

From: David Leenman dleenman@habershamschools.com
Subject: Traffic Stop
Date: September 4, 2026 at 7:09 AM
To: kevin@nowgeorgia.com
Cc: Tim Sims tsims@habershamga.com, Robin Krockum rkrockum@habershamga.com

Kevin,

In response to your query regarding the traffic stop initiated by Officer Victoria Hopper:

RE: VH Traffic Stop

Under Georgia statutory rules and appellate precedent (e.g., *State v. Collins*), a certified peace officer who observes a crime or an immediate, dangerous driving hazard occurring directly in their presence may execute a traffic stop, even when physically outside their primary jurisdiction. However, once the stop is initiated, the out-of-jurisdiction officer may not conduct a prolonged independent investigation, gather additional evidence, or make a custodial arrest.

On or about Thursday, August 13, 2026, at approximately 7:06 AM, Officer Victoria Hopper was en route to Habersham Central High School to report for duty. While traveling on Habersham Mills Road in a marked patrol vehicle equipped with active emergency equipment, Officer Hopper was passed by a blue Subaru. The Subaru initiated the pass by crossing over a double yellow line into oncoming traffic.

Officer Hopper activated her emergency blue lights and initiated a traffic stop on Habersham Mills Road just before Bethel Temple Road. She logged the stop and the vehicle's license plate number through Habersham County Dispatch. Upon exiting her patrol vehicle and approaching the vehicle, Officer Hopper made contact with the male driver, who apologized multiple times and explained he was late to pick up his wife from work.

Officer Hopper verified the driver's information via Habersham County Dispatch using his Georgia driver's license. Officer Hopper advised the driver of the hazards associated with passing in a no-passing zone. Officer Hopper proceeded to Habersham Central High School at approximately 7:09 am.

David Leenman
Assistant Superintendent
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