



Carroll G. Robinson
Houston City Council Member
At-Large, Position Five

Press Release

For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

For More Information Contact:

Octevia Evangelista – Chief of Staff
713-247-2106

**THE HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TRUCK ENFORCEMENT UNIT
ADDS NEW HIGH TECH TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT TOOL TO THEIR
OPERATIONS COURTESY OF COUNCIL MEMBER
CARROLL G. ROBINSON**

“HPD Truck Enforcement Unit to demonstrate the Interceptor VG-2 Radar Detector Detector during a news conference at Houston TranStar”

(Houston, Texas) ----- On Thursday, May 16, 2002, Houston City Council Member Carroll G. Robinson, Houston Police Department-Truck Enforcement Unit Lt. Steve Lyons and Sergeant C.J. Klausner, along with representatives from Knight Transportation Company and the Houston Safety Council, will conduct a news conference to formally unveil the Houston Police Department’s latest traffic enforcement tool designed to make Houston area freeways safer.

The unveiling and demonstration of how the Interceptor VG-2 Radar Detector Detector works will take place at Houston TranStar, the state of the art transportation and emergency management center for the greater Houston region, located at 6922 Old Katy Road starting at 10:00a.m.

The Interceptor VG-2 Radar Detector Detector is designed to detect remotely operating radar detectors in commercial motor vehicles. The United States Department of Transportation-Federal Highway Administration officially banned radar detectors in commercial motor vehicles in 1993.

The ban specifically effects vehicles involved in interstate commerce that have a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight of 10,001 or more pounds or are designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver. In addition to this ban, any vehicle used to transport hazardous materials in quantities that require placarding would be also affected.

2-2-2-2-2

The FHWA also expanded on the definition of “radar detector” to include any device that detects radio microwaves, laser beams or any future speed measurement technology used by law enforcement agencies on highways for enforcement purposes.

The Interceptor VG-2 Radar Detector Detector is a superheterodyne microwave receiver tuned to receive signals in the frequency of 11.55 GHz + 150 MHz. The received signal is mixed with a local oscillator signal whose frequency is swept approximately 25 times per second. The resulting intermediate frequency signal is then suitably amplified, demodulated and compared with an adjustable threshold (sensitivity control) to trigger the audio alarm “beep”. The demodulated intermediate frequency signal is processed and displayed on the field strength bar graph, indicating the received signal strength.

According to HPD Truck Enforcement Unit Sgt. C.J. Klausner, “The City of Houston experiences approximately 200,000 commercial trucks traveling on Houston area freeways everyday. Since the inception of the Truck Enforcement Unit there has been a dramatic reduction in the number of fatal accidents and crashes involving commercial trucks. With the addition of the Interceptor VG-2 Radar Detector Detector we feel we have added a very valuable tool to our arsenal to help ensure that the roads and freeways in the Houston area remain safe.”

Houston City Council Member and Chairman of the City of Houston Transportation, Technology and Infrastructure Committee Carroll G. Robinson stated, “I am excited to have been in the position to secure this new high tech traffic enforcement tool for HPD’s Truck Enforcement Unit. Since its inception, the HPD Truck Enforcement Unit has demonstrated to members of City Council what a difference the enforcement of unsafe trucks can produce for the citizens of Houston. And, with the addition of the Interceptor VG-S Radar Detector Detector, I am confident the roads and freeways will be much safer for the citizens of the greater Houston area.”

For more information on the unveiling and demonstration of the Interceptor VG-2 Radar Detector Detector, please contact Octevia Evangelista at 713-247-2106 or Houston Police Department Truck Enforcement Unit Sgt. C.J. Klausner at 713-376-0877.

-30-

Houston Police Department - Truck Enforcement Unit

In July of 1999, Houston Police Department Chief C.O. Bradford mandated that a unit be created that would be capable of inspecting large commercial trucks to ensure that truck drivers/truck-tractors/trailers were operating safely on the roadway. This enforcement activity was in response to citizen complaints of overweight trucks tearing up the roadways, dropping parts of the load, cracking windshields on passenger vehicles and not operating safely. In the first year of operation, the Truck Enforcement Unit working in concert with the trucking industry reduced the fatal accident rate involving trucks by 58% and truck safety inspections resulted in truck drivers/truck-tractors/trailers being placed out of service 75% of the time.

City of Houston Transportation, Technology & Infrastructure Committee

Chaired by At Large Position 5 Houston City Council Member Carroll G. Robinson, the Transportation, Technology and Infrastructure Committee is charged with considering issues related to ground transportation and general mobility, public utilities and right-of-way infrastructure management, and information technology initiatives.