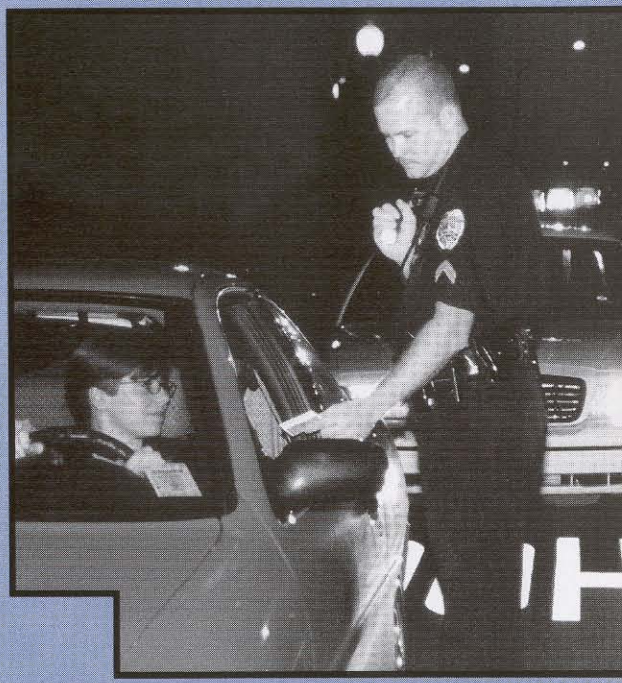
Do not assume that the officer knows that you are the perfect, law abiding citizen. Law enforcement is dangerous work.

Officers must be cautious at all times

"To Protect and To Serve"

Winston-Salem Police Department
725 North Cherry Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27102

What should *you* do?



Winston-Salem Police Department
725 North Cherry Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27102
336.773.7700
www.wspd.org

"I got pulled over"

There are many laws and regulations in place to help ensure that Winston-Salem's roads and highways are safe places to travel. Enforcement of these laws can be stressful for both the motorist and the police officer. This brochure is designed to provide you, the citizen, insight on how to make your experience with a traffic stop as stress free as possible.

"What did I do?"

Often times on a traffic stop, it is not what you did, but how you did it that causes confusion.

Remember:

- Pull over as far to the right as safely possible. This allows the officer to more safely walk to your car.
- Turn off the ignition.
- Turn on your interior light if the stop occurs at night.
- Place your hands on the steering wheel until the officer can make a safety evaluation as he/she approaches your car.
- Avoid making any sudden or reaching movements.
- Please stay in your vehicle unless asked by the officer to get out.
- If you are carrying a weapon, advise the officer. Do not touch the weapon during any traffic stop.
- Always follow the officer's instructions.

You have the ability to make a traffic stop a pleasant experience!

"But I am afraid to be stopped at night"

Being stopped at night, particularly along a dark stretch of road, can heighten the tension for a motorist and an officer. Officers do not object to drivers proceeding to the nearest well lit area. Simply acknowledge the officer by turning on your flashers and drive at a reduced speed.

"What if he asks me to get out of my car?"

If asked to step out of the car, walk to the rear of your vehicle to the side away from traffic or as directed by the officer, using the car as a barrier between you and on-coming cars. Please do not argue with the officer. This may only increase the tension in an already stressful situation.

"Will I get a ticket?"

Depending on why the officer decided to initiate a traffic stop, you may, or may not be given a citation (ticket) or a warning ticket. If you receive a citation, you will be advised of a court date that allows you the opportunity to take your case before a judge. Once business with the officer is finished, you should merge, with caution, back into the flow of traffic. Certain traffic violations require that if charged, you are taken into custody and must appear before a magistrate.