

A Police Surprise

In June of 1993, the police in South Windsor, Connecticut, pulled over motorists in larger numbers than usual, but not because scofflaws had overrun the city.

One person stopped by a patrolman was Lori Carlson, according to the Reuters news service. As the policeman approached her car, she wondered what she had done wrong. To her amazement, the officer handed her a ticket that said, "Your driving was GREAT! -- and we appreciate it."

On Wednesday, June 9, the authorities in this Hartford suburb had begun a new program to give safe drivers a \$2 reward for obeying the speed limit, wearing seat belts, having children in protective seats and using turn signals.

"You are always nervous when you see the police lights come on," said Carl Lomax, another resident of South Windsor pulled over for good driving. "It takes a second or two to adjust to the officer saying, 'Hey, thanks a lot for obeying the law.' It's about the last thing you would expect."

The police department of South Windsor had a good idea. As we interact socially and professionally, others should expect encouragement from us.

In the centers of Life Care and American Lifestyles, and in the work of Life Care at Home, our co-workers will respond best if we not only correct them when they do wrong, but thank them for doing right.

--Beecher Hunter