

**COMPETENCY MODEL FOR  
TRAFFIC OFFICER  
CLASS CODE 3214**

The following competencies have been identified as those that best separate superior from satisfactory job performance in the class of **Traffic Officer**. (Numbers refer to the order of competencies in the Competency Bank.)

- 1. Reading Comprehension
- 7. Self Management
- 8. Safety Focus
- 12. Conscientiousness
- 20. Job Knowledge
- 33. Interpersonal Skills
- 37. Flexibility
- 40. Credibility
- 43. Follow Oral Directions
- 44. Follow Written Directions

On the following pages are descriptions of each competency, including a definition, the level of the competency required for the class (*italicized*, **bolded**, and underlined), examples of behavioral indicators, and satisfactory and superior performance levels.

**1. READING COMPREHENSION** – Comprehends and correctly applies information presented in written form. Makes correct inferences; draws accurate conclusions.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

**Level 1: Concrete, specific job-related information (work orders; instructions; material/equipment labels)**

Level 2: General information related to field of work and assignments; (articles in trade publications; technical/instructional manuals; memos; letters; e-mails; reports)

Level 3: Abstract/complex information (highly technical articles/ reports in specialized area; legal or other regulatory material)

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Follows written instructions correctly.
- Learns information presented in writing.
- Identifies relevant written information.
- Interprets written legal regulatory material accurately.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Reads instructions correctly. Learns from manual and other printed material.

Superior

Learns from manual and may answer others' questions. Explains information presented in written form to others.

**7. SELF MANAGEMENT** – Organizes and plans for task accomplishment; manages time and works diligently to complete assigned work/fulfill responsibilities.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Order tasks for efficient performance; maintain awareness of time allotted and deadlines in order to ensure they are met.

**Level 2: Plan and perform work in a way that maximizes efficient performance; establish and adjust priorities to ensure timely completion of most critical assignments.**

Level 3: Allot time to responsibilities proportional to their prominence, priority, and impact.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Performs only work activities during work hours.
- Alters means of performing work when original approach proves to waste time.
- Keeps a “to do” list (with indication of priority and deadlines, if necessary).
- Requests assistance as necessary when it becomes clear that work will not be completed on time.
- Demonstrates a record of progress with respect to all assignments/responsibilities.
- Uses optimal means of communication for efficiency and effectiveness.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Conducts self while at work in a manner that ensures work will be completed as scheduled, or provides explanation or secures assistance or adjustment of schedule if it will not be.

Superior

Seeks efficiencies in doing work to maximize productivity. Plans work carefully and follows the plan or makes adjustments if it is disrupted. Maintains personal responsibility for all work accomplishment.

**8. SAFETY FOCUS** – Performs work in a way that minimizes risk of injury to self or others.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Maintain awareness of unsafe conditions and actions to avoid injury.

Level 2: Follow safety rules/procedures; avoid known hazards in the work environment.

**Level 3: Carefully follow safety rules and procedures and consistently use all necessary safety equipment.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Wears seat belt.
- Ensures safe physical work environment by taking actions such as eliminating unstable stacks of materials, closing drawers so filing cabinets will not tip over, and keeping pathways clear of tripping hazards.
- Reviews safety procedures before beginning each job with known hazards.
- Follows safety procedures while performing work even when it takes more time.
- Uses safety equipment such as goggles, gloves, and earplugs as required or warranted.
- Frequently checks safety equipment for proper condition and operation.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Maintains awareness of personal safety to avoid injury or property damage during all work activities.

Superior

“Safety first.” Places avoidance of injury or property damage above all other job requirements. Mentions the need to follow safe work practices to co-workers. Actively seeks ways to avoid injury.

**12. CONSCIENTIOUSNESS** – Dependable, reliable, diligent, and attends to all aspects of assignments (the “details”).

Level of Competency Required by Job:

**Level 1: Remain on-task and make every reasonable effort to complete work in time allotted. Note discrepancies and takes action or informs appropriate person when “things don’t seem right” in information or data.**

Level 2: Note when own work logically relates to the work of others and coordinate with them and when additional tasks must be performed to complete an assignment and perform/assign them. Recognize when, despite best efforts, work will not be done and notifies supervision.

