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## **Traffic Tamers Rule of Conduct**

### ***Introduction***

Traffic Tamers is a neighborhood speed watch program which partners with neighborhood residents who want to play an active role in solving their neighborhood speeding problems. The goal of this program is to raise public awareness about the negative impacts of speeding on neighborhood streets. Traffic Tamers is one tool in the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program created to improve the safety and livability of neighborhood streets.

### ***Guidelines and Procedures***

The Traffic Tamers Program is a volunteer-based program available to any neighborhood group in the City of Fort Collins. Volunteers assist in gathering speed and traffic information on their own neighborhood streets. (Neighborhood streets are classified as either residential or two-lane collector. High-volume, multiple-lane streets are excluded from the Traffic Tamers program.)

The person who makes the request and other neighborhood volunteers conduct the speed watch. A minimum of two volunteers is required at all times during the speed watch. One person is responsible for operating the radar unit and the other person records the required information on the Neighborhood Speed Study and Speeding Vehicle Report form.

Volunteers must be 16 years of age or older to participate. Volunteers under the age of 21 must be accompanied by an adult 21 years or older. This allows high school and college students to participate in the program.

All volunteers will be trained by Traffic Operations staff on the proper use of the radar gun, the rules of conducting a speed watch, and how to complete the forms. Training will also cover the rules of conduct and proper behavior in case conflicts arise. Only those volunteers who have completed the training will be allowed to conduct a speed watch. In case of a confrontation between a neighbor and volunteer, the study will immediately cease, and Traffic Operations staff notified. The contact person will be responsible for checking out and returning the equipment and speed watch information.

Volunteers determine when they feel speeding in their neighborhood is at its worst, (for example, during rush hours and/or before and after school) and schedule their speed watch during these times.

Traffic Operations staff may direct where the speed watch should take place and may back-up the speed watch volunteers with traffic counters and road tubes.



At present, there is only one radar gun available. The use of the radar gun will be scheduled for a three to four day period. If and when demand for the radar gun is high - a waiting list will be formed.

Volunteers will conduct the speed watch from a legally parked vehicle. After the speed data has been gathered by volunteers, the license numbers of vehicles found exceeding the speed limit by 10 or more miles per hour are then matched through the Department of Motor Vehicles database, and a list of registered owners and their addresses is compiled. A letter from the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Committee is sent the registered owners of all matched vehicles. The letter informs the owners that their vehicle was observed speeding on a neighborhood street, and asks that all drivers of the vehicle obey the posted speed limit in residential areas. Registered owners of vehicles found speeding are not fined, and no violation is cited on their driving record.

### ***Rules of Conduct***

1. A minimum of two volunteers are required at all times during the speed watch
2. Speed watches are to be conducted from a legally parked car only
3. Obey all traffic and pedestrian laws
4. Do not park on, or block, sidewalks or driveways. Do not park in a red curb zone or in front of a fire hydrant.
5. Be courteous and exercise reasonable care
6. Neighbors, pedestrians, and motorists may stop to ask what you are doing. Hand them a Traffic Tamers brochure, and ask them to call Traffic Operations if they have questions or objections to the program. If a confrontation arises, stop the study immediately and contact Traffic Operations. Do not argue and remain calm.
7. The public may incorrectly assume that you are a representative of the City or a law enforcement officer, or that your actions will result in them receiving a traffic citation. You must make it clear that you are volunteering as a private citizen and participating in the Traffic Tamers speed watch program. Also make it clear that your actions will result only in a letter being mailed that encourages drivers to observe the posted speed limit.
8. Do not make gestures or verbal comments toward passing vehicles. Do not throw objects at vehicles or drivers.
9. Use common sense
10. Do not chase, attempt to stop, or apprehend drivers.
11. Do not encourage non-participants to be present
12. Only those persons completing the training and signing below may participate in the speed watch. A crowd of people will only draw attention to the speed watch and be counter productive.
13. Accurately collect and record data