



*For Immediate Release:* August 11, 2023  
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## ***Sheriff Suspends Utility Vehicle Inspections***

Sheriff Jamie Patton announced today the Sheriff's Office will suspend its utility vehicle and mini truck inspections immediately. The Sheriff's Office has been offering inspections of golf carts, utility vehicles, and mini trucks since 2017. The inspections allow the owners of these types of vehicles to obtain license plates so they can operate on certain roadways in restricted areas. Patton said the manufacturing and titling of utility vehicles and mini trucks have become extremely complicated. Patton shared that utility vehicles are specifically defined by the Ohio Revised Code, but manufacturers and owners have complicated the inspection process by attempting to get all-purpose vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, and off-road vehicles inspected as utility vehicles. "The law is very clear in its definitions of each of these vehicles. However, because these vehicles can look very similar, many are now mislabeled and not compatible with Ohio Law", said Patton. In addition, a recently introduced bill (237) in the Ohio House of Representatives seeks to make major changes to the definitions and rules regarding the operation of utility vehicles, mini trucks, all-terrain vehicles, all-purpose vehicles, and off-road vehicles. "With the current inspection challenges and the pending legislation at the Ohio State House, I feel it is best to suspend these inspections at this time", said Patton. The Sheriff's Office will continue to inspect golf carts, also known as under-speed vehicles. Once inspected and licensed, golf carts and under-speed vehicles may be operated in certain villages and on very limited roadways in Union County where the speed limit is less than thirty-five miles per hour. Sheriff Patton shared that his office would be monitoring House Bill 237 and any changes this legislation creates if it is signed into law. "We will review the decision to suspend utility vehicle inspections at some point in the future. I realize that off-road vehicles have become very popular, but they are also a safety risk when operating on public roadways. We must ensure the inspection process is in compliance with Ohio Law", concluded Patton.

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