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March 2004

Slow down or change lanes for stopped emergency vehicles

SB 193 requires drivers nearing stopped emergency vehicles—with lights activated—to either slow down or change lanes.

The law states a driver must either vacate the lane closest to the stopped emergency vehicle if the road has multiple lanes traveling in the same direction or slow down 20 miles per hour below the speed limit. (If the speed limit is below 25 mph the driver must slow down to 5 mph.)

Emergency vehicles include police, emergency medical service and fire vehicles.

A violation is punishable by a maximum fine of \$200. If the violation results in property damage, the maximum fine increases to \$500. If the violation results in bodily injury, the offense is enhanced to a Class B misdemeanor.

The new law was passed in the last regular session of the Texas Legislature and went into effect Sept. 1, 2003. DPS issued warnings until Dec. 1, 2003, before troopers started writing citations for this offense.

New commissioner appointed; Chairman McHugh re-appointed

Gov. Rick Perry re-appointed Colleen McHugh, chairman of the Public Safety Commission, and appointed a new commissioner.

Carlos H. Cascos of Brownsville was named to the Public Safety Commission on Feb. 13. He will serve a six-year term that expires on Dec. 31, 2009.

Commissioner Cascos is a partner in the accounting firm of Pattillo, Brown & Hill LLP. He served as

Cameron County commissioner from 1991 to 2002 and is a member of the Association of Public Accountants.

Chairman McHugh, a Corpus Christi resident, has served on the commission since 1998. She is a partner with the law firm Bracewell & Patterson and a former president of the State Bar of Texas. Her term on the Commission expires on Dec. 31, 2005.

Dear Fellow Employee,

The Training Academy is full these days: we are running the Highway Patrol inservice, and we have two recruit classes there.

One of the recruit classes began in February—I want to welcome aboard those newest recruits. Your career with DPS will be rewarding and interesting.

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I also welcome Mr. Carlos Cascos to the DPS family as our new commissioner. Public Safety Commission chair Colleen McHugh was re-appointed to the commission and she will continue as the chair.

We look forward to our new association with Mr. Cascos and our continued association with Ms. McHugh.

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On the back page of this newsletter, there is a complete schedule of the competitive promotional examinations planned so far this year. There are plenty of opportunities for advancement for our commissioned employees. If you are eligible to compete for promotion, I urge you to do so.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Thomas A. Davis Jr.'.

Awards

Robert Keith Warrington and James Wesley Warrington of Harlingen were both presented Director's Awards.

Since 1983 and without compensation, the Warringtons used their expertise to further the Department's mission in a variety of ways. For example, they often donated material and needed repairs for vehicles, such as modifying the back seats of patrol cars for new K-9 troopers. They also helped dismantle suspect vehicles containing drug contraband.

The Warringtons were instrumental in negotiating a land agreement for an incinerator that will be used to destroy seized drugs. They were nominated by retired **Sgt. Jose Sandoval**, Narcotics Harlingen.

Short Shots

Quarter Century Club

The 48th Annual DPS Quarter Century Club meeting and banquet will take place on March 19 at the Red Lion Hotel in Austin.

The Ladies Luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. at the hotel. The business meeting starts at 3 p.m. in the CLE Auditorium at Headquarters. New members will receive certificates and pins during the 7 p.m. banquet at the hotel. If you have questions about the meeting, please call **Jennifer Hall**, 512-424-7297.

New service created within Administration Division

A new service has been created within the Administration Division: the Regulatory Licensing Service.

DPS online: www.txdps.state.tx.us

The new service is composed of the Concealed Handgun License Bureau and the Private Security Bureau.

The new service is headed by Assistant Chief **Valerie Fulmer**, who was formerly the deputy administrator of the Crime Records Service.

DPS Mutual Association

The DPS Mutual Association held its annual meeting on January 28 and elected officers and board members. There were 5,101 members in the Association.

The following officers were elected: **Col. Thomas A. Davis, Jr.**, president; **Lt. Col. David McEathron**, vice president; Chief of Finance **Tom Haas**, secretary, and Supervisor of Budget & Planning **Douglas W. Noren**, treasurer. Majors **Tim Thompson**, **Stanley Clark**, **Artemio Garza**, **J.R. Allen**, **Morris Arnold**, **Larry Story**, **Charles Smith** and **James Sanders** were elected to the Board of Directors. An Audit Committee was also appointed, composed of **Rick Kautz**, **Debbie Cartwright** and **Roger Leathers**.

