



HUMAN RELATIONS
COMMISSION

TROY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Thursday, February 16, 2023, 6:15 p.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall, 100 S. Market Street

AGENDA

- | | | |
|-------------|---|------------------------------|
| I. | Call to Order | S. Holycross |
| II. | Roll Call | K. Feltner |
| III. | Approval of January 19, 2023 Minutes | motion/second/roll call vote |
| IV. | Discussion on Potential 2023 Projects | S. Holycross |
| | a. Driver's Education Program (State of Illinois, Dayton Schools) | |
| | b. Ohio Historical Marker at Soldiers Circle | |
| | c. Mayflower Plaque | |
| | d. Walking Map | |
| V. | Commission Member Comments | |
| VI. | Public Comments | |
| VII. | Adjourn | |

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 16, 2023, 6:15 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall

MINUTES OF HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

A regular session of the Human Relations Commission was held at 6:15 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall.

Members Attending: Block, Feltner, Holycross, Keller, Major, Severt, Villalobos.

Presiding Officer: Chairman Marvin Major, Sr.

Others Attending: City Staff
Citizens

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting commenced at 6:18 p.m. by the Chairman's call to order.

ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF LORETTA PHILLIPS: Upon motion of Mr. Major, seconded by Ms. Holycross, resignation of Loretta Phillips was approved by the Commission unanimously.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Ms. Holycross, seconded by Ms. Villalobos, the July 21, September 15, and November 17 minutes were approved by the Commission unanimously, having no corrections or additions to these minutes.

TRI-FOLD BROCHURE: Upon motion of Mr. Feltner, seconded by Ms. Holycross, the redesigned HRC tri-fold brochure was approved by the Commission unanimously.

REVISED OPERATING GUIDELINES: Upon motion of Ms. Holycross, seconded by Mr. Feltner, the revised HRC Operating Guidelines were approved by the Commission unanimously.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON: Upon motion of Mr. Severt, seconded by Mr. Feltner, Sonia Holycross was elected as a Chairperson by the Commission unanimously.

NEW MEMBER SUGGESTIONS: The Commission members discussed the process of adding new members to the HRC and suggested several individuals who, most likely, will be interested in serving on the HRC and/or have recently expressed their interest in becoming a Commission member. The decision was made to recommend Mayor to consider the appointment of the following individuals to the HRC:

- Donald Chavis – motion made by Mr. Feltner, seconded by Mr. Severt, approved by the Commission unanimously.
- Vernon Whitt – motion made by Mr. Major, seconded by Ms. Holycross, approved by the Commission unanimously.
- Darla York – motion made by Ms. Holycross, seconded by Mr. Severt, approved by the Commission unanimously.

The discussion ensued with Mr. Keller's comment that per the newly adopted Operating Guidelines, the maximum number of the HRC members can be nine; currently, the Commission has seven members; thus, Mayor, subject to City Council's approval, only can appoint two of the three suggested individuals. The Commission members agreed to proceed with the recommendation as it provides more potential member options for Mayor to consider.

POLICE INTERACTION: Mr. Major stated that the HRC should pursue finding ways to implement driver education program at schools. The program would entail not only learning driving rules but how to interact with police officers during traffic stops not to escalate the situation – for instance, learning how to respond and react to the commands given by an officer. Mr. Major noted that the endeavor to make the program part of the curriculum at schools would require the State Legislature's involvement as the lack of knowledge about how to interact with a police officer during a traffic stop is a state-wide issue. He emphasized that he did not think this issue was a significant concern for the city of Troy and added that the idea did not arise from the problems in Troy's community. Additionally, Mr. Major stated that if such program is implemented, the HRC should recommend the Troy City Schools (TCS) to have a trial run at their schools and make TCS a change model for other communities.

The Commission decided to invite Senator Steve Huffman to the HRC meeting to discuss the driver education program at schools and determine the process of sending the request to the State Legislature to be assigned to a committee.

Ms. Villalobos asked if any of the Commission members were aware of any driving schools teaching their students how to interact with a police officer during a traffic stop. Mr. Major responded that his two children have been taking classes at the driving schools, and such topic has not been discussed.

