Student Questions for UAPD

We get a lot of enforcement related questions. When it comes to legal and police enforcement issues we are neither Judge Judy nor Officer Krupke. However, we do have UAPD officers Bethany Wilson and Joe Bermudez to call upon to field your questions.

Q. How should I behave if stopped by UAPD?
A. Both UAPD officers say that the best thing to do is be respectful and accept the consequences of your actions. “We get lies almost every time because people know they did something wrong and that they’ve been caught. They are frightened and lie to protect themselves. So, when someone accepts their consequences with integrity we are surprised and impressed. Though you may still get cited, being honest and not having an attitude could serve you well. This is especially true in situations where there is ‘officer discretion’ on whether to cite you or give you a warning.”

Q. Can you get a DUI if under the legal BAC level of .08?
A. Yes. In Arizona you can get a DUI with a BAC below .08 due to being impaired in the “slightest degree.”

Q. Does UAPD ever operate under a quota system?
A. No.

Q. How come all the passengers in our car got busted with MIPs when the driver wasn’t intoxicated at all?
A. Even if a driver was found to be completely sober, their passengers could get cited if intoxicated. The driver would have been pulled over for a traffic violation. The passengers got MIPs (if under 21) because there was probable cause to cite them.

Q. Can you get a DUI for being intoxicated while riding your bike?
A. Arizona DUI laws state that it is unlawful for a person to be in control of a vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The key word is “vehicle,” which excludes those devices moved by human power. By that definition, a bike is not a vehicle and the DUI statute would not apply. However, if UAPD came across an intoxicated person operating a motor vehicle on the roadway, they could pursue the DUI.

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