

## **DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER 05-05**

OFFICE of the CHIEF OF POLICE  
AMENDS/RECINDS: None

DATE: October 14, 2005

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### **VEHICLE REPOSSESSIONS**

#### **I. PURPOSE**

To establish general procedural guidelines governing the police department's response to vehicle repossessions.

#### **II. DEFINITIONS**

Repossession - Where a finance company or bank retains a tow firm to take back a motor vehicle because payment has not been made or is seriously delinquent.

#### **III. GENERAL INFORMATION**

When the department is notified in advance of a motor vehicle repossession, or an officer encounters a repossession in progress while on patrol, the officer or other another sworn employee will verify that the paperwork associated with the repossession is legitimate. Once this is accomplished, the officer or officers will then perform their primary duty in these instances and that is to stand by and keep the peace.

Should the owner appear at the scene, the officer(s) will maintain a neutral stance, and not display favor or partiality to either the owner or repo man.

Once the vehicle is removed from the scene, the officer will document the incident with a Memo and notify ECDC to enter the vehicle into the computer as "Repossessed."

In the event of some special circumstance, the officer should contact their supervisor for guidance.

BY ORDER OF:

THOMAS J. BYRNE  
Chief of Police

TJB:dld

CALEA Reference: 61.4.3