Mr. Keller noted that he liked the idea but wanted to discuss how to execute it. He asked if the Commission had sufficient materials to present to the Senator or if the HRC needed more time to solidify the idea. Mr. Major responded that a former Black police officer in the State of Illinois worked with the State Senators to introduce a bill to pass a law requiring every student obtaining a driver's license to go through the police interaction course. The HRC could use the State of Illinois Driver Education Program information to present to Senator Huffman.

In response to Mr. Feltner's question regarding having enough materials for the Senator to review, Mr. Severt said that if the Senator decides to pursue the idea, his group will work on the language of the legislation. Mr. Keller stated that having a framework of the State of Illinois Driver Education Program would help to lead the conversation with the Senator. Mr. Feltner mentioned that depending on which State Committee this issue needs to be presented to, the Commission could write a public statement that can be read in front of the Committee. Ms. Holycross and Mr. Feltner agreed that this would be the best approach to ensure the proposal gets to the Committee. Still, meeting with Senator Huffman will help to determine if the statement is viable to be submitted to the Senate. Ms. Holycross added that including the Driver Education Program in schools will make the information accessible for all students regardless of socioeconomic status.

The Commission members discussed the December report of the Troy Police Department. In response to the question regarding citations and warnings statistics, Chief McKinney stated that the data could be obtained for the different age groups. Chief McKinney noted that he believes driver education is part of the AAA driving classes curriculum; a portion of it may be mandated by the State and may address interaction with police during a traffic stop. He added that Troy Police Officers interact with 5th and 7th grade Troy City Schools students as part of the DARE curriculum. The curriculum discusses making good choices, peer pressure, bullying, etc. Additionally, high school SRO meets with students during health classes.; however, due to the limited time and question-driven environment, the SRO not always has time to go over the items in the outline while answering student questions.

Ms. Holycross and Mr. Feltner suggested recommending Troy City Schools extend the time for health classes and consider conveying an assembly of Troy High School students for a driver education class.

FUTURE MEETINGS: Upon motion of Ms. Holycross, seconded by Mr. Major, the Commission unanimously decided to continue meeting bi-monthly on the third Thursday of a month at 6:15 p.m. with the exception of a special meeting scheduled for February 16, 2023, at 6:15 p.m. to discuss the 2023 HRC projects.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS: Mr. Feltner proposed implementing an annual survey to obtain feedback from the community. He added that such a survey would help to compile data regarding existing issues and the diversity and inclusion of the community. Mr. Feltner said that the data would assist HRC with the annual report and recommendations to the Mayor and motioned to accept his recommendation. Mr. Severt stated that the proposal aligned with the Operating Guidelines and seconded Mr. Feltner's motion. The annual survey implementation was approved by the Commission unanimously.

Mr. Severt shared an image of a plaque (attached to these minutes) put up next to the back door of the Missouri Theatre. The plaque acknowledges the history of the Theatre and reads as follows: "Lest We Forget Never Again! Until the late 1950's, persons of color were not permitted to enter the Missouri Theatre by its front door. Entrance was only permitted through this back door and then only for seating in the balcony." Mr. Severt suggested reaching out to the new Mayflower building owners and asking if they would consider putting up a similar plaque. Mr. Keller asked if the Commission members knew this part of the history was relevant to the Mayflower building. Mr. Severt responded that while there is anecdotal evidence in the community, research

