

TOP 10 TIPS TO HELP YOU AVOID OR SURVIVE A TRAFFIC STOP

1. **Don't speed-** Speeding only gives the police a reason to pull you over. Stay within the speed limit and maybe you can avoid a traffic stop altogether.
2. **Vehicle maintenance-** A broken taillight, headlight, improperly placed license frame or a plastic bag over a broken window will surely get a police officer's attention.
3. **Don't get an ultra dark tint on your windows-** Heavily tinted car windows are one of the main reasons (or excuses) for urban traffic stops. Dark window tints are dangerous from the police officer's perspective because he can't see into the vehicle therefore he doesn't know who or what he is approaching. It's also a dangerous situation for the occupants of the vehicle because a scared police officer can be lethal. The officer may react with force if he thinks that he is in danger.
4. **Screen your passengers-** Be selective as to who you let in your vehicle. You can be the most upstanding citizen in your town but if you agree to give a ride to your cousin's friend who just happens to be carrying drugs you can still find yourself in a world of trouble.
5. **Keep you hands on the steering wheel-** Think about things from the police officer's perspective. He doesn't know your state of mind or intentions. Put him at ease by keeping your hands visible.
6. **Keep your wallet in a central location-** Do **NOT** keep your wallet under your seat or in the glove compartment. It's common for bad guys to keep weapons in those areas. A police officer who observes you reaching under your seat may mistakenly believe that he is facing a confrontation. Don't give him that impression.
7. **Pull over right away-** An officer may assume that you are attempting to flee. Definitely do not initiate a high speed chase. Doing so puts innocent people in danger and increases the chance of police brutality.
8. **Stay respectful-** Police officers take a lot of abuse. Ease tension by keeping your tone civil and your words respectful. There's no point in escalating a situation unnecessarily.
9. **Don't spoke pot in your car-** Did you hear me? **DON'T SMOKE POT IN YOUR CAR.** Marijuana has a particular odor. Spraying Axe body spray throughout your vehicle will not damper the smell. When the window rolls down the police officer will most certainly know what has been going on inside. A trip from point A to point B will now include a drug charge and a vehicle search.
10. **Actually HAVE a drivers license-** If you are not licensed to drive then it's advisable for you to stay from behind the wheel.

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