

Minor Offenses Can Get You Into Trouble

By Sophie Braccini



When the windshields wipers are on, so should be the lights

Photo Sophie Braccini

Sergeant Gruenheid of the Lafayette Police Department said it all: “Our job is to enforce the law, but there is the 'letter of the law' and the 'spirit of the law'.” She further explains that when Officers come across drivers committing minor infractions to the California Driving Code, their first objective is the protection of everyone’s safety. They might issue a citation, that’s “the letter of the law,” or choose to give out a courtesy warning ticket, “the spirit of the law.” But just in case our officers get closer to the letter, here is a reminder of rules that, if broken, could get you into trouble however minor the infraction seems to be:

- If weather conditions require you to use your windshield wipers, you must turn on your headlights.
- No person shall drive upon a highway at such a slow speed as to impede or block the nor-

mal and reasonable movement of traffic, unless the reduced speed is necessary for safe operation.

- Right-hand parallel parking is required unless otherwise indicated. Vehicle should not stop or park upon a roadway in a direction opposite to that in which traffic normally moves.
- When parking upon any grade exceeding 3 percent within any business or residence district you must block the wheels of the vehicle by turning them against the curb or by other means.
- When coming to a school bus stopped on either side of a road with the bus's red lights flashing, you must stop, and remain stopped as long as the red lights are flashing.
- Upon reaching a Stop sign you must come to a complete stop. Gliding through, even at very slow speed, is not permitted; that’s what Yield signs are for.