



Atlanta Police Department – Standard Operating Procedure		
	APD.SOP.4080 Mounted Patrol Effective Date: August 13th, 2024	
Chief Darin Schierbaum	Signature by: DS	Date Signed: 8/13/2024

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

APD Staff,

The Policy and Standards Section is dedicated to providing the department, and its employees, with accurate, understandable and transparent policies. In order to publish policies that reflect the most up-to-date standards, the Policy and Standard Section regularly reviews all policies to ensure they are reflective of the current mission objects of each individual unit.

No significant changes were found during the review and renewal of APD.SOP.4080 Mounted Patrol, however, we encourage you to read the policy below to better understand how Mounted Patrol is:

- Utilized in the field.
- Their role within the Police Department.
- Their impact on the citizens of Atlanta.

Thank you and stay informed!

Policy and Standards Section
Planning, Research, and Accreditation Unit

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1. PURPOSE

To establish the procedure for the Atlanta Police Department's Mounted Patrol Unit.

2. POLICY

The Atlanta Police Department provides trained mounted police teams for the purpose of providing a highly visible police presence in areas not accessibly by vehicle, while also managing and dispersing crowds in the City of Atlanta in accordance with state and federal laws.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 The Community Services Division (CSD) commanders will monitor the implementation of this standard operating procedure.
- 3.2 The Special Operations Section (SOS) commander is responsible for managing the implementation of the Mounted Patrol Unit's policies, procedures, and training. This includes acquiring appropriate mounts and the selection of riders.
- 3.3 In addition to general supervisory duties, the Mounted Patrol supervisor will be responsible for:
 - 1. Maintaining communication with the department's vendor(s) that provide horse supplies and veterinarian services.
 - 2. Maintaining communication with other law enforcement agencies' Mounted Patrol Units.
 - 3. Recommending and monitoring the procurement of needed equipment and services for the Unit.
 - 4. Scheduling all Mounted Patrol related activities.
 - 5. Ensuring Units are scheduled, and attend, continuous training to maintain skills required to be a member of the Mounted Patrol.
 - 6. Overseeing the operation of the stables.
 - 7. Designating the training coordinator.
- 3.4 The Mounted Patrol Unit training coordinator will be responsible for, but not limited to:
 - 1. Assisting in the selection process of prospective riders.
 - 2. Testing and selecting prospective Mounts for use by the unit.
 - 3. Training of all Mounts and riders to meet the required performance standards set forth by the Department.
 - 4. Reporting to the unit supervisor on the performance of Mounted Patrol teams within the unit.
- 3.5 The Mounted Patrol Officer will be responsible for, but not limited to, their availability for calls requiring a Police Mount, staying current on all training as required by the performance standards, the care and training of their assigned horse, tack, and equipment.



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- 3.6 All Civilian Mounted Patrol personnel will be responsible for and/or assisting with:
1. Daily turn out and returns of horses to the stalls.
 2. Keeping the stables and stalls clean.
 3. Maintaining the Department's Mounted Patrol facilities and equipment.
 4. Providing the Police Mounts with water, grain and hay.
 5. Maintaining an adequate supply of hay and grain.
 6. Exercising the Police Mounts in the area as designated by the Department.
 7. Administering medication and/or therapy as prescribed by the veterinarian and unit supervisor. (CALEA 6th ed. Standard 41.1.4c)

4. ACTION

4.1 USE OF MOUNTED PATROL TEAMS

- 4.1.1 A Mounted Patrol Team may be used to:
1. Perform routine patrol functions.
 2. Manage, control or disperse large crowds of people.
 3. Perform approved static displays and community-oriented functions.
- 4.1.2 The Mounted Patrol Team will not be used for vehicular traffic stops.
- 4.1.3 Mounted Patrol Teams will function primarily as support units; however, they may be authorized by their unit commander to perform other functions based on the needs of the unit and/or Department. (CALEA 6th ed. Standard 41.1.4a)
- 4.1.4 Mounted Patrol Teams will not be assigned to handle matters that will take them out of service for extended periods of time without prior approval from the team's unit supervisor.
- 4.1.5 The SOS commander must approve all requests for the use of Mounted Patrol from other law enforcement agencies, or when requested to be used outside the City of Atlanta.
- 4.1.6 Upon arrival at a scene, the Mounted Patrol rider has the ultimate discretion whether or not the Police Mount can be used for the specific assignment, or if it is beyond their limitations. (CALEA 6th ed. Standard 41.1.4a)
- 4.1.7 All requests for a Mounted Patrol Team for public or static presentations, will be submitted and approved by the SOS commander prior to making any commitment.

