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## **Automated Vehicle Locating System (AVL)**

### **459.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for the implementation and use of the Automatic Vehicle Locating (AVL) System. The system is designed to increase officer safety by providing the ability to locate personnel who have lost contact with dispatch or other officers. It also allows for coordination and resource management during tactical situations, assists in improving response times to radio calls and situational awareness for all employees.

The Department's AVL is a Global Positioning System (GPS) which is integrated within the software of the Mobile Data Computer (MDC) and the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems. AVL uses GPS data to locate and track field personnel units through CAD mapping.

AVL allows Communications and other department members to easily see the real-time locations of all AVL-equipped units on the CAD map. Knowing which units are in the vicinity of an active CAD call enables Communications and supervisors to make more informed decisions.

### **459.2 PERMISSIONS**

Disciplinary action is not the focus or intent of the use of the AVL system; however, the system data may be used as an aid in any criminal and/or administrative investigation. The AVL Playback software accessed by the Professional Standards Unit may be used as a tool in the complaint process as one part of the fact-finding procedure. AVL may also be used as a tool in a variety of ways including the review of critical incidents such as officer-involved accidents, pursuits or other vehicle operations or to easily review pursuits or evaluate patrol routes.

Employees will not make any attempt to disable the AVL system in any way. Employees who are operating vehicles equipped with AVL technology may not disable, re-configure or otherwise tamper with its settings, without authorization from the Chief of Police or his designee. Employees experiencing difficulty using AVL technology should report any problems to Communications and place the vehicle out of service until it is fully functional. Communications will immediately notify officers and their on-duty patrol sergeants when AVL units are no longer functioning.

Professional Standards Unit personnel have the authority to access the AVL system via the AVL Playback Program as a tool to improve situational awareness, response times, analyze and improve patrol tactics, improve officer safety and when necessary, use as a fact-finding tool during a complaint-driven review. Supervisors can request via email specific information from PSU during fact-finding, complaint-driven reviews.

### **459.3 AUDITS**

The Chief of Police or his designee may authorize random audits of field personnel to ensure system integrity and functionality.