Level 3: Attend to each area of responsibility, and if all are not being addressed, arrange for transfer or elimination of some of them. Ensure that all aspects of programs/projects are properly addressed to ensure success.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Seeks all necessary information to do the job well.
- Learns from experience so can recognize when things are not right.
- Maintains a high level of task-related behavior.
- Continues to work diligently in the absence of supervision.
- Fully attends to seemingly minor as well as major aspects of each work assignment.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Fully attends to work at hand; notes details, errors, and discrepancies and follows-up as necessary. Reliably performs and completes work. Punctual; respectful of others’ time.

Superior

Notes relationship of own work to work of others to ensure all aspects are coordinated. Performs additional tasks and otherwise follows-up to ensure thoroughness.

**20. JOB KNOWLEDGE** – Knows information required to perform a specific job. Includes both widely available courses of study (for example, chemistry, human resources management, graphic arts) and City-specific information (parking regulation and ticketing practices; purchasing procedures; provisions of the City Charter).

Level of Competency Required by Job:

**Level 1: Knowledge is concrete, factual, and/or procedural and may be defined by the organization. Situations in which it is applied are quite consistent.**

Level 2: Knowledge is substantive and may be defined by an external trade, field, or profession. Situations in which it is applied vary and, as such, require breadth and depth of understanding.

Level 3: Knowledge is abstract, conceptual, and/or complex and may be supported by a well-defined academic discipline or authoritative sources (e.g., laws, ordinances, government guidelines/regulations/codes). Situations in which it is applied may vary greatly or be novel.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Performs work correctly/avoids technical (job content related) errors.
- Answers technical questions about work accurately.
- Asks few technical questions about the performance of routine work activities.
- Offers advice (“coaching”) to new employees regarding their work.
- Develops training programs for other employees.
- Sought out as a source of information by others.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Sufficient job knowledge to perform work correctly independently. Answers technical questions about work correctly.

Superior

Expertise in technical job information sufficient to serve as a resource to others. May develop training manuals/ programs and/or give internal and/or external presentations related to work.

## **Job Knowledge Areas**

1. Knowledge of oral communication in order to receive instructions from and give instructions to co-workers, supervisors, and the public.
2. Knowledge of written communication, both clearly and legibly, in order to accurately complete traffic citations, incident reports, impounding forms, and other appropriate forms.
3. Knowledge of how to operate a two-way radio in order to communicate with co-workers and supervisors.
4. Knowledge of how to visually read traffic signs and read parking meters in order to identify parking violations.
5. Knowledge of how to operate a motorized vehicle or bicycle while visually inspecting for traffic violations.
6. Knowledge of Los Angeles Municipal Code and State Vehicle Code in order to identify vehicles in violation of parking regulations.
7. Knowledge of proper Department procedures in order to accurately complete parking citations, and record daily field activities.
8. Knowledge of driving laws and procedures in order to safely operate motorized and non-motorized vehicles.
9. Knowledge of how to patrol assigned areas on foot in a timely manner in order to identify parking violations and issue citations.
10. Knowledge of proper enforcement procedures such as citing impounding.
11. Knowledge of hand-held computer ticket writers and technology used to scan license plates.
12. Knowledge of proper hand/arm signals, and whistle usage in order to direct traffic.
13. Knowledge of proper usage of safety devices (such as cones, barricades, and flares), and safety equipment (such as reflector vests, white gloves and hat) in order to direct traffic safely.
14. Knowledge of principles and methods used to control traffic in an effective manners.
15. Knowledge of how to interact tactfully and effectively with co-workers, supervisors, the public and irate citizens.
16. Knowledge of how to remain alert and focused in stressful environments, such as accidents sites and busy intersections.

17. Knowledge of how to stand continuously for 2 hours or more in order to direct motorized and pedestrian traffic at assigned areas.
18. Knowledge of how to get in-and-out of vehicle approximately 50 times a day in a timely manner in order to issue parking citations.
19. Knowledge of how to work in adverse weather conditions, such as rain, and extremely hot and cold conditions.
20. Knowledge of beat maps in order to become familiar with designated areas.
21. Knowledge of how to work independently with minimal supervision.
22. Knowledge of how to perform simple vehicle checks.
23. Knowledge of making sound decisions with no or minimal supervision in emergency situations wherein policy and procedures do not exist in order to handle the emergency situation.
24. Knowledge of how to perform work requiring close attention such as accurately recording enforcement-related information in accordance with department procedures.

