



Crime Prevention Bulletin

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Traffic Violations Can be Criminal Offenses

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You have probably heard the old adage that, “Nothing good ever happens after midnight.” While it is true that we see some drivers doing crazy things (70 MPH+) late at night, we have also seen incidences of a driver traveling southbound on Tatum at 90 MPH at 5:00 p.m. on a Sunday, a woman driving 55 MPH while looking in the mirror and applying mascara, and worse, a parent traveling through an intersection at 65 MPH with her young child in the backseat.



The Arizona Revised Statutes provides traffic laws our officers reference to enforce and improve public safety on our roadways. A few traffic violations which are easily avoidable are listed below:

- Street racing is illegal throughout the State of Arizona. The operation of two or more vehicles from a point side by side, comparing the relative speeds to outgain or outdistance one another, is an arrestable offense. Those with subsequent violations may be found guilty of a felony and be required to serve jail or prison time.
- The top speed in the Town of Paradise Valley is 40 miles per hour. Our streets are aligned with residences, schools, and places of worship. These host numerous families with children. Be attentive and avoid distractions while driving, particularly in the form of mobile devices.
- Our Town is primarily zoned residential. Therefore, speeds more than 20 miles per hour over the posted speed limit are a criminal offense. High speeds can increase the risk of collision due to an increase in braking distance and reduced maneuverability. These collisions can result in more severe injuries and even death.
- Be mindful and fix loud noises that may come from your vehicle. An effective muffler device helps control excessive fumes and air pollution, and if working properly, will not produce excessive or unusual noise. Vehicles found in violation may receive a civil citation.

Since we share our streets with other drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians, let us all do our part by watching for posted speed limits, obeying traffic signals and remaining vigilant at all times. As we learned from the classic children’s fable The Tortoise and the Hare, slow and steady wins the race, particularly if winning the race means getting you and your loved ones to your destination in one piece. We care about your safety. Please be careful out there.

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