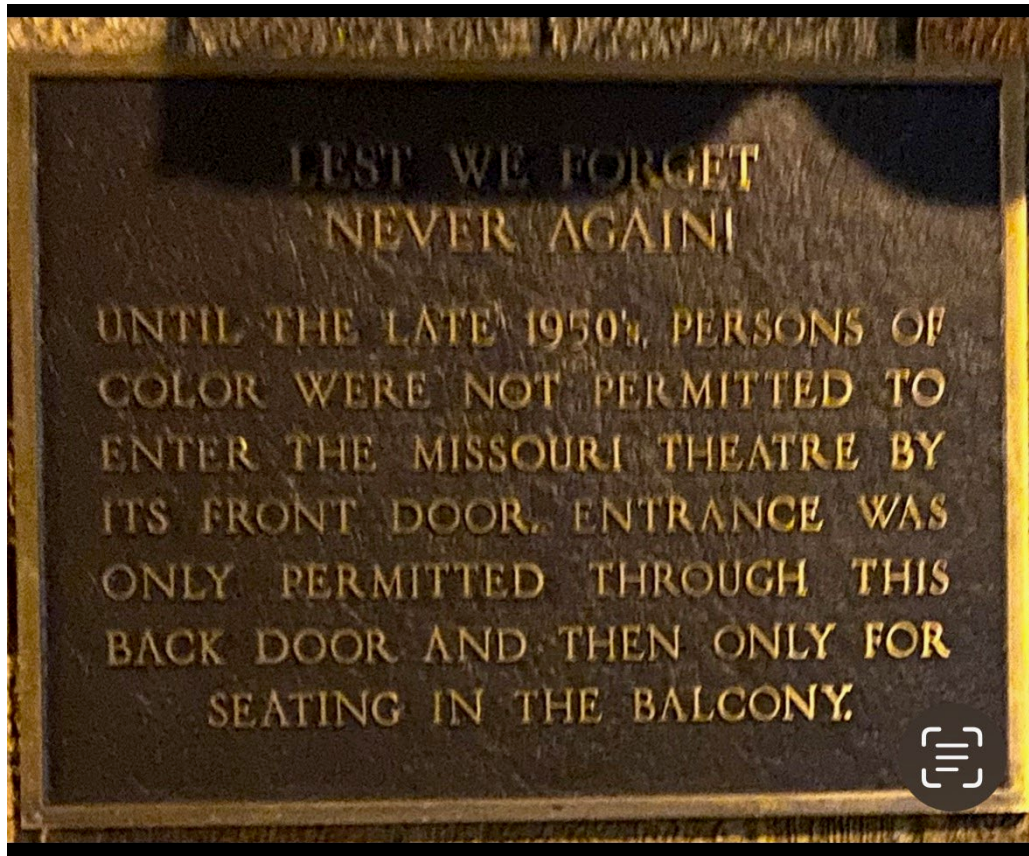
needs to be done to find historically accurate facts. The HRC members decided to add this item to the February 16 meeting agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Brad Boehringer, 105 Crestwood Drive, stated that the local history of Native Americans is being forgotten and recommended the Commission members look into advising Mayor and City Council to adopt a resolution to recognize the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month.

Mr. Boehringer also inquired about the police interaction topic discussed and asked if issues related to it were relevant to the city of Troy and if the Commission was overreaching. He added that Troy is very fortunate to have great police officers and that, in his opinion, education on how to interact with police comes from the family, even before kids are in school. Mr. Feltner noted that because the culture of every family varies, it cannot be assumed that every kid is educated at the same level regarding how to interact with police officers. Mr. Major and Ms. Holycross agreed that Troy has an excellent police force. However, there is a lack of knowledge about police interaction in the community, and the absence of information prevents combating fear of police that affects an individual's behavior during a traffic stop. Mr. Boehringer further asked if the HRC had considered his recommendation made at one of the previous meetings and had met with the community members in their neighborhoods. The Commission members responded that they interact with their community every day.

Melissa Kleptz, President and CEO of The Troy Foundation, shared the Statement of Inclusiveness (attached to these minutes) approved by the Governing Board of The Troy Foundation on December 12, 2022. She stated that the foundation was inspired by the HRC's work and the Troy MLK team and I.D.E.A. Troy partnership to adopt the statement to become part of the collaboration. Ms. Kleptz added that by the end of 2023, the foundation would require non-profit organizations to adopt a similar statement of inclusiveness to receive future grants.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.





STATEMENT OF INCLUSIVENESS

Approved on 12/12/2022

The Troy Foundation exists to improve the quality of life for all citizens of Troy, Ohio, and is made up of a diverse collection of funds given by caring individuals, businesses and organizations that have a common concern for the well-being of the people in the community. Our mission requires a commitment to inclusiveness as a fundamental operating principle and is best pursued if our workforce, grantees, donors, volunteers, partners, vendors and governing body include individuals of diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and perspectives.