4.2 SELECTION OF MOUNTED PATROL

- 4.2.1 The selection of Mounted Patrol personnel will be made in accordance with "APD.SOP.2101 Specialized and Temporary Assignments" policy. (CALEA 6th ed. Standard 41.1.4b)
- 4.2.2 Mounted Patrol Officers will be compensated for any extra time spent caring for the needs of the Police Mount after duty and during weekend feedings.

4.3 TRAINING

- 4.3.1 Before assignment in the field, each Mounted Patrol Team will complete a minimum of 12 weeks of training to include basic horsemanship, barn management and basic Mounted Patrol officer techniques, strategies and field training. (CALEA 6th ed. Standard 41.1.4b)
- 4.3.2 New riders will be required to pass a proficiency examination to include a written and practical exam.
- 4.3.3 New riders will complete two weeks of field training with their Police Mount and show proficiency in all areas covered in the training. Riders failing to show proficiency will enter remedial training for a minimum period of two weeks, but not to exceed four weeks. At the end of the remedial training period the officer will be re-evaluated and must show proficiency before being deployed to the field. Failure to show this proficiency will result in the SOS commander being notified and a recommendation request for transfer will be submitted.
- 4.3.4 Any potential Police Mount will receive a minimum of 12 weeks of training. New Police Mounts will be evaluated at the end of the training period and be deemed “suitable” or “unsuitable” for police related duties.
- 4.3.5 All Mounted Patrol Unit training records will be maintained by the Training Coordinator and maintained in the Police Mount and riders training file.
- 4.3.6 All Police Mounts and riders will participate in regularly scheduled training as directed by the Mounted Patrol supervisor and Training Coordinator. The training will be monitored by the Training Coordinator to ensure that performance standards are being met and that corrective action is taken to correct any deficiencies identified.

4.4 MOUNTED PATROL UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.4.1 Mounted Patrol Officers will be available for service calls under the conditions specified by the unit supervisor such as Civil Unrest, Mass Protests and Major Events involving crowd control.
- 4.4.2 The Mounted Patrol Officer will maintain all Department equipment assigned to them, in a clean and serviceable condition. This equipment is as follows: (CALEA 6th ed. Standard 41.1.4d)
 - 1. All issued gear to include the saddle, bridle, reins, breastplate, grooming kit, saddle bags and saddle pads.
 - 2. Class A, B, or C Uniform to include helmet, spurs, riding boots and riding crop.

4.5 EQUINE-DRAWN CARRIAGE AND STABLE INSPECTIONS

- 4.5.1 Carriage stable facilities will be inspected annually. Mounted Patrol Officers will use Form APD 758 Equine Company Inspection for these inspections.
- 4.5.2 Carriages deployed on the streets of the City of Atlanta will be inspected quarterly but can be inspected at any time by any APD Mounted Patrol Officer or any other APD Employee. They can also be inspected when directed by the Mounted Patrol Commander, Special Operations Section (SOS) Commander, Zone 5 Commander or Chief of Police. Mounted Patrol Officers will use Form APD 757 Carriage Inspection for these inspections.

4.5.3 If a stable or carriage fails an inspection,

1. The carriage operator or stable owner may be cited for violation of any ordinance outlined in Article II, Division 7: Equine Drawn Vehicles of the City Code of Atlanta.
2. The deficiencies will be included on Form APD 758 Equine Company Inspection or Form APD 757 Carriage Inspection indicating the corrections needed and the length of time to correct all deficiencies. The standard length of time to correct deficiencies is seven (7) days but can be extended if approved by the Mounted Patrol Commander.
3. A Mounted Patrol supervisor will follow up on the deficiencies at the non-compliant carriage company's location for a re-inspection.

