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DPS Memos Outline Trooper Arrest Quota

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It's not a rumor anymore.

KXAN Austin News obtained copies of [Department of Public Safety](#) interoffice memos requiring state troopers to make arrest quotas.

If troopers failed to reach the requirement, they could face punishment.

A memo sent Dec. 4 reads, "All troopers assigned to Highway Patrol/Vehicle Inspections Houston are required to have a bare minimum of at least one DWI arrest by December 31, 2007. Beginning Jan. 1, 2008, you [troopers] will be required to have at least four DWI arrest for 2008."

The memo goes on to say, "Failure to meet either goal will result in a negative impact on your year end evaluation."

A memo sent Nov. 19 and 20 regarding criminal charges reads, "Troopers are expected to file at least two charges per week."

[State Rep. Garnet Coleman](#) said he is surprised and disappointed by the memos.

"When it specifically says you should have four DWI arrests within a month's time, that is a quota, and you'll be penalized if you do not, that is a quota," Coleman said.

"I don't think it's fair to the troopers," said Austin resident Joan Clucas. "They may not see anyone driving drunk in a day."

"I know state troopers in Vermont, and I have heard them talk about that before how they like to work certain shifts and certain times, because it is a lot easier for them to hit their quota," said Austin resident Molly Greaves.

DPS responded in a written statement: "The Department of Public Safety does not support using specific numbers to communicate work goals for commissioned personnel." The agency said in a separate statement: "We will take immediate steps to provide clarification to eliminate any misunderstanding."

Coleman said if DPS does not do something to correct the issue, he will propose a bill to make sure the agency does not use quotas.



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