

Ask the Chief of the Anna Police: A weekly column allowing readers access to useful information about law enforcement issues in the Anna area.

This column is the personal opinion of Kenny Jenks and is based on his 29+ years of policing experience. It is not necessarily the official opinion of the City of Anna or the Anna Police Department. If you wish to Email, include your name and address in the correspondence. Your information will be edited before sending it to print.

Dear Readers,

05/07/10 Derek from old town Anna writes: Dear Sir, I have a question along the same lines as Josh had in the 5-13 Anna tribune about the officer patrolling on US 75. It is in regards to traffic lights, intersections, and stop sign laws. Is it legal for cars to pass on the right, either on the shoulder or grass, to go around someone turning in order to go through the intersection? It's very dangerous and I have personally narrowly avoided accidents at the Powell and 455 junction. Maybe that would be a good spot for safe initiatives. Josh is not in the minority when it comes to questioning city PD up on the freeway. Thanks Derek

Hello Derek,

Your question about it being legal for cars to pass on the right shoulder has been answered a couple of times in the "Ask the Chief" newspaper column. Here you go:

According to Section 545.058 of the Transportation Code, a driver **may** drive on an improved shoulder (the roadway to the right of the white line) in these instances: (1) to stop, stand, or park; (2) to accelerate before entering the main traveled lane of traffic; (3) *to decelerate before making a right turn*; (4) *to pass another vehicle that is slowing or stopped on the main traveled portion of the highway, disabled, or preparing to make a left turn*; (5) to allow another vehicle traveling faster to pass; (6) as permitted or required by an official traffic-control device; or (7) to avoid a collision. As you can see in (3) it is allowed when making a right turn and in (4) it is conditionally allowed to pass. The full statute does say that the pass is to "be done with safety."

Decisions about how we combat the burdens to our public safety services are based on training, experience, and data. Of course, the Police Department has access to all of the crime and traffic crash data from inside of the City of Anna and the surrounding area. Anna leads the entire County (for Cities under 10,000) in the number of traffic crashes and highways 75 and 121 are by far our most dangerous roadways. From that data, it was very clear that we needed to do something to increase traffic

safety on those roads. The Safe Streets Initiative plan was prepared and submitted to the members of the City Council and the Council as an extra duty program approved that plan for FY 2010. Since it was initiated, it has been effective at reducing accidents as the April traffic crash numbers had a 57% decrease when compared to April 2009. For the entire year, we are down 22% over last year's totals.

Reminder: Outdoor Storm Sirens Tested (weather permitting)

First Wednesday of the month @ 12 noon.

***Phone numbers: Dial 911 in an emergency.** To have a police officer sent to you in a non-emergency, call 972-547-5350. During normal business hours, the APD number is 972-924-2848.

If you have a question or comment, please email: kjenks@annatexas.gov