The Foundation believes that diversity encompasses, but is not limited to, age, gender, race, national origin, philosophy/religion, physical and/or mental abilities/characteristics, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic circumstances, and lifestyle. Thus the Foundation is committed to fostering a supportive work environment that respects and appreciates diversity in its many forms and provides all staff members with an opportunity to maximize the use of their work-related skills and talents.

The Foundation seeks to work with external organizations that reflect, as a group, the diversity of the Troy community. We look for grantees, volunteers and business partners that include individuals of varied backgrounds, beliefs, and perspectives. We encourage all organizations with which we work to recognize and embrace the benefits of diversity.

Finally, in order to achieve the highest standards in all our activities, it is important that the Foundation benefit from the perspectives of many different segments of the community. Toward this end, we seek to collaborate with donors of varying means and interests. In addition, we encourage the appointment of community leaders to our governing board who will bring varying points of view to board deliberations.

The Troy Foundation celebrates and values diversity that contributes to a kind, encouraging and welcoming community which helps all residents live happy, healthy and hopeful lives.

Public Act 099-0720

HB6131 Enrolled

LRB099 18542 NHT 42921 b

AN ACT concerning education.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section 27-24.2 and by adding Section 27-24.2a as follows:

(105 ILCS 5/27-24.2) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-24.2)

Sec. 27-24.2. Safety education; driver education course.

Instruction shall be given in safety education in each of grades one ~~through~~ ~~though~~ 8, equivalent to one class period each week, and any school district which maintains grades 9 through 12 shall offer a driver education course in any such school which it operates. Its curriculum shall include content dealing with Chapters 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16 of the Illinois Vehicle Code, the rules adopted pursuant to those Chapters insofar as they pertain to the operation of motor vehicles, and the portions of the Litter Control Act relating to the operation of motor vehicles. The course of instruction given in grades 10 through 12 shall include an emphasis on the development of knowledge, attitudes, habits, and skills necessary for the safe operation of motor vehicles, including motorcycles insofar as they can be taught in the classroom, and instruction on distracted driving as a major traffic safety issue. In addition, the course shall include instruction on special hazards existing at and required safety and driving precautions that must be observed at emergency situations, highway construction and maintenance zones, and railroad crossings and the approaches thereto. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the course shall also include instruction concerning law enforcement procedures for traffic stops, including a demonstration of the proper actions to be taken during a traffic stop and appropriate interactions with law enforcement. The course of instruction required of each eligible student at the high school level shall consist of a minimum of 30 clock hours of classroom instruction and a minimum of 6 clock hours of individual behind-the-wheel instruction in a dual control car on public roadways taught by a driver education instructor endorsed by the State Board of Education. Both the classroom instruction part and the practice driving part of such driver education course shall be open to a resident or non-resident student attending a non-public school

in the district wherein the course is offered. Each student attending any public or non-public high school in the district must receive a passing grade in at least 8 courses during the previous 2 semesters prior to enrolling in a driver education course, or the student shall not be permitted to enroll in the course; provided that the local superintendent of schools (with respect to a student attending a public high school in the district) or chief school administrator (with respect to a student attending a non-public high school in the district) may waive the requirement if the superintendent or chief school administrator, as the case may be, deems it to be in the best interest of the student. A student may be allowed to commence the classroom instruction part of such driver education course prior to reaching age 15 if such student then will be eligible to complete the entire course within 12 months after being allowed to commence such classroom instruction.

Such a course may be commenced immediately after the completion of a prior course. Teachers of such courses shall meet the certification requirements of this Act and regulations of the State Board as to qualifications.

Subject to rules of the State Board of Education, the school district may charge a reasonable fee, not to exceed \$50, to students who participate in the course, unless a student is unable to pay for such a course, in which event the fee for such a student must be waived. However, the district may increase this fee to an amount not to exceed \$250 by school board resolution following a public hearing on the increase, which increased fee must be waived for students who participate in the course and are unable to pay for the course. The total amount from driver education fees and reimbursement from the State for driver education must not exceed the total cost of the driver education program in any year and must be deposited into the school district's driver education fund as a separate line item budget entry. All moneys deposited into the school district's driver education fund must be used solely for the funding of a high school driver education program approved by the State Board of Education that uses driver education instructors endorsed by the State Board of Education.

