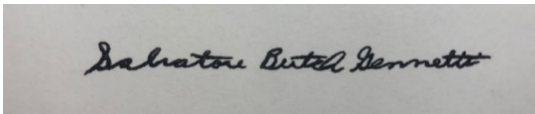



<h1>MALDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT</h1> <h2>SEAT BELT POLICY</h2>		
<p>Massachusetts police accreditation standards referenced: 41.3.3</p>		<p>GENERAL ORDER GEN 2023-015 POLICY NUMBER: TRA-007</p>
<p><u>Effective Date:</u> 02/23/2023 <u>Total Pages:</u> 2</p>	<p><i>ISSUING AUTHORITY</i></p> <hr/> <p>Police Commissioner</p>  <p>Salvatore "Butch" Gennetti</p>	

I. Purpose:

To establish a policy to assure operator and passenger safety, thus minimizing the possibility of death or injury as a result of motor vehicle crashes.

II. Discussion:

Research clearly indicates that the use of safety belts has a significant effect in reducing the number of death and severity of injuries resulting from traffic crashes. A law enforcement officer's chance of being involved in a motor vehicle is greater than that of the general public. The use of safety restraints reduces this risk to death and serious injury and assists officers in maintaining proper control of their vehicles in pursuit and/or emergency high speed operations.

III. Policy:

To assure the safety of all personnel, safety belts should be considered by sworn personnel in police department vehicles, however it is not mandatory. Any non-custodial civilian being transported in a departmental vehicle will be required to wear a seat belt.

IV. Recommendation:

It is strongly recommended that safety belts be utilized by department personnel at all times in vehicles while in an on-duty capacity to further reduce the risk of death or injury.

V. Procedure:

- A.** Department personnel, while not mandated, should consider the use of safety belts installed by the vehicle manufacturer properly adjusted and securely fastened when operating or riding in any vehicle so equipped if used while on duty.
- B.** If worn, lap belts shall be properly secured in those vehicles equipped with automatic safety belt systems that require the lap portion of the belt be manually secured.
- C.** No person shall modify, remove, deactivate or otherwise tamper with the vehicle safety belts except for vehicle maintenance and repair and not without the express authorization of the Chief of Police.
- D.** Whenever possible, all prisoners are required to be secured in the vehicle by a safety belt (unless the officer is unable to fasten the prisoner for officer safety reasons; spitting, biting, etc.) in all seating positions for which safety belts are provided by the vehicle manufacturer. Caution: Prisoners that are handcuffed in front have the ability to release the seatbelts using the safety restraint latch plate.
41.3.3
- E.** Officers operating in an undercover capacity should also consider the use of safety belts while operating an unmarked vehicle, however it is not mandatory.