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OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM FOR SBI/VBI REGARDING TRAFFIC STOPS.

This memorandum serves to clarify and formally document the authority of the **Ventura Bureau of Investigations (VBI)** regarding the initiation and execution of traffic stops within the State of Ventura and the County of Hayward.

Effective immediately, the VBI is authorized to conduct traffic stops involving **Public and State Officials**, including but not limited to: **sworn law enforcement officers, fire department personnel, emergency medical personnel, and any individual employed by or acting under the authority of the State of Ventura or the County of Hayward**. This authority applies only when VBI personnel are operating a **clearly identified, fully marked VBI unit** equipped with standard emergency lighting and proper agency insignia.

This policy ensures that all investigative traffic stops conducted by VBI agents are easily identifiable to the subject being detained, as well as to other public safety personnel and the general public. The use of marked units promotes transparency, officer safety, and accountability in the exercise of VBI's enforcement authority. The VBI retains full investigative discretion when legally justified grounds exist—such as probable cause or reasonable suspicion—to believe that a violation of law or departmental regulations has occurred. All actions must be taken in accordance with applicable state law and departmental procedure.

Exception:

This memorandum does **not** restrict the VBI from conducting traffic stops on private citizens when those individuals are **accused of, suspected of, or actively involved in capital offenses, violent felonies, or other serious criminal activity**. In such cases, VBI agents may initiate traffic stops in accordance with standard enforcement protocols, provided they are operating from a **marked VBI unit**.

All personnel are required to comply with this directive and must conduct all stops in a professional, lawful, and transparent manner. Any questions regarding interpretation or implementation of this policy should be directed to the Office of Legal Affairs or the Command Administration of the Ventura Bureau of Investigations.

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