(Source: P.A. 96-734, eff. 8-25-09; 97-145, eff. 7-14-11; revised 10-21-15.)

(105 ILCS 5/27-24.2a new)

Sec. 27-24.2a. Non-public school driver education course. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, any non-public school's driver education course shall include instruction

concerning law enforcement procedures for traffic stops, including a demonstration of the proper actions to be taken during a traffic stop and appropriate interactions with law enforcement.

Section 10. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by changing Section 6-419 as follows:

(625 ILCS 5/6-419) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 6-419)

Sec. 6-419. Rules and Regulations. The Secretary is authorized to prescribe by rule standards for the eligibility, conduct and operation of driver training schools, and instructors and to adopt other reasonable rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. The Secretary may adopt rules exempting particular types of driver training schools from specific statutory provisions in

Sections 6-401 through 6-424, where application of those provisions would be inconsistent with the manner of instruction offered by those schools. The Secretary, in consultation with the State Board of Education, shall adopt course content standards for driver education for those persons under the age of 18 years, which shall include the operation and equipment of motor vehicles. After June 30, 2017, the course content standards for driver education provided by a driver training school to those persons under the age of 18 years shall include instruction concerning law enforcement procedures for traffic stops, including a demonstration of the proper actions to be taken during a traffic stop and appropriate interactions with law enforcement.

(Source: P.A. 96-740, eff. 1-1-10; 96-962, eff. 7-2-10; 97-229, eff. 7-28-11; 97-1025, eff. 1-1-13.)

Chapter 4: Traffic Laws

Traffic laws protect all who share Illinois' streets and highways. It is important to obey the orders of police officers, firefighters, highway authority officials or uniformed adult school crossing guards who are directing traffic or performing their official duties.

Proper Action When Stopped by Law Enforcement

- Slow down, activate turn signal and safely pull over on to the right-hand shoulder of the roadway. If there is no shoulder or it is too narrow to pull over, find the next safest location and pull over.
- Do not slam on the brakes or stop in the lane of traffic. Do not stop your vehicle on bridges, curves, next to guardrails, concrete walls, medians or any place where it would be difficult for other vehicles to pass. A vehicle should not be stopped too close to the solid white line, as it may get struck by oncoming traffic.
- Stay in the vehicle with both hands clearly in sight on the steering wheel. Keep your hands on the steering wheel until the police officer instructs you otherwise or the traffic stop is complete.
- Be prepared for the officer to approach from either the driver or passenger side of your vehicle.
- Do not exit your vehicle unless asked to do so. Getting out of the vehicle can be perceived as aggressive behavior and a threat to the police officer's safety.
- Comply with the officer's request to see a driver's license and proof of insurance. If these items are in the glove box or under the seat or if the proof of insurance is stored for display on a cellphone, inform the police officer of that fact and then follow the officer's directions before retrieving the information. Vehicle operators are required to have a valid driver's license, registration and insurance in order to operate a vehicle.
- If you cannot identify an unmarked police vehicle and/or the driver as law enforcement, drive slowly and carefully below the speed limit and either (1) pull over at a well-lit, populated location, (2) drive carefully to the nearest police station and attempt to attract the attention of a uniformed officer or (3) call 9-1-1. Activate your vehicle's hazard lights as a helpful way to communicate intentions with the police officer.
- If you are being stopped at night, it is acceptable to turn on your interior light of the vehicle.

Be aware that you may have committed a minor traffic violation without realizing it. There also may be a problem with your vehicle of which you are unaware or the vehicle may be similar to one used in a serious crime. Many officers will not provide specific reasons for the stop until they have obtained your driver's license, vehicle registration and insurance card.

If the traffic stop results in a ticket or arrest, you:

- Should not debate the reason for the stop or argue with the police officer.
- Should not refuse to sign a ticket if issued. A traffic ticket requires the driver's signature. Signing a ticket is not an admission of the driver's guilt — only an acknowledgment of receiving the ticket.

- Should not be uncooperative with law enforcement at the scene. If you are suspected of drunk driving, refusal to submit to breath, urine, blood or performance tests can result in the loss of driving privileges.
- Should not argue about the ticket at the time of issuance. If you believe an offense was not committed or the ticket was issued unfairly, you will have the opportunity to present the case in traffic court.
- Should not resist arrest if taken into custody by the police.

