




# Clayton County Police Department

# PROCEDURES

Subject <b>MOTORCYCLE (MOTOR) UNIT</b>		Procedure # <b>D44</b>	
Authorizing Signature 	Effective <b>11-08-2023</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Rescinds	Total Pages <b>5</b>

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the duties and responsibilities of the Clayton County Police Department (CCPD) Motorcycle Unit (hereinafter referred to as Motor Unit) and its motor officer(s).

## II. POLICY

The Motor Unit will be used to complement and assist the Department's Traffic Unit in the enforcement of traffic laws and regulations, and to ensure the safety of motorists within Clayton County. Additionally, the Motor Unit shall be used to assist the Department with specialized calls for service, community functions, special events and details (e.g., parades, funeral processions and other special operations). The Department's motorcycles will be utilized as highly visible, community-oriented police vehicles. The CCPD motorcycle (hereinafter referred to as motorcycle) is an effective police vehicle in that it combines mobility with close citizen contact.

## III. UNIT COMMAND AUTHORITY

- A. The Special Operations Division Commander (Major) is in charge of operations for the Motor Unit.
- B. The Motor Unit is part of the Traffic Unit.
- C. Besides their normal shift assignment, motor officers might be required to work other hours, weekends, and holidays based on the needs of the Department.
- D. Motor officers shall report to the Traffic Unit Commander, or authorized designee, for their assignment. The Traffic Unit Commander, or authorized designee, shall assign and deploy motor officers whenever they are needed.
- E. It will be the responsibility of the Traffic Unit Commander, or authorized designee, to inform the E911/Communications Center anytime motor officers are conducting motorcycle patrols.

#### IV. ASSIGNMENT TO THE MOTOR UNIT

- A. Motor officers shall possess the following minimum qualifications; however, at the discretion of the Chief of Police, or authorized designee, some of these qualifications may be waived depending upon the immediate needs of the Department:
1. Must have successfully completed their probationary period;
  2. Must have a minimum of two (2) years of law enforcement experience and one (1) year of continuous uninterrupted service with the CCPD as a sworn officer;
  3. The officer must have no adverse disciplinary action resulting in a suspension of more than three (3) days in duration or in total, within the last twelve (12) months of service, prior to consideration for appointment;
  4. Possess a valid Georgia driver's license with a Class M endorsement for a minimum of three (3) years;
  5. Will make a two (2) year commitment to serve as a motor officer in the Traffic Unit;
  6. Will be physically able to perform the duties and responsibilities of a motor officer; and
  7. Must successfully complete a Department approved certification course that consists of intensive training in the proper operation of police motorcycles and mechanical skills.
- B. Recommendations for assignment as a motor officer will be made by the Special Operations Division Commander. Final selections will be made by the Chief of Police, or authorized designee.

#### V. MOTORCYCLES (MOTORS)

- A. With approval from the Chief of Police, take-home motorcycles will be assigned at the discretion of the Special Operations Division Commander, and may be based on availability, needs of the Department, and duty assignments considered a priority within the division.  
See also CCPD SOP B8: *Vehicle Assignment, Usage and Maintenance*.
- B. Only the motor officer assigned to a motorcycle, or other authorized personnel, will operate the motorcycle. Motor officers may utilize a patrol vehicle in the event there is snow and/or ice on the roadways or when the Traffic Unit Commander, or authorized designee, determines that the weather and/or roadway conditions are unsafe for the operation of motorcycles. Motor Unit officers will have alternate transportation available to either come to work or return home due to weather conditions.
- C. All motorcycles will remain uniform in appearance. **Unauthorized equipment and personal modifications are not permitted on motorcycles. This includes decals, stickers and tags.**
- D. The motorcycle and basic motor equipment will be provided to each officer assigned to the Motor Unit.
- E. Motorcycles will:
1. Be marked with the Department's name, logo and vehicle number;
  2. Be assigned to one (1) officer exclusively during their assignment to the unit; and
  3. Be equipped with emergency lights, siren and first aid kit.

## **VI. MOTOR UNIT UNIFORM EQUIPMENT AND APPEARANCE**

- A. All equipment for officers of the Motor Unit, including uniforms, shall be authorized by the Special Operations Division Commander.
- B. The Department will furnish all of the following equipment and uniforms:
  - 1. Motor boots;
  - 2. Riding pants;
  - 3. Riding jacket; and
  - 4. Approved motorcycle helmet.
- C. Each motor officer will present a neat, professional appearance to the public and will strive to exceed the minimum grooming and uniform guidelines of the Department.
- D. When operating a motorcycle, officers assigned to the Motor Unit shall wear the proper safety equipment and uniform.
- E. Motor officers may request items for purchase through the Special Operations Division Commander, or authorized designee. When approved, purchases will be handled through the Logistics & Operations Commander, or authorized designee.
- F. Each Motor Unit officer will maintain a Class A uniform.

## **VII. MOTOR UNIT DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. The primary function of the Motor Unit is high visibility traffic enforcement.
- B. Motor officers shall be highly knowledgeable of traffic law and traffic procedures to effectively and efficiently enforce state and county traffic statutes.
- C. Motor officers shall focus traffic enforcement efforts in areas that have a high rate of accidents.
- D. Motor officers may participate in special or directed patrol functions.
- E. Motor officers may participate in special events such as parades, festivals and funeral escorts.
- F. Motor officers shall direct traffic as necessary.
- G. The Motor Unit shall assist the Department when needed by providing additional officers when necessary, at the discretion of the Traffic Unit Commander, Special Operations Division Commander, Deputy Chief, Assistant Chief, Chief of Police, or authorized designee.