The DPS Mutual Association offers membership in a life insurance fund, which provides death benefits for beneficiaries of deceased members. Beneficiaries of deceased current employees in good standing receive \$10,000 and retirees receive \$5,000. Assessments, made only on the death of a member, are due within 30 days of issuance of notice, and are the same for active employees and retirees. If payments are not received within the allotted time, membership is canceled. All current em-

ployees of the DPS are eligible to become members of the Association. Retirees of DPS can join the Association under certain conditions, including payments of all assessments made by the association since the date of their retirement. The membership fee is \$10, payable to the DPS Mutual Association. Contact **Lorna Meyer** in Accounting & Budget Control at (512) 424-2061 for details.

Look for newsclippings on the DPS intranet

The Public Information Office will be testing a new program on the DPS intranet: newsclippings online.

Each week, PIO mails out a clip pack that contains information in the news media about DPS or law enforcement-related issues. We will test putting the clippings on the intranet for two months to evaluate the popularity of the intranet access.

To access the intranet, please go to <http://dpsnet/> and look for the link to DPS Clip Pack.

DPS no longer issues press passes, media credentials

As of April 21, 2003, the DPS no longer issues media credentials.

A number of factors entered into the decision:



On the mend...

Great news! **Tr. Jack Lawson** THP Bowie; **Tr. Esther Racus** DLD Houston; and **Michael Reisen**, HP Capitol, have all returned to duty after line-of-duty injuries.

DPS "on the air": 512-424-7777

askthecolonel@txdps.state.tx.us

1. We could find nothing that statutorily authorized us to issue press passes.

2. The document was insecure, and we could not produce a secure document without going to great expense to produce one.

3. We felt increasingly uncomfortable with determining whether an applicant was a member of the “legitimate” media, since the definition of “legitimate media” has changed so much since the media credentialing program started.

Current press passes will remain valid until their expiration date.

Cell phone and road rage wrecks increase from 2000 to 2001

The number of cell phone-related and road rage-related collisions both increased in the latest statistical data compiled by DPS.

Cell phone-related traffic crashes increased from 716 to 1,032 from 2000 to 2001—a 44 percent increase. In cases where cell phone use was listed as a contributing factor, there were 7 fatalities in 2000 compared to 8 in 2001. Road rage-related accidents jumped from 90 to 219—a 143 percent increase. One fatality in both 2000 and 2001 was attributed to road rage.

It’s important to note that new accident reporting forms listing cell phones and road rage as contributing factors were not available until April 2000, so comparing the two years may not present an accurate picture.

DPS urges drivers to minimize cell phone usage in their vehicle and refuse to be drawn into the road rage cycle.

Mile Markers

Promotions

THP

Kevin Wayne Wood, Sgt., HP Tyler to Lt., HP Austin; **Robert Lee Losoya**, Cpl., HP Fort Stockton to Sgt., HP Fort Stockton; **James Todd Jennings**, Cpl., HP Fredericksburg to Sgt., HP Del Rio; **Jerome Avery Johnson**, Tr., HP Pearsall to Sgt., HP Pearsall;

Robert Bernard, Jr., Tr. HP Waxahachie to Sgt., HP Temple; **David Shawn Gustafson**, Tr., HP Coldspring to Sgt., HP Capitol; **Dan Bradley Frye**, Tr., HP Orange to Sgt., HP Capitol; **Brian Allen Lillie**, Tr., HP Eastland to Sgt., HP Capitol;

Abel Anthony Martinez, Tr., CVE Kingsville to Sgt., CVE Harlingen; **Steven Earl McQuagge**, Tr., CVE Freer to Sgt., CVE Laredo; **Monty Gene Kea**, Tr., CVE Sweetwater to Sgt., CVE Garland; **Wade Charles Kimble**, Tr., CVE Eagle Pass to Sgt., CVE Eagle Pass.

Administration

Kelvin Dews, Tr., HR Austin to Sgt., Training Austin.

DL

Marcus W. Bolden, Tr., DL Houston to Sgt., DL Houston; **Cesar Eduardo Torres**, Tr., DL McAllen to Sgt., DL Houston; **Sharleigh Drake**, Tr., DL San Antonio to Sgt., DL Conroe.

CLE

Larry Pulliam, Tr., HP Orange to Sgt., MVT Laredo.