You are to be treated with dignity and respect by law enforcement officers. If you believe that an officer has acted inappropriately during a traffic stop or other encounter, you should report the conduct as soon as possible to the officer's superiors. Officers are required to provide their names and badge numbers upon request. Written complaints can be filed with the agency's internal affairs division or civilian complaint board.

Regardless of what action is taken, police officers are legally required to document all traffic stops, which includes obtaining the driver's name and address for data collection purposes.

Distracted Driving

Illinois law prohibits the use of handheld cellphones, texting or using other electronic communications while operating a motor vehicle. Hands-free devices or Bluetooth technology is allowed for persons age 19 and older.

Illinois law prohibits the use of headsets while driving. Headsets are defined as any device, other than a hearing aid, that allows a person to hear or receive electronic communications. The use of a single-sided headset or earpiece with a wireless/cellphone device is permitted while driving. Motorcycle, motor-driven cycle and moped operators may use intercom helmets which permit a driver and/or passengers to speak to one another.

Using hands-free technology such as a headset or voice activated controls is considered a distraction while driving and can be dangerous. If you must make a phone call, even with hands-free technology, it is recommended that you pull off to the side of the road before making the call.

Using a cellphone while holding the device and utilizing the speaker phone is not considered hands free and is a violation of Illinois law. Watching or streaming a live video on a cellphone is also a violation of Illinois law.

The only time you can use a cellphone that is not hands free is:

- To report an emergency situation.
- While parked on the shoulder of a roadway.
- While stopped due to normal traffic being obstructed and the vehicle is in neutral or park.

If you are in a crash with a motor vehicle, bicyclist, pedestrian or any road user caused by distracted driving, you may face criminal penalties and incarceration.

SECTION 7: Special Driving Situations

POLICE AND TRAFFIC STOPS

What to do if you are pulled over by law enforcement:

- Activate your turn signal and when it is safe to do so, pull over on the right side of the roadway, or at the nearest safe location.
 - Move your vehicle from “DRIVE” gear to “PARK” gear
 - Turn ignition to “OFF” (or press “STOP” button)
- Lower the window and remain in the vehicle unless told otherwise by the officer.
- Stay calm and keep your safety belt fastened.
- Keep hands on the steering wheel in view of the officer.
- If you have a weapon(s) in the vehicle, inform the officer upon first contact.
- Obey the directions of the officer.
- When requested, present Driver License, vehicle registration, and insurance information.
- Be cooperative and do not argue with the officer. If you have questions, politely ask for clarification.
- If you disagree with a traffic ticket, you may contest the ticket in court.

IN SECTION 7:

- POLICE AND TRAFFIC STOPS
- WHEN TO USE HEADLIGHTS
- NIGHT DRIVING
- DRIVING IN FOG
- WINTER DRIVING
- WORK ZONES

Additional information is available in this [“What to Do If You Are Pulled Over”](#) video.

WHEN TO USE HEADLIGHTS – OAC 4501-15-01

Lights must be on:

- Between sunset and sunrise.
- During any period of rain, snow, fog, or other unfavorable atmospheric conditions — regardless of the time of day.
- At any other time when natural light conditions do not make it possible to clearly see objects 1,000 feet ahead.
- Any time windshield wipers are in use because of precipitation.



NIGHT DRIVING

Driving at night is more difficult and hazardous than daytime driving. The distance you can see in front of your vehicle is limited by the amount of lighting provided by your headlights. To maintain safety while driving at night:

- Headlights must be on between sunset and sunrise.
- Maintain a cautious and reasonable speed.
- Use high beam headlights whenever there are no oncoming vehicles. Ohio law requires you to dim your high beam headlights for approaching traffic.
- To keep from being momentarily blinded by an approaching vehicle's headlights, look toward the right side of the road.
- Glance occasionally to the right and left to determine the location of the edge of the pavement and hazards that may come from the sides.
- Do not wear sunglasses or colored lenses when driving at night or on overcast days. Tinted or colored lenses reduce your vision.