

	MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE POLICY AND PROCEDURES	
	Subject WATCH YOUR CAR PROGRAM	Policy Number EI-2
		Effective Date 08-27-21
Related Information <i>EA-3, Non-Traffic Contact</i>	Supersedes EI-2 (11-21-12)	

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Office Policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for the free, voluntary Watch Your Car (WYC) Program, controlled and financed by the State of Arizona.

POLICY

It is the policy of the Office to provide public education and Office support for the Watch Your Car (WYC) Program.

DEFINITIONS

Watch Your Car (WYC) Program: A statewide, voluntary, public service program offered for Arizona registered vehicles at no cost through the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority (AATA), a division within the Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institution. The program is designed as a vehicle theft deterrent and a means to determine legal ownership of a stolen vehicle when recovered by law enforcement officials.

PROCEDURES

1. **Registered Owner's Participation:** Public information, program details, and requirements about the Watch Your Car (WYC) Program can be found on the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority (AATA) website at <https://aata.az.gov/programs/watch-your-car>.
 - A. To participate in the WYC Program, an enrollment form must be completed for each Arizona registered vehicle and submitted to the AATA. It is recommended enrollment forms be completed online at the following address: <https://azmvdnow.gov/home>. The enrollment forms may also be requested from AATA, at the telephone number and/or email address listed on the AATA website, and then submitted by mail, if preferred.
 - B. Decals to be placed on the vehicle will be available only through AATA and will be mailed to the registered owners after acceptance of a completed enrollment form. The registered owners shall be responsible for applying the WYC Program decals on the vehicle windows as suggested by the WYC Program. If there is a transfer of ownership, the vehicle is sold, or the owner elects to withdraw from the program, they are obligated to remove the decals.
 - C. By submitting the WYC Program enrollment form and applying the decals provided, the owner asserts the vehicle is not normally driven between the hours of 0100 and 0500, or within one mile of the international border. By enrolling in the WYC Program, the vehicle owner gives consent to law enforcement officers to stop their vehicle during the listed times or when it is being operated within one mile of the international border.

- D. If the owner elects to withdraw from the WYC Program, but retains ownership of the vehicle previously enrolled in the WYC Program, they may request a cancellation form by contacting the AATA at the telephone number and/or email address listed on the AATA website.
 - E. When a transfer of ownership or vehicle sale is completed, the AATA is automatically notified at the time the record is updated in the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) system. A SOLD notice on the back of the vehicle registration when returned to the ADOT MVD and entered into their system, will serve to cancel the vehicle from further participation in the WYC Program under the registered owner.
2. **Program Support:** All Office personnel and posse members are encouraged to support and promote the WYC Program and to assist interested Arizona residents with information intended to prevent vehicle theft and vehicle burglaries.
- A. Specific information regarding vehicle theft prevention can be found on the AATA website at; <https://aata.az.gov/theft-prevention/passive-and-active-anti-theft-systems-0>.
 - B. WYC Program brochures are available for public distribution at district substations when provided to the Office by the AATA Outreach Coordinator.
3. **WYC Program Vehicle Stops:**
- A. Deputies may conduct an investigatory stop of a vehicle displaying the WYC Program decals, to verify ownership, between the hours of 0100 and 0500, or when the vehicle is within one mile of the international border, no matter what the hours may be. The radio code used for this type of stop shall be 910W.
 - B. A routine registration inquiry will indicate participation in the WYC Program as well as the name of the vehicle's registered owner and their contact telephone number.
 - C. WYC Program decals do not constitute probable cause a vehicle may be stolen. It is only one of many indicators which may cause a deputy to make an investigatory stop of the vehicle.
 - D. Deputies shall not detain individuals based solely on the fact the driver's name does not appear on the vehicle registration. Detention beyond the investigatory stop to identify the driver, including the detention of individuals, while efforts are made to contact a registered owner, must be based on the development of further reasonable suspicion beyond the presence of the WYC Program decals. Any arrests must be based on probable cause.
 - E. Deputies shall collect data on all investigatory stops of vehicles displaying the WYC Program decals. All investigatory stops of individuals conducted by a deputy based **solely** on the WYC Program that are not a result of a traffic stop, and are not documented in an IR, shall be documented utilizing the *Non-Traffic Contact Form* (NTCF), as specified in Office Policy EA-3, *Non-Traffic Contact*.