May 5, 2003

PATROL BUREAU MEMORANDUM NO. 03-4

SUBJECT: Mexican Consular Identification Cards

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify the legal issues and to present departmental policy regarding the use of consular identification cards.

Recently, Mexican Consulates throughout the United States began promoting the use and acceptance of the *Matricula Consular* (Consular Identification Cards) as a standard form of identification for Mexican Nationals living, working and visiting the United States. The use of these cards decreases theft of passports, allows foreigners to access various services that require a photo identification, and enables better tracking and identification of foreigners. The procedures for obtaining the cards verify the person obtaining the identification card is not doing so under false pretenses.

The consular identification card does not indicate the immigration status of the holder. These cards are issued by a foreign government and do not under any circumstances, give the holder the rights or privileges denoted by legal immigration status. The consular identification card is not a driver's license and law enforcement personnel are advised to treat the consular identification card the same as any state-issued identification card. Personnel are further advised to verify the person holding the card is, in fact, the person indicated, and that the identification card has not been altered or falsified.

The attached photocopy is of the card most likely to be encountered in the Kansas City area. It should be noted, however, an updated identification card with improved security features is being introduced in other cities and may be encountered by KCPD personnel.

The features of the new card are presented in detail in the accompanying training tape.

The Kansas City, Missouri Police Department will accept the consular identification card issued by the Mexican Consulate as bona fide identification. The information on the card can be used to complete reports; verify the identification of suspects, witnesses, and victims; and to aid in the investigation of offenses. At this time, identification cards issued by consulates other than Mexico have not been designated as bona fide identification cards. The department will continue to evaluate the need to accept other cards on a case-by-case basis.

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