

**BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Policy Regulating the Conduct of Vehicle Occupants During Traffic Stops

Traffic stops are inherently dangerous for police officers. See *Pennsylvania v. Mimms*, 434 U.S. 106 (1977). This policy, promulgated as a motor vehicle control regulation under the authority of G.L. c. 73, § 18, is intended to set expectations for the conduct of vehicle drivers and passengers during traffic stops on campus, in order to mitigate risk and increase the safety of officers and motorists.

For the purposes of this policy, a “traffic stop” is defined as the temporary detention of a vehicle and its occupants to investigate a possible civil motor vehicle infraction or crime.

Under this policy, the driver (operator) or passengers of any motor vehicle are required to perform (or, in context, refrain from performing) the following actions whenever a traffic stop is conducted by a Bridgewater State University Police officer on any roadway or other public way owned by the university, or in any other place within the environs and passageways of the university:

- Driver: Pull over quickly and safely, using signals to pull as far onto the right shoulder as you can.
- Driver: Right after you are stopped, roll down your window, turn off the engine and place your hands on the steering wheel. If it is nighttime, turn on your interior light.
- Driver and passengers: Do not exit the vehicle unless the officer instructs you to do so.
- Driver and passengers: Do not reach for license and registration documents until the officer requests them.
- Driver and passengers: If the officer asks you to exit the vehicle (or re-enter the vehicle), do so immediately.