

## VEHICLE OPERATIONS

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### MOTORCYCLE PATROL UNIT

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this directive is to establish departmental policy and procedure regarding the use and operation of a motorcycle patrol unit.

**Policy Statement:** Officers of the North Little Rock Police Department assigned to Motorcycle Patrol will respond to traffic complaints, provide traffic enforcement, escorts, and traffic control during events, and assist with other assignments at the direction of the Patrol Division Commander.

**Summary of Changes:** Changes General Order to Policy Directive.

**Procedure:**

**1 Deployment**

- 1.1 Members assigned to the Motorcycle Patrol Unit will be under the direction of the Patrol Division Commander for assignments and deployment.
- 1.2 For the purpose of daily activities and work assignments, motorcycle officers will be assigned to an area substation as directed by the Patrol Division Commander, who will also determine their hours of operation and days off.
- 1.3 Motorcycle Officers will respond to requests from any on duty supervisor to work traffic at accidents, intersections, crime scenes, or crowd control. Motorcycle units may be redirected as necessary in response to personnel shortages.
- 1.4 In the event of weather conditions that make the operation of motorcycles unsafe, officers assigned to the Motorcycle Unit will utilize patrol vehicles to conduct their daily activities or work on special assignments as needed.
- 1.5 In the event the Motorcycle Unit is asked to ride in inclement weather for events such as dignitary escorts, funeral escorts, parades, or other special details, approval must be given by the Chief of Police or Patrol Division Commander prior to participating in the event. It will be the responsibility of the officer to ensure that the operation of the motorcycle can be done safely considering the adverse conditions. If the officer determines the conditions for motorcycle operation are unsafe, they shall notify the Patrol Division Commander.
- 1.6 In the instance that weather conditions change during an event, the motorcycle officer will have the discretion to decide of the continued participation of the motorcycle unit can be done safely. If it is deemed unsafe to continue, the motorcycle officer will contact an on-duty patrol supervisor for assistance in obtaining another unit to assist with the event if necessary.

**2 Operation of the Police Motorcycle**

- 2.1 Motorcycle officers will operate the motorcycle in accordance with state and local law and Department policy.
- 2.2 Motorcycles will be occupied by the operator only. Patrol units will respond when a transport is needed.
- 2.3 Officers operating police motorcycles will wear the appropriate uniform, including helmet and eye protection. No civilian attire is permitted.
- 2.4 Motorcycle officers may use emergency equipment to stop violators and follow violators who refuse to stop. Motorcycle officers may initiate pursuits but must allow a marked patrol unit to take over as the primary unit in accordance with Policy Directive 60-01, Emergency and Pursuit Driving.
- 2.5 Motorcycle units may be used for purposes of selective traffic enforcement, accident reduction, special events, or dignitary motorcade escorts.
- 2.6 Motorcycle units will not be utilized for specific patrol activity unless directed by a Patrol Division supervisor.
- 2.7 Officers assigned to this unit will submit monthly activity worksheets concerning their daily activities to their assigned Area Commander.

**3. Training**

- 3.1 Officers assigned to the Motorcycle Unit will have a valid Arkansas driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement. Officers will undergo and pass a certified police motorcycle training course prior to operating a police motorcycle in any patrol capacity.

**4 Equipment Care and Maintenance**

- 4.1 It will be the responsibility of each officer to insure that the preventive maintenance schedule is followed and performed by Department approved motorcycle mechanics. Officers will perform regular safety checks and operator maintenance as outlined in the motorcycle owner's manual, including;
- 4.2 Daily oil level and tire pressure checks,
- 4.3 Daily checks of lights and sirens, and
- 4.4 Weekly tire inspection to detect undue wear or other unsafe conditions. Tires will be replaced when tread wear reaches 1/32 of an inch. Only tires recommended by the manufacturer or dealer will be used.
- 4.5 The motorcycle maintenance schedule will be adhered to and copies of all maintenance work will be forwarded to the Fleet Manager.
- 4.6 Due to the high profile nature of motorcycle services, officers will ensure that the motorcycle is clean and in good working order at all times.



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Mike Davis  
Chief of Police

