



Robert A. Rizzi, Jr.
Chief of Police

Letter to the Editor:

In response to some citizens concerns about the amount of citations that have been issued by the Troy Police Department. I would like to address some of the concerns and clear up some of the confusions and misconceptions.

First, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, studies have shown that speed is a major contributing factor in most serious accidents. We all know that driving under the influence contributes to accidents. Other studies have shown that aggressive traffic enforcement has a direct correlation on the crime rate. Troy is a relatively safe community, and the Troy Police Department would like to keep it that way for our residents, and make it safer if possible.

Second, the increase in citations issued is due to the Troy Police Department participating in several Illinois Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Grants that targets speed enforcement and D.U.I. enforcement. These programs are fully funded by I.D.O.T. Grants. These programs are of no cost to the City of Troy. The officer's salaries are paid in full by these grants. The police department is paid mileage for the use of the vehicles involved in the enforcement efforts.

Third, the officers participating in these enforcement efforts are in addition to the Troy Police Department's normal patrols. They do not take away from the patrols that our citizens have grown accustomed to. The officers participating in the enforcement efforts are more visible than the officers on normal patrols, because they are patrolling in designated areas where high incidents of violations have been identified. Because of these grants we actually have more officers on the street available in case of significant emergency or disaster.

Fourth, there are strict guidelines that must be followed in accordance with these grants. There is a zero tolerance policy as to warnings. If you are stopped, you will be ticketed. Most of the tickets that are issued for speeding are issued for more than 15 mph over the posted speed limit. There are many other police agencies in the area that are also participating in these efforts. The Troy Police Department has also received equipment that we would not have been able to obtain if it were not for these grants, with no cost to the City of Troy.

After checking our statistic both prior to the I.D.O.T. Grants and during the Grants the City of Troy has realized a decrease of 16.7% of traffic accidents. And of those traffic accidents reported a decrease of 55% in injury accidents. Although this cannot be directly attributed to the I.D.O.T. Grants, I believe that they played a part in this decrease.

The Troy Police Department is striving to make the City of Troy safe for all of residents, and visitors. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please contact me at 667-6731.

Robert A. Rizzi, Jr.
Chief of Police