

# DEPARTMENT MANUAL

## Section 20-1

CHAPTER 20:

### Technology

SUBJECT:

### Cell Phone Use

ISSUE DATE:

09/22/2020

EFFECTIVE DATE:

09/22/2020

SUPERSEDES DATE:

01/15/2008

ACCREDITATION STANDARD:

N/A

PAGES:

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#### I. PURPOSE

- A. New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law § 1225-c states that no person shall operate a motor vehicle upon a public highway while using a mobile telephone to engage in a call while such vehicle is in motion. There are exemptions provided for the use of a hands-free mobile telephone or telephone device, contacting emergency service's regarding an emergency and operators of authorized emergency vehicles while in the performance of their official duties.
- B. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of wireless telephone devices by on-duty members of the Village of Mamaroneck Police Department.

#### II. POLICY

- A. It shall be the policy of the Village of Mamaroneck Police Department to allow members of the Department to possess wireless telephone devices while on duty. In the interest of officer and public safety, the use of mobile phones by members will be regulated by current laws and restricted by Department procedures. These procedures apply to members using personally owned wireless telephones and Department-issued wireless devices.

#### III. PROCEDURE

- A. While on-duty and operating a vehicle owned by the Village of Mamaroneck Police Department, members are required to abide by the regulations and restrictions of New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law § 1225-c.
- B. Any member of the Department that carries a wireless telephone device in a Department vehicle will be required to use a hand's-free device while operating a vehicle on a public highway.

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- C. All efforts should be made to connect to the Bluetooth function of the Department vehicle with any wireless device.
- D. Under no circumstances should a wireless device become a distraction while operating a Department Vehicle.
- E. Barring exigent circumstances, any calls made to or from the police desk regarding official business should be made to or from a recorded line.
- F. The use of wireless telephone devices shall be restricted to the performance of the officer's official duties while operating a motor vehicle.
- G. During inclement weather or when operating a vehicle in heavy traffic situations, the use of wireless telephone devices should be restricted to the performance of official duties.