



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
Patrick M. Gallivan

Senator Gallivan & Community Leaders Unveil Education Effort on What To Do When Stopped by Police

JIM RANNEY September 27, 2024

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Information Ensures Interactions Are Safe for Drivers & Law Enforcement

Senator Patrick M. Gallivan, (R-C, Elma) joined community leaders in announcing a public information effort to better inform drivers on what to expect and proper procedures to follow when stopped by police. The suggestions are compiled in a brochure created in collaboration with law enforcement, legal experts, driving instructors and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The document outlines the rights and responsibilities of drivers and best practices to ensure traffic stops are safe for everyone involved. The brochure will be distributed to schools, libraries, and community centers throughout Senator Gallivan's district. It is also available on Senator Gallivan's website (gallivan.nysenate.gov) and will be available to Senate offices across the state.

"As a former State Trooper and Sheriff of Erie County, I conducted numerous traffic stops during my career," Senator Gallivan said. "Unfortunately, there is always the potential for these interactions to become dangerous, often because of a misunderstanding or inappropriate behavior. All drivers, but especially young drivers, will benefit from this information and I thank everyone here today who support this effort."

Senator Gallivan is also co-sponsoring legislation (S.2426) that would require driver's education and defensive driving classes to include information on proper procedures when stopped by a law enforcement officer as part of driving instruction courses. The bill has bipartisan support in the New York State Senate and is endorsed by the Police Conference of New York Inc. and the New York State Troopers PBA.

"Being pulled over can be a stressful experience," said Erie County Clerk Michael P. Kearns. "No one is ever ready for those flashing lights and sirens that pop up behind you as you are cruising down the road or highway to work or while you're on a road trip with your family in the car. While you may think being pulled over is not warranted, you cannot let your emotions get the best of you. I encourage all motorists, new and experienced, to review this informative brochure, to drive safely and responsibly, follow all traffic laws, be respectful, stay calm, and comply with all requests from law enforcement in order to avoid you being detained or even arrested for any uncooperative actions."

"There is always uncertainty when initiating a traffic stop, and we understand it can be a stressful situation for the operator of a motor vehicle," said Sheriff John Garcia. "Our deputies appreciate cooperation as we work to uphold our mission to provide quality public safety services. I thank and commend former Sheriff Gallivan for providing drivers with this crucial information."

"As a young driver who led this effort with Senator Gallivan, I'm grateful to everyone who made this initiative possible," said student policy intern Evan Doerr. "Expanding driver education will do wonders for the safety of our law enforcement officers, provide peace of mind for drivers, and prevent misunderstandings and potential tragedies."

"This work takes the informal knowledge that we hope our new drivers might have and makes it formal by outlining three key things for all of us to keep in mind when we have an interaction with our community's police officers," said Hamburg School Superintendent Michael Cornell, President of Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association. "As a teacher and a father, I am grateful for Senator Gallivan and to Even Doerr for their work in bringing these important suggestions forward in this way."

"AAA applauds Senator Gallivan for proactively providing important and relevant information to drivers on how to handle traffic stops to protect both themselves and law enforcement across our region," said Elizabeth Carey, Director of Public Relations at AAA Western and Central New York. "As an advocate for traffic safety, and a driver education resource in the local community, AAA supports expanded efforts to ensure that today's drivers are prepared for every and any scenario."

RELATED LEGISLATION

2023-S2426

- Introduced

- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate

- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate

- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate

- Delivered to Governor

- Signed By Governor

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Requires instruction concerning traffic stops in pre-licensing courses

January 20, 2023

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by Roxanne J. Persaud

Do you support this bill?