OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

NOTICE NO. 48 October 24, 1996

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TO: All Personnel, Office of Operations

FROM: Director, Office of Operations

SUBJECT: **DEPARTMENT POLICY REGARDING "UNLICENSED DRIVER" VEHICLE IMPOUNDS AT TRAFFIC COLLISION SCENES**

EFFECTIVE: **IMMEDIATELY**

PURPOSE

This Notice reiterates and clarifies Department policy regarding "unlicensed driver" vehicle impounds at traffic collision scenes.

INFORMATION

Due to conflicts in legislative language and our current policy of not issuing citations for misdemeanors at traffic collision scenes, there has been some confusion regarding the ability of Department personnel to conduct vehicle impounds at the scene of traffic collisions. Existing Department practices were researched by Traffic Coordination Section (TCS) and clarified with the assistance of the City Attorney's Office.

PROCEDURE

Department personnel are reminded that a vehicle may not be impounded at the scene of a traffic collision, for unlicensed driver, **unless an officer observes the driver operating the vehicle in question.** This policy is currently delineated in Office of Operations (O.O.) Order No. 3, dated January 22, 1996 (Vehicle Impound and Forfeiture Procedures for Section 14607.6 of the California Vehicle Code).

NOTE: The Department's citing policy at traffic collision scenes is outlined in O.O. Order No. 3, 1995.

Questions regarding unlicensed driver vehicle impounds or the Department's citing policy at traffic collision scenes should be directed to TCS, at (213) 893-8118.

BAYAN LEWIS, Assistant Chief
Director
Office of Operations

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