

<b>OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF</b>	
<b>Undersheriff Kevin A McLeod</b>	
<b>General Order</b>	

**To:** All WCSO Staff

**From:** Undersheriff McLeod

**CC:**

**Date:** 05-March-2012

**Re:** Sheriff's Office Vehicles

**#12-02**

The use of a Sheriff's Office assigned vehicle is privilege afforded to members of the Sheriff's Office based on certain principals. First and foremost would be to enhance public safety and response. It has long been a premise that Sheriff's deputies who operate Sheriff's Office vehicles should be available to respond or assist the public when needed or requested. The need may be based on an incident, either observed or come upon by a deputy while driving the vehicle. If the operator of a Sheriff's Office vehicle is unable to assist in the incident requiring the need of protection to the deputy or anyone else or is unable to perform the necessary duties of a Deputy Sheriff due to lack of sworn status or the inability to carry a firearm, the need or benefit of the use of the Sheriff's Office vehicle is negated.

However, a non sworn and/or unarmed member of the Sheriff's Office may be assigned duties that require him or her to drive a vehicle in the performance of his or her duties. This could be anyone in the Office who is required to drive to locations other than from home to the Sheriff's Office to perform his or her assigned duties (e.g., delivering mail, serving civil papers, going to meetings or training, etc.) These situations or scenarios place the member operating the vehicle in a position compromising his or her safety, and may place the Sheriff's Office in a position of liability. To be specific, a member who is driving an emergency equipped vehicle and/or is wearing clothing and/or equipment that identifies him or her as a Deputy Sheriff may be placed in an unsafe situation because he or she is unable to perform all functions of a deputy.

Therefore, it is the policy of the Sheriff's Office that any member who is unable to perform all of the duties of a sworn deputy shall not operate a Sheriff's Office emergency equipped vehicle. Rather, the member unable to perform all duties of a Deputy Sheriff, who is required to drive a vehicle in the performance of his or her assigned tasks will be assigned a vehicle that is unmarked and not equipped with emergency equipment. This member will not wear any clothing or equipment that would identify him or her as a sworn deputy.

It will also be the policy to this Office that those members who are not able to perform all functions of a Deputy Sheriff shall not wear any uniform or equipment which would identify him or her as a Deputy while in the public eye. This would include driving to and from the Sheriff's Office.