

**ROSEAU POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL**

Lighting exemptions for Law Enforcement Vehicles

Effective Date: 1/1/2024 Approved By:

PURPOSE

This sets forth guidelines for law enforcement vehicle lighting exemptions allowed under MN Statute § 169.541

POLICY

It is the policy of the Roseau Police Department to provide a uniform guideline for all department personnel to use when operating a department vehicle without headlights, taillights while functioning as a peace officer.

DEFINITIONS

- A. Vehicle:** means a motor vehicle or watercraft owned, leased or otherwise the property of the State of Minnesota or a political subdivision.
- B. Lights:** refers to headlights, taillights and marine navigational lighting as referenced in MN STAT 84.87, 84.928, 169.48 to 169.65 and 86B.511.

PROCEDURE

A PEACE OFFICER MAY NOT OPERATE WITHOUT LIGHTS:

- A.** On Inter-State Highways
- B.** At speeds greater than what is reasonable and prudent under existing weather, road, and traffic conditions.
- C.** At speeds greater than the posted speed limit.
- D.** In situations where the peace officer is an active participant in pursuing a motor vehicle being operated in violation of Minnesota Statute 609.487.

A PEACE OFFICER MAY OPERATE WITHOUT LIGHTS:

- A.** In the performance of the officer's law enforcement duties, if the officer's conduct is reasonable and consistent with the standards adopted under Minnesota Statute 169.541, and if the officer reasonably believes that operating the vehicle without lights is necessary under the circumstances to investigate a criminal violation, or suspected criminal violation of state laws, rules or orders or local laws ordinances, or regulations.
- B.** The authority to operate a police vehicle without lights does not relieve the responsibility of the officer from doing so in a safe and cautious manner.

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Reference or Revision Date(s):

- A. Minnesota POST Board – Model
- B. Minnesota Statutes § 169.541
- C. REVISION DATE(S):