4.6 INJURIES

4.6.1 If a bite, or injury, results from the use of the Police Mount, a supervisor will be notified immediately, and the following will be required:

1. Medical will be requested immediately.
2. If a subject alleges an injury that is not visible, the location of the alleged injury will be photographed on a department issued smartphone (APD.SOP.6011), recorded on the Mounted Patrols BWC and documented in an incident report.
3. If the injury requires medical attention, the injured person will be transported to a medical facility, followed by an available officer in a vehicle.
4. Once the individual has been treated, photographs of the bite, or injury, will be taken by a Crime Scene Technician. The photographs will be labeled "Mounted Patrol Incident-Do Not Destroy," and booked into the Property Control Unit as evidence.
5. All reports of injuries, whether alleged, minor, or visible, will be documented in an incident report.

4.6.2 If a Police Mount is injured, the injury will be immediately reported to the unit supervisor.

4.6.3 Depending on the severity of the injury, the Police Mount will either be treated by the rider, the designated veterinarian or transported to a designated emergency medical facility for treatment. If the rider and the Police Mount are out of the city limits, the rider may use the nearest available veterinarian.

4.6.4 Any injury to a Police Mount that requires transport to an emergency medical facility will be documented in an Incident Report with a case number and notification made to the SOS commander. If a Police Mount becomes ill, the SOS commander will be notified.

4.6.5 If an accident occurs involving a vehicle and a Police Mount, an incident report must be completed regardless of the amount of damage.

4.6.6 The designated emergency medical treatment center or Police Mount veterinarian will render emergency treatment, if practical. The rider will notify the unit supervisor as soon as possible when emergency medical care for a Police Mount is required.

4.6.7 Except during an emergency, the Department designated veterinarian will render all routine medical attention for Police Mounts.

- 4.6.8 All Police Mounts will have an annual physical check-up, including necessary vaccines, by the designated veterinarian. Non-emergency medical care for the Police Mount will be coordinated through the unit supervisor.
- 4.6.9 The Mounted Patrol Officer will report any indication that a Police Mount is ill or injured to the unit supervisor as soon as possible.
- 4.6.10 All records of medical treatment will be maintained in the individual horse's file.

4.7 RETIREMENT

- 4.7.1 When a Police Mount is no longer able to complete its law enforcement duties:
 - 1. Police Mounts purchased by The Atlanta Police Foundation or the Atlanta Police Department will be evaluated by the police Training Coordinator to determine a dollar value. If the value is determined to be less than \$500, the City of Atlanta Procurement Department will be notified and can authorize an adoption to an approved applicant. The applicant must complete the horse adoption application which then must be approved by the Mounted Patrol lieutenant, the SOS commander and CSD deputy chief before the adoption can take place. If the value of the horse is greater than \$500 the Police Mount will be offered for sale and/or auctioned.
 - 2. Individuals/Agencies who donated the Horse will receive priority of taking back possession of the Police Mount. If the agency or individual declines, then the assigned rider will be offered possession. If the rider declines possession, the Police Mount will be offered to any current or former eligible Mounted Police officer or, given a value by the police training coordinator and either put through the adoption process as outlined above, or offered for sale at an auction.

5. DEFINITIONS

Mounted Patrol Training Coordinator: A person qualified to conduct basic and in-service training for mounted police teams.

Police Mount: A horse that has been selected, trained and tested under department's standards and has achieved the desired rating therein.

Mounted Patrol Team: A police mount and the rider (a sworn Atlanta police officer) who have satisfactorily completed all phases of the fundamentals of Police Mounted Patrol Unit Training.

Mounted Officer: A law enforcement officer who officially utilizes a police mount in the course of assigned duties and responsibilities.

6. CANCELLATIONS

APD.SOP.4080, "Mounted Patrol" dated August 13th, 2020

7. REFERENCES

APD.SOP.2101, "Specialized and Temporary Assignment"
 APD.SOP.6011 "Smartphone Procedures"
 CALEA 6th Edition Standard 41.1.4 (a, b, c, and d)
 Article II, Division 7: Equine Drawn Vehicle of the City Code of Atlanta