10.38.01 POLICY AND PURPOSE

It is the policy of this department to apprehend those responsible for the crime of auto theft and to pro actively, and safely, reduce the number of vehicle thefts. In doing so, the department seeks to increase the number of arrests and successful prosecutions for this offense, thereby deterring future offenders.

The purpose of this directive is to establish procedures for the operation of a Bait Vehicle Program. The Bait Vehicle Program provides for specially equipped automobiles that will be parked in designated high-risk areas where the risk of automobile-related-crimes are high. It also establishes procedures for the safe and successful apprehension of suspects once the electronic sensors indicate that an attempt is being made to steal the vehicle or from the vehicle.

10.38.02 DEFINITIONS

Bait Vehicle:
Bait Vehicle Coordinator: The auto theft detective or Property Crimes Unit Supervisor assigned to monitor and oversee the deployment of the bait vehicle. [41.1.3.]

Bait Vehicle Log Book: A detailed record of activities involving the deployment of the Bait Vehicles, to include history of activations, and all pertinent information regarding offense / incident reports.

Global Positioning System (GPS): GPS is an electronic tracking system installed with the bait vehicle package to monitor, via satellite, the location of the vehicle. G.P.S. enables the user to track the vehicle in real-time as well as its direction of travel and speed.

This will be the signal code used by the dispatcher to alert officers to Bait Vehicle activations. Dispatchers and officers will refrain from using the term “Bait Vehicle” over the radio, so as to protect the identity of the vehicles and the confidentiality of the program from individuals with scanners.

10.38.03 SIGNALS / COMMANDS

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]
10.38.04 PROCEDURES / RESPONSIBILITIES

A. PROPERTY CRIMES UNIT SUPERVISOR / BAIT VEHICLE COORDINATOR

- Authority as to when and where to deploy the Bait Vehicle rest with the Property Crimes Unit Supervisor and Bait Vehicle Coordinator.

- The Bait Vehicle Coordinator will coordinate deployments and record keeping of the vehicle to include scheduled maintenance.

- All requests for deployment of a Bait Vehicle for any purpose must be approved by the Property Crimes Unit Supervisor or a Criminal Investigations Section Commander.

- The Bait Vehicle Coordinator will be responsible for keeping the Communications Section current on the vehicles’ location and description.

- A Bait Vehicle Coordinator or the Property Crimes Unit Supervisor will be responsible for removing the videotape from the bait vehicle after activation.

B. DEPLOYMENT PROCEDURES
C. COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

1. Communications Section personnel will be responsible for monitoring the GPS and alarm system status of the Bait Vehicles. This will be accomplished by using the computer hardware and software package assigned to Communications for that purpose.

2. Communications personnel will be trained to properly interpret the validity of Bait Vehicle activation when an alarm has been received.

6. Notify the Watch Commander and Sector Sergeant.

D. PATROL OFFICERS
E. PATROL SUPERVISORS

1. Patrol Supervisors will announce Bait Vehicle’s deployment status during daily roll call sessions.

2. Patrol Supervisors will monitor the officers’ response to Bait Vehicle activation and when appropriate will assist in directing officers to the scene and the coordination of the traffic stop.

3. Patrol Supervisors will notify the Watch Commander and the Bait Vehicle Coordinator of the event and make the appropriate notation of the activities on the Watch Commander’s Report prior to the end of his or her tour of duty.

5. Once the Bait Vehicle has been removed, the Patrol supervisor will ensure that Communications is made aware of its new location.
F. COLLECTING EVIDENCE FROM THE BAIT VEHICLE:

The Bait Vehicle program should be considered in the context of an undercover operation and as such, due regard for the integrity of the program should be exercised.

10.38.05 CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTEGRITY OF THE PROGRAM

- The Bait Vehicle program should be considered in the context of an undercover operation and as such, due regard for the integrity of the program should be exercised.
- Confidentiality and integrity of the program should be maintained.
- The program should be transparent to ensure public trust.

- The program should be reviewed periodically to ensure compliance with legal and ethical standards.
The Bait Vehicle Coordinator and Property Crimes Unit Supervisor will provide basic Bait Vehicle training for Communication staff and patrol officers. Additional training will be provided as necessary or requested.

By Authority of:

Earl L. Cook
Chief of Police