

Ask the Chief – who gets a ticket?

“How do you decide who you are going to right a ticket too? Are all Police Officers the same?” This is a question that I have been asked hundreds of times and I imagine you were wondering the same thing. My first response to people is somewhat of a cliché. I tell people that what you “DID” got you stopped and your “MOUTH” got you a ticket. I can’t speak for other officers, as we vary in how we serve our communities, but for me I focus on a person’s honesty, character and integrity. When I walk up to a car that I stopped for a traffic offense, I am trying to determine what I can do to change the way he or she is driving. If I can get someone to drive safer with a warning then that is all I do. However, there are times when the conversation I have with people while standing at their driver side window doesn’t go the way I hoped. Some people try to lie, other get mad and yell, while others give me the silent treatment. When I am unable to have a productive conversation with people I am left with few options and most of the time those people end of getting a ticket. My advice to drivers is to always be polite and respectful. Talk to the officer like you want him to talk to you. If you did something wrong have the courage to admit it and take responsibility for your actions. I can’t promise you won’t get a ticket but if you follow my advice your chances of getting a warning are a whole lot greater.