OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 6 **April 12, 2006**

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF IMPOUNDED VEHICLES TO PERSONS WITH AN INSTRUCTION PERMIT

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

PURPOSE: Various sections of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) provide for the release of an impounded vehicle when the registered owner or his/her agent present a valid driver's license and current registration. There has been confusion regarding whether an instruction permit, issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), qualifies as a driver's license permitting a vehicle release to the person holding such a document. The Department has contacted the DMV and the City Attorney's Office. It has been determined that an instruction permit does not qualify as a driver's license when a specific CVC section requires a valid driver's license in order to obtain a vehicle release.

PROCEDURE: When processing a request for a vehicle release, Department personnel shall not accept an instruction permit in lieu of a valid driver's license as specified in the concerned CVC section.

Note: An instruction permit does qualify for a "Three-Day Release" of a vehicle on a Vehicle Forfeiture Hold, pursuant to Section 14607.6(d)(1) CVC. However, vehicles under this type of hold are handled and released by the Vehicle Forfeiture Unit, Traffic Court Liaison Unit (TCLU), Traffic Coordination Section (TCS).

Questions regarding this Order may be directed to the Officer in Charge, Vehicle Forfeiture Unit, Traffic Court Liaison Unit, Traffic Coordination Section.

GEORGE GASCÓN, Assistant Chief
Director, Office of Operations

DISTRIBUTION: "D"