



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Case No. General Release

The Portage Police Department has received complaints from concerned citizens about motorists disregarding red traffic lights. Most of us have observed vehicles travel through red lights, or move through on a changing light. Perhaps you have noticed several vehicles making a left turn as the light changes from yellow to red. The following information from the Michigan Vehicle Code is provided to encourage safe and courteous driving.

Vehicle Code Section 257.612b states: "If the signal exhibits a steady yellow indication, vehicular traffic facing the signal shall STOP before entering the nearest crosswalk at the intersection or at a limit line when marked, but if the stop cannot be made in safety, a vehicle may be driven cautiously through the intersection." (Cautiously does not mean accelerating to make the light). Please note that red arrow and yellow arrow lights have the same meaning as the corresponding circular light indications.

Traffic Engineers use a formula to calculate the length of time a traffic light will be yellow based on the speed of traffic at a given location. Most traffic lights in Portage have a four second yellow light duration. This is followed by a one second all way red signal.

Drivers attempting to turn left at an intersection with a green light should NOT enter the intersection until the opposing traffic allows for a safe left turn. Most drivers have observed a "line" of vehicles proceed to make a left turn as the light changes to yellow or red...this does constitute a traffic violation.

Vehicles approaching a red light MUST stop and remain so until the light changes to green. (Right turns are permitted on red lights, but the driver MUST stop first to ensure the turn may be made safely.) Drivers must also ensure that the intersection is not signed to prohibit a right turn on red. The fine for disobeying a traffic signal is \$105.00 and the addition of 3 points to the offender's driving record.

As previously announced, the Portage Police Department does operate special traffic enforcement areas within the City of Portage. These areas are locations of traffic crash concerns and/or concerns voiced by citizens. The locations now established are as follows:

#1: West Centre Avenue at Mustang Drive. The primary enforcement will be for disregarding the traffic signal.

#2: The 9000 block of Oakland Drive. The primary purpose will be speed enforcement.

#3: West Melody near Portage Industrial Drive. Construction in the area has created an increase in traffic and speeds. The primary purpose will be speed enforcement.

#4: Andover Woods and Golden Ridge Trail. This will be a detour area for traffic because of road construction at Milham and 12th Streets. Speed is a concern.

#5: East Shore Drive. The primary purpose will be speed enforcement. This area is being used as a detour route because of construction in the area.

Please note that all traffic laws will be enforced in the directed patrol enforcement zones. Special attention will be given to the noted areas of concern.

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