

ViP Car Where Are You?

At the Volunteers in Policing (ViPs) August meeting, Morgan and Jasmin said that patrol is a great support to the Woodland Police Department (WPD). Patrol offers ViPs a chance to broaden the reach of the Patrol Division, the 'backbone' of the WPD. The Patrol Division provides services to Woodland every minute of every day. The ViPs are able to support the community presence of WPD patrol services.

The ViPs provide several types of patrol services for the community. Some require specialized training and some do not. The types of patrol are: Traffic Calming, Shopping Cart Abatement, Vehicle Abatement, Graffiti Abatement, and general patrol. Vehicle Abatement does require special training, so if interested let Morgan know. Patrolling is as easy as driving a car and can be done alone or in teams. Contact ViPs Erica Nementh or Shirley Higgins for help. Both happy to help ViPs who want to learn how to conduct a patrol.

There are several steps for patrol duty. Always complete the Vehicle Log Sheet which is in the back of the ViP Sign-In Notebook. The vehicles must be used in order, no skipping! We have to make sure that they are all driven regularly. Complete all of the information. Duty notes should describe the type of patrol, such as Traffic Calming. A blue line means that a Vehicle Inspection form needs to be completed. The forms are on the wall in front of Morgan's desk. This 12-point form is critical for the ViP program, because it keeps these vehicles ready for service and provides a record of the mileage, which the city manager reviews regularly to determine if the ViPs needs patrol cars. Once the records are complete, grab the keys and a radio get your car. If two are in the car, you must be wearing a mask.

VEH #	CAD	NAME	TIME OUT	TIME IN	DUTY NOTES	ISSUE W/ VEH?	✓
674							
708							
712							
718							
674							
708							

After a quick inspection of the car, contact Dispatch to let them know that you are in service. Either use the radio or call the non-emergency number: 530-666-2411. You will need the Ocean and CAD numbers for each ViP in the patrol vehicle. Communication with Dispatch is critical, but if you are unsure of proper procedure, let them know. They will help you, but are very busy, so know your numbers! Keep the radio on during your patrol. Proper procedures for signing on and off your shift are in the table. Fill in your own numbers for '#'.

<p>Sign on at the beginning of your shift:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ViP: "2 OCEAN #" • Dispatcher: "2 OCEAN #, go ahead." • You: "2 OCEAN #, CAD #, In Service." 	<p>Sign off at the end of your shift:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You: "2 OCEAN #" • Dispatcher: "2 OCEAN #, go ahead." • You: "2 OCEAN #, CAD #, Out of Service."
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ViP Shirley Higgins provided some advice for patrol.

- First and foremost, the ViPs represent the department.
- Always maintain awareness of your surroundings. Always take a radio or phone when leaving the vehicle.
- Constantly be aware of the location of the vehicle by observing cross streets.
- When observing a potential incident, note height, weight, and clothing details of people and make, model, color and license number of vehicles.
- Always follow traffic regulations perfectly!

The types of patrol can be mixed, just record this information on the log sheet. These are special tips for each type of patrol:

- Traffic Calming: Citizens requested a WPD presence along several streets, which are listed on the white board. Follow these routes. For example, drive east on Gum from Farnham to East Street. It is a good idea to also park at some point. The presence of the car slows traffic and lets the neighbors know that WPD is helping to keep their neighborhood safe. This patrol should be done between 8 and 10 a.m. or 4 to 6 p.m.
- Shopping Cart or Graffiti Abatement: Patrol throughout Woodland, emphasizing Traffic Calming routes. If a shopping cart is seen, log its location and the store information. Call 1-888-992-4778 to report. Take a picture of the graffiti and email the photo with its location to graffiti@cityofwoodland.org.
- General Patrol: In addition to travelling along the Traffic Calming routes, add patrol of shopping centers, such as across from the fairgrounds, at Highway 98 and Main Street, and at Pioneer and Gibson. Drive slowly around the perimeter of the shopping area.

Now grab a partner, plan a day to patrol, and be careful out there!