

## **For Drivers with Autism and Police, a Useful, Simple Way to Make Traffic Stops Easier**

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Darien Police Department is now participating in the “Blue Envelope” program that's meant to make traffic stops less tense for both police officers and drivers on the autism spectrum.

*— an announcement from Darien Police Department*

The program, supported by the Connecticut Police Chief’s Association, Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles, and autism advocacy groups, seeks to improve interactions between police officers and people on the autism spectrum.

Traffic stops can be stressful for anyone, especially for drivers with autism. To help improve the encounter, participants will keep their vehicle information in the new blue-colored envelope.

When the driver is pulled over and retrieves his or her registration at an officer's request, it will be immediately apparent to the officer that the individual is on the autism spectrum.

This communicates to the police officer that the individual may not react in a way that the officer is used to, which has the potential for miscommunication.

It also allows for the individual to have some idea of what may happen during the stop, as uncertainty is a particular challenge for those with autism. On the envelope are tips for both the driver and officer on how best to navigate a traffic stop.

The program is voluntary for anyone who would like to participate. Blue envelopes are available at the front desk of the Darien Police Department.

The men and women of the Darien Police Department are proud to participate in a program that improves communication between the department and those we serve.