

Official Business/Official Vehicles

A law enforcement vehicle (including unmarked vehicles) or an emergency service vehicle used in the course of official business responding to an emergency is exempt from obeying the rules of the road per California Vehicle Code §21055. This does not apply to Consular or Diplomatic Vehicles.

VERIFICATION FROM CONTESTEE

1. A letter (on agency letterhead) from a ranking or superior officer which states that the vehicle was being used for official business on an emergency basis at the time the citation was issued and includes the case number and describes the emergency situation.
2. Copy of incident or dispatch report

VERIFICATION BY INVESTIGATION

1. Review the letter for consistency and truthfulness
 - a. Does the explanation given make sense considering the violation?
 - b. Does the issuing agency's report contradict or validate the appeal request?
2. Determine if the vehicle was moved to a legal parking space once the emergency situation was over.

DECISION

If the request appears valid, is signed by a ranking or superior officer, and includes a copy of the incident report or other credible documentation supporting the request then the citation should be dismissed.

If the request appears valid and is signed by a ranking or superior officer, but does not contain credible documentation supporting the request or the information included is not consistent with the documentation provided, then refer the review to your supervisor.

All other citations should be upheld.

DISMISSAL AUTHORITY: California Vehicle Code §40215 (a)(1)

Comments: Citations issued to City of San Diego Police Officers will follow the same procedure.