### 33. INTERPERSONAL SKILLS – Interacts effectively and courteously with others.

#### Level of Competency Required by Job:

**Level 1: Interact with members of the workgroup, supervision, and/or the public in a cordial, service-oriented manner.**

Level 2: Interact across department lines and with appointed City officials, and/or members of the public, at times under adversarial circumstances, in a cordial, respectful manner.

Level 3: Interact with appointed and elected City officials, department heads, representatives of external organizations, and/or the media in a cordial, effective manner.

#### Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Works well with others toward mutual objectives.
- Does not arouse hostility in others.
- “Disagrees without being disagreeable.”
- Elicits acceptance/cooperation from others.
- Affords all individuals respect, regardless of their role or status.
- Effectively addresses concerns of politicians or others who may have their “own agenda.”

#### Performance Levels:

##### Satisfactory

Behaves in a courteous, respectful, cooperative manner toward co-workers, other City employees, and members of the public.

##### Superior

Facilitates positive interpersonal relations within/among workgroups and toward members of the public. Adept at finding similarities and grounds for cooperation/mutual benefit.

**37. FLEXIBILITY** – Changes behavior to more effectively respond to differences or changes in situations, circumstances, objectives or people.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Modify behavior as necessary to accommodate differences/changes.

**Level 2: *Initiate changed behavior when initial approach proves ineffective.***

Level 3: Perceive subtle cues/feedback to determine modifications in behavior necessary to improve effectiveness.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Adjusts speaking in terms of volume (softer/louder) and/or manner (for example, explanatory vs. directive).
- Offers a different option when the first is rejected.
- Completes work in a nonroutine manner when usual approach is inefficient or ineffective.
- Readily accepts changes in work assignments.
- Willingly works with any others as assigned or required by job duties.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Changes approach or objective when directed to do so. Recognizes failure of initial approach to achieve objective and tries a different one.

Superior

Identifies opportunities to improve performance by changing the goal or personal behavior to reach the goal. Supports changes imposed by others.

**40. CREDIBILITY** – Is truthful and sincere; objectively and clearly provides all pertinent information rather than being vague, omitting negative information or only stating what listeners “want to hear.”

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Freely and openly share accurate job-related information with co-workers.

**Level 2: Provide complete, accurate information to other City employees and members of the public.**

Level 3: Represent department to the Mayors’ Office, City Council, City Commissions, and/or department heads, and/or to external organizations, professional associations, and/or the media.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Admits mistakes.
- Information provided is consistent (not contradictory or stating different things to different people).
- Answers questions directly and thoroughly.
- Shares credit for achievements.
- Acts in the best interest of the organization, not self interest.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

“Tells the complete story” from the onset. Is forthcoming with full information when questioned. Statements are consistent. Readily admits mistakes and gives credit to others.

Superior

Information provided is complete and accurate, and includes any negative information or information contrary to self interest. Does not attempt to be vague or put a “spin” on negative information to make it appear more positive.

**43. FOLLOW ORAL DIRECTIONS** – Performs work accurately as directed orally.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

**Level 1: Receive specific, complete oral directions daily or by individual task assignment throughout the day.**

Level 2: Receive general instructions orally that span across days or for entire assignments.

Level 3: Receive general instructions/assignments orally regarding long-term objectives/responsibilities.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Does work assigned orally properly and on time.
- Asks pertinent questions for clarification of assignments.
- Performs work correctly when instructions were given orally.
- Explains assignments to others who received the same instructions.
- Performs work in accordance with general outline provided orally.
- Correctly infers details of assignments given only in general terms.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Properly performs work when concrete, specific instructions are given orally. Asks pertinent questions when parts of the instructions are unclear or omitted.

Superior

Properly performs work assigned orally. Answers questions or explains work to others. Correctly infers details or portions of instructions that were omitted.

**44. FOLLOW WRITTEN DIRECTIONS** – Performs work accurately as directed in writing.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

**Level 1: Perform tasks assigned in writing.**

Level 2: Perform work after reading instructional manual.

Level 3: Perform work after completion of training modules or programs presented in writing.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Correctly completes work assigned in writing.
- Answers questions and/or explains work to others who received the same instructions.
- Learns and applies information presented in writing (instruction manual; training program).
- Correctly infers details of work to be performed that were unclear or omitted as presented in writing.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Correctly performs work assigned or for which training was provided in writing.

Superior

Understands instructions and training materials presented in writing to the extent that is able to answer questions or explain to others. Correctly infers unclear or omitted details as presented in writing.