deaths and injuries by encouraging greater usage of existing manual seat belts, that automatic crash protection systems which require no action by vehicle occupants offer the best hope of reducing death and injury, and that encouraging the use of manual safety belts is only a partial remedy for addressing this major cause of death and injury."

PROCEDURE:

I. Definitions:

- A. Private Passenger Motor Vehicle - shall include all state owned or operated vehicles including but not limited to Department vehicles and privately owned vehicles authorized for use on state business.
- B. Highway – a way or place of whatever nature publicly maintained and open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular traffic and shall include any place on the university grounds and the grounds of all satellite properties owned or controlled by the university.

II. Department Policy

- A. Department employees shall comply with the requirements of CVC section 27315(d) (1) and (2) and 27315(e) which reads in part: Sections (D)(1), (D)(2), and (E) of 27315 no longer mention 6 year olds, only 16 year olds and older and "No person 16 years of age or over shall be a passenger in a private passenger motor vehicle on a highway unless that person is properly restrained by a safety belt."
- B. The Department recognizes that safety belts can interfere with the officer's access to his or her equipment. However, because of the overwhelming evidence

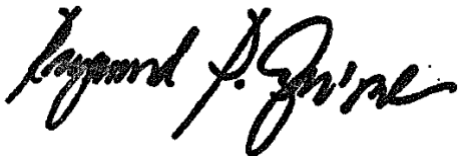
that seat belts save lives. University Police Officers are required to wear safety belts while operating a Department owned or authorized vehicle.

- C. Officers need to take situational awareness and tactics into consideration while operating police vehicles. Situations which may dictate driving without a seatbelt may be driving at slow speeds through alleys of a gang/high crime area, searching for an armed/dangerous subject etc. Officer should make every attempt to fasten their seatbelt as soon as practical at the conclusion of a hazardous situation.
- D. The requirements of this policy does not apply:
1. When the Watch Commander or any supervisor authorizes a specific temporary exemption to this policy. The Watch Commander shall submit in writing an explanation to the appropriate Command Staff for review.
 2. When employees are providing services that require the employee to ride in the bed of pick-up trucks, i.e. delivering or retrieving barriers, cones, signs, etc.

REVIEWED:

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APPROVED:



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