

Austin Police Department

Date: 07/19/01	Policy and Procedure Manual	Number: 6.12
Revision date: or as necessary	Section VI – PATROL DUTIES	Page: 1 of 1
Title: OPERATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLES WITHOUT LIGHTS		Application: All Personnel

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to advise members of the Austin Police Department of the conditions under which department vehicles may be operated without headlights as set forth in Minnesota State Statute 169.541, and department policy.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Austin Police Department that no marked or unmarked police vehicle may be driven after the hours of darkness without headlights on, except in accordance with legitimate law enforcement purpose when the officer believes that operating the vehicle without lights is necessary to investigate suspected criminal activity.

PROCEDURE:

- A. An officer **may not** operate without lights:
1. On interstate highways
 2. At speeds greater than reasonable and prudent under existing weather, road and traffic conditions
 3. In a situation where the officer is involved in the pursuit of a vehicle being operated in violation of MN State Statute 609.487, flee police officer in motor vehicle
 4. In personal vehicles
- B. In all cases due to the inherent dangers involved, the officer's conduct must be reasonable and vehicles must be operated with due care and caution.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

Supervisors of the department are responsible for ensuring that this and all policies of this department are followed. Deviations from this or any other policy are permitted within the scope of authority granted to all members of this department; however, the deviation must be reported in accordance with policy.