Guidelines for interacting with law enforcement officials

WHAT TO DO..... WHEN STOPPED BY THE POLICE ON THE STREET AS A PEDESTRIAN

Endorsements:
St. Paul Global Network
Working for the Common Good, Inc.
One Love Fellowship of Ministries and Churches
Transformation Evangelism, Inc.
East End Community Services
Community Police Roundtable
Southeast Priority Board
Human Relations Council
Street Souljahz
Southeast Priority Board
Potential problems you have if you are stopped by Police can be avoided at the time they first stop to question you. Remember, they think that they have good reason to stop and ask you questions.

At this point, you should stop, cooperate and find out why the officer wants to question you. How you react and answer the questions may just determine whether or not you get arrested.

- Don’t run.
- Identify yourself.
- Answer all questions to the best of your knowledge.
- Do not “bad mouth” or walk away from police officers, even in instances where you feel they are wrong. If the police officer behaves inappropriately, report their misconduct to a supervisor at a later time.
- If an officer has “reasonable suspicion” that you may be carrying a weapon or illegal substance, you may be subjected to a “pat-down” search. Do not resist the search. Obey all requests made of you unless the request poses a risk to your personal safety or well being. In that case, immediately state your concerns to the officer. Afterwards if you feel the officer acted inappropriately, ask to speak to a supervisor.

Many citizens from Dayton and the surrounding communities use the Downtown Area every day. The Police are especially watchful in this area to ensure that traffic flows smoothly and that there are no disruptions to those that work and travel this area. Show respect by remembering that it is against the law to:

- Block sidewalks, bus stops and store and business entrances.
- Play loud music or use obscenities or profane language or gestures.
- Cross the street out of a crosswalk or against traffic.
- Spit on or litter on the sidewalks and roadways.

Remember, Downtown is a very visible symbol of our community. Help keep it safe and enjoyable for all to experience.