

Tickets issued quicker - Pines officers get computer devices

by Nicole T. Lesson

Pembroke Pines motorcycle officers soon will have a speedier way of processing traffic tickets.

New hand-held computerized devices will allow officers to swipe driver's licenses, punch a few buttons and print out the citation -- in less time than it would take to write it all out.

"It's quicker for the officer and the public to get in and out," said Sgt. Bryan Davis, the city's east district traffic supervisor. "It's [also] safer for the officer because they don't have to take their eyes off the violator as often as they do now, since they just have to swipe [driver's licenses]."

The 10-officer traffic unit has five of the devices in patrol cars, where laptops are used, and five on motorcycles.

Motorcycle officers write about 300 citations a month, Davis said. Depending on the situation, it can take them about five to 10 minutes to write out a citation, he said.

"The amount of time the officer will spend writing a citation will now be cut in half, if not more," Davis said.

The City Commission recently approved the \$23,440 purchase from Deerfield Beach-based Advanced Public Safety for the five devices, including the batteries, magnetic-strip readers, printers for each and the maintenance agreement.

Davis said the department trained with the devices before deciding on the purchase.

Officers have to punch in the vehicle tag information and the appropriate state statute. If the stop involves multiple citations, the officer can choose "same violator," then add in a different statute.

If a motorist has an older license without a magnetic strip, the officer would have to enter the information manually.

"It prints out a citation just like the one they have now," Davis said.
