

<p>RABUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE</p>  <p>General Order Number: 6.06</p>	<p>Date of Issue</p> <p>2/23/2016</p>	<p>Effective Date</p> <p>2/23/2016</p>	<p>Revision Date</p>
<p>Subject: <b>PREVENTIVE PATROL</b></p>	<p>Amends:</p>		<p>Rescinds:</p>
<p>Index as: Preventive Patrol Uniform Patrol Division</p>	<p>State Certification Standards:</p>		

Special Instructions:

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this General Order is to prescribe the Rabun County Sheriff's Office policies and procedures for Preventive Patrol.

**STATEMENT OF POLICY**

It shall be the policy of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office that when personnel who are assigned to the Uniform Patrol Division are not responding to a call for service they will be engaged in Preventive Patrol.

**DISCUSSION**

Although an officer assigned to the Uniform Patrol Division's workload is often dictated by calls for service, a portion of the officer's shift is normally available for preventive patrol. In order to make productive use of the available time, officers should plan their patrol time to focus on specific problems within the county.

**DEFINITIONS**

PATROL — The deployment of officers to repress criminal activities, investigate offenses, apprehend offenders, and furnish day-to-day law enforcement services to the community.

## **I. VEHICLES**

- A. All vehicles used as patrol units for the Rabun County Sheriff's Office will be readily identified as law enforcement units by having the appropriate markings conspicuously placed on the vehicle. These markings serve to increase the public's feeling of safety, serve as a warning to potential violators, and to maintain a proper public image of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office.
- B. All vehicles used as patrol units for the Rabun County Sheriff's Office will be properly equipped with appropriate radio and lighting equipment.
- C. Vehicles used in a surveillance or undercover mode or vehicles assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division are not required to have appropriate markings or visible lighting equipment.
- D. The Division Commander of the Uniform Patrol Division shall have the option to operate an unmarked vehicle.

## **II. GENERAL PROCEDURES**

- A. The key to preventing street crimes is aggressive, preventive patrol. To this end, officers are encouraged to make increased contact with persons in their district, to utilize field interview cards when appropriate, and keep aware of and know criminals and their activities.
- B. It is essential that officers know the physical characteristics and geography of their district. The time available for routine patrol should be utilized to familiarize themselves with the areas of responsibility, problem areas, and criminal patterns.
- C. Routine preventive patrol should be conducted at normal or below normal driving speeds that allow the officers to observe the surroundings and activity in his vicinity.
- D. If criminal patterns or violations are occurring regularly at a specific location, officers may remain stationary to observe for this activity when not answering calls for service.
- E. Officers should become familiar with the patterns of businesses, persons, and residents within the county whenever possible. This will better enable them to distinguish unusual behavior that may indicate crimes or other violations.
- F. While engaged in preventive patrol, officers should look for any situation that would create a hazard for the general public or any other officers. Any hazardous situation will be reported to the Field Supervisor or the Rabun County Communications Center for referral to appropriate agency, if necessary for repair or replacement.
- G. The Rabun County Sheriff's Office has an obligation to all citizens. Ideally the Rabun County Sheriff's Office would be able to satisfy each obligation equally, but in reality, this is not the case. Requests from individual citizens for special services should be carefully evaluated in terms of the overall commitments before any promises are made. If such service is promised, it is incumbent upon the officer making the promise to take immediate steps to ensure the request for service is being processed.
- H. Interaction with the community on a daily basis is crucial for effective communication between the citizens of the county and the Rabun County Sheriff's Office. Therefore, officers are encouraged to exit

their vehicles and speak with businesspersons, store clerks and other individuals in the county whenever time permits and such actions would be appropriate.



By Order of the Sheriff: **Chad K. Nichols**  
**Sheriff, Rabun County**