Retirements

Dorothy Jean Porter, Fingerprint Supv., Crime Records Austin, 28 yrs., 5 mos.; **Elda Gutierrez Lopez**, Sec., CVE Laredo, 22 yrs., 11 mos., 16 days; **Christopher Joel Welty**, Sen. Prog. II, IMS Austin, 10 yrs., 6 mos., 12 days; **Robert Milton Skelton**, Sen. Tr., CVE Breckenridge, 27 yrs., 4 mos., 16 days;

Judy Lee Kenneaster, Sen. Oper., Comm. Corpus Christi, 23 yrs., 8 mos., 12 days; **Noe Martinez**, Tr., Narcotics Svc. Harlingen, 22 yrs., 7 mos., 21 days; **Linda Marie Balyeat**, Tech., Narcotics Svc. Kerrville, 22 yrs., 4 mos.; **Phillip Ray Jansa**, Sen. Oper., Comm. Wichita Falls, 19 yrs., 7 mos.;

Michael Barrett O’Donnell, Cpl., HP Van Horn, 25 yrs., 7 mos., 7 days; **James Oliver Mitchell**, Sec. Worker IV, Capitol Austin, 10 yrs., 11 mos.; **Dora Ann Stark**, Tech., DL Houston, 5 yrs., 7 mos., 4 days; **Margil Maldonado**, Custodian, HP McAllen, 5 yrs., 9 mos., 13 days.

Deaths

Carroll Gene Pfluger, ret. Accountant I, Accounting Austin (March 1953 - Aug. 1983) died January 29, 2004; **Delfina Dennett**, ret. Custodian III, THP McAllen (April 1978 - Dec. 2002) died January 31, 2004; **Chester Lee Davis**, ret. Sgt., DL Lufkin (Feb. 1955 - March 1985) died January 15, 2004; **Lyndel Wayne Murph**, ret. Cpl. V, HP Uvalde (Feb. 1974 - Aug. 2002) died November 20, 2003.

Competitive promotional examinations announced

The competitive examinations for the following positions will be conducted at the Texas Department of Public Safety Law Enforcement Academy as follows:

Monday, March 22, 2004 at 8 a.m.

Lieutenant, Texas Ranger Division

Wednesday, March 24, 2004 at 8 a.m.

Captain, Texas Ranger Division

The competitive examinations for the following positions will be conducted at the Texas Department of Public Safety Regional Headquarters offices as follows:

Tuesday, April 13, 2004 at 8 a.m.

Captain, Narcotics Service

Lieutenant, Highway Patrol Service

Lieutenant, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement

Sergeant, Narcotics Service

Sergeant, Driver License Division

Tuesday, April 13, 2004 at 1:30 p.m.

Captain, Motor Vehicle Theft Service

Lieutenant, Aircraft Section

Sergeant, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement

Sergeant, Special Crimes Service

Sergeant, Texas Ranger Division

Wednesday, April 14, 2004 at 8 a.m.

Captain, Driver License Division

Lieutenant, Driver License Division

Lieutenant, Motor Vehicle Theft Service

Lieutenant, Narcotics Service

Sergeant, Highway Patrol Service

Sergeant, Motor Vehicle Theft Service

The Oral Examining Board will convene at the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Ranger Division Conference Room beginning at 8 a.m. as follows:

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Lieutenant, Texas Ranger Division

Thursday, March 25, 2004

Captain, Texas Ranger Division

The Oral Examining Board will convene at the Texas Department of Public Safety Law Enforcement Promotional System Conference Room beginning at 8 a.m. as follows:

Friday, April 23, 2004

Lieutenant, Aircraft Section

Monday, April, 26, 2004

Captain, Motor Vehicle Theft Service

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Captain, Narcotics Service

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Lieutenant, Highway Patrol Service

Friday, April 30, 2004

Lieutenant, Driver License Division

Wednesday, May 05, 2004

Sergeant, Highway Patrol Service

Monday, May 10, 2004

Sergeant, Driver License Division

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Sergeant, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement

Friday, May 14, 2004

Lieutenant, Motor Vehicle Theft Service

Monday, May 17, 2004

Lieutenant, Narcotics Service

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Sergeant, Texas Ranger Division

Monday, May 24, 2004

Sergeant, Narcotics Service

Wednesday, June 02, 2004

Sergeant, Motor Vehicle Theft Service

Monday, June 07, 2004

Sergeant, Special Crimes Service

The Oral Examining Board will convene at the Texas Department of Public Safety Human Resources Conference Room beginning at 8 a.m. as follows:

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Captain, Driver License Division

Thursday, May 06, 2004

Lieutenant, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement

The application form HR-106 should be submitted directly to the Human Resources Bureau. Applicants must also submit a copy of form HR-106 to their service commander through proper channels. Only those candidates who are qualified will be able to compete in the written examinations. Applications should be addressed to the Human Resources Bureau, MSC 0251, Texas Department of Public Safety, Box 4087, Austin, Texas 78773, faxed to 512-424-5627, or emailed through DPS email system to "Tracey Carlile" and should be received no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, March 12, 2004, for Texas Ranger Lieutenant and Captain and Wednesday, March 31, 2004, for the remaining examinations.

An announcement and application form HR-106 can be found in Outlook at Public Folders/All Public Folders/Law Enforcement Promotions.