## **VIII. MOTOR UNIT OPERATION PROCEDURES**

- A. Motor officers will operate their motorcycles in accordance with the *Official Code of Georgia Annotated* (OCGA).
- B. The Motor Unit will operate primarily during daylight hours to enhance visibility and the safety of others.
- C. The Motor Unit will not conduct night-time traffic enforcement unless specifically approved by the Special Operations Division Commander, Deputy Chief, Assistant Chief, Chief of Police, or authorized designee. Other special assignments that require night-time riding will be carefully evaluated on a case by case basis and approved by the Special Operations Division Commander, Deputy Chief, Assistant Chief, Chief of Police, or authorized designee.

- D. The Motor Unit will not operate during periods of ice and/or snow. Other weather conditions may impact whether the Motor Unit is allowed to operate. This occurs when, in the opinion of the Traffic Unit Commander, or authorized designee, unfavorable road conditions make the operation of a motorcycle unsafe, such as rain, fog, or other atmospheric conditions which restrict visibility. In the event that a motor officer feels that conditions are unsafe for operation, they will stop and notify a supervisor immediately. This includes to and from home or work.
- E. During operating hours, motor officers will primarily work in teams of two (2) and will target locations or areas together when performing traffic enforcement operations.
- F. Traffic enforcement operations will be conducted anywhere within the unincorporated areas of the County to include the interstates; however, observed violations within city limits can be enforced after contacting the appropriate city agency.
- G. Pursuit
  - See also CCPD SOP D3: *Motor Vehicle Pursuits*.
  - 1. If a motor officer initiates a pursuit, they may continue that pursuit until a four-wheeled marked patrol vehicle joins the pursuit, at which time the motor officer shall discontinue the pursuit.
  - 2. After abandoning the pursuit and deactivating emergency equipment, the motor officer should proceed to the termination point while obeying all traffic laws, should there be an apprehension or need for further assistance.
  - 3. Motor units are not authorized to join a pursuit as Secondary Pursuit Units without the approval of the Pursuit Supervisor.
- H. Motor officers will request a patrol officer driving a marked patrol vehicle to respond to the incident scene to provide detainee transportation for detainees and/or courtesy runs.
- I. Motor officers may respond to calls, but may turn the call over to a patrol officer as circumstances dictate.
- J. Any motor officer involved in a motor vehicle accident while operating a motorcycle, regardless of duty status, or amount of damage, must be reported to an on-duty supervisor immediately, or as soon as practicable, prior to leaving the scene of the accident, unless exigent circumstances exist that would make reporting unreasonable.
  - See also CCPD SOP B22: *Department Vehicle Accidents & Investigations*.
- K. Motor officers will comply with all departmental regulations, rules and directives when responding to and handling calls for service.

## **IX. MOTORCYCLE MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION**

- A. Each motor officer is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance schedule required for their assigned motorcycle.
- B. The motorcycle will be serviced and repaired at an approved dealer or service facility pre-determined by the Department. Upon completion of the service, all service related paperwork will be given to the Clayton County Fleet Maintenance Department (County Shop).
- C. When a motor officer's assigned motorcycle is out of service, the motor officer may continue traffic enforcement duties using an available Traffic Unit vehicle.

- D. Motor officers will inspect and perform checks for fluid levels, tire pressure, lights, siren, and other accessory equipment prior to operating the motorcycle.
- E. The Traffic Unit Commander, or authorized designee, will perform a motorcycle inspection, prior to the assigned motor officer operating the motorcycle. Inspections of motorcycles and equipment shall occur in accordance with CCPD SOP B12: *Inspections*.
- F. Motor officers may store their assigned motorcycles at their residence in a secure, enclosed and covered facility. When an enclosed and covered facility is not available, motorcycles will be stored at a designated departmental facility.
- G. Motor officers, on-duty or off-duty, shall immediately notify their supervisor, when a motorcycle and/or equipment for such motorcycle sustains damage not incurred in an auto accident.

## **X. TRAINING**

- A. Training is an integral part of the Motor Unit that promotes the safety and enhances the capabilities of the motor officers as well as protects the assets of the Department and limits liability.
- B. In addition to each motor officer having a Georgia driver's license with a Class M endorsement, each motor officer shall attend and successfully complete a Department approved Police Motorcycle Techniques Course consisting of at least forty (40) hours or more of training to secure a position on the Motor Unit.
- C. If an officer assigned to the Motor Unit has already completed a Police Motorcycle Techniques Course, but has not actively ridden a police motorcycle within six (6) months of assignment, the officer will attend and successfully complete an eight (8) hour Department approved re-certification course.
- D. In order to maintain motorcycle training integrity and to ensure motor officer safety, ongoing training will be conducted for the Motor Unit. Motor officers are often called upon to perform as a unit. Therefore, motor officers, as a unit, will receive a minimum of eight (8) hours of motor training quarterly as a means of increasing and maintaining operational skills. The training shall be conducted by a Georgia Peace Officer Standards & Training Council (GPOSTC) certified instructor.
- E. All motor officers are required to attend and pass an annual re-certification test that includes both motorcycle riding skills and knowledge. A motor officer's failure to meet the minimal re-certification test standards may result in a temporary reassignment and/or permanent removal from the Motor Unit.

## **XI. CANCELLATION**

This procedure amends and supersedes the following standard operating procedure: D44: *Motorcycle (Motor) Unit*, dated February 10, 2020.