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Vehicle registration bar codes enhance officer safety and efficiency

SANTA FE — Public safety officers can do their jobs a little more safely and efficiently thanks to the addition of bar codes printed on all New Mexico vehicle registrations.

The Taxation and Revenue Department’s Motor Vehicle Division implemented the bar code solution at the request of the Departments of Transportation and Public Safety.

“MVD is glad to partner with our sister agencies to improve our customers’ experience and promote safety,” MVD Director Alicia Ortiz said. “This enhancement to a document that MVD already produces is one way that we can help make government more efficient.”

The data embedded in the bar codes is the same as that printed on the registrations, but now law enforcement officers can scan that information directly into citations, accident reports and other electronic forms. This will eliminate data entry errors and allow officers to spend less time preparing reports on the side of the road in potentially dangerous situations.

New Mexico State Police Patrolman Sean Healy said the bar codes mean fewer mistakes and helps make officers’ jobs a little easier and safer. “It gets us off the road a little quicker, so we’re less likely to be involved in a crash,” Healy said. “And it allows us to get back to traffic enforcement or go to another call that much quicker.”

The bar codes can be read with the same scanners many law enforcement agencies are already using to read drivers licenses.

The bar code system was developed by Information Technology staff at the Motor Vehicle Division in consultation with MA Strategies of Algodones and Sensible IT Solutions of Las Cruces.

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