



CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

POLICE MOTORCYCLE UNIT

GENERAL ORDER: 04.12

CREATED: April 6, 2015

ISSUE DATE: August 24, 2021

ACTION: Amends general order dated September 12, 2017.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 24, 2021

04.12.0 **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this general order is to establish guidelines for the use of police motorcycles operated by the Concord Police Department.

04.12.1 **POLICY**

It shall be the policy of the Concord Police Department to utilize police motorcycles to enforce North Carolina General Statutes and the City of Concord Code of Ordinances as well as for investigating traffic crashes, particularly personal injury and serious bodily injury crashes, and for special events.

04.12.2 **OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES**

- A. Motorcycle officers shall be responsible for the enforcement of North Carolina traffic laws and the investigation of personal injury, serious injury, or fatal motor vehicle crashes within the City of Concord.
- B. The department may assign motorcycle officers to specific traffic enforcement in areas with high incidents of traffic collisions, and in areas that receive citizen complaints due to a high number of traffic violations.
- C. A motorcycle officer's uniform shall be in accordance with G.O. 04.06 Personal Appearance Standards and Equipment.
- D. The department may accept requests for motorcycle escorts for special events such as parades, dignitary escorts, vehicle escorts, or any situation when the use of the motorcycle would promote public safety. The Patrol Bureau commander is responsible for reviewing all requests for escorts. All requests must be approved before the escort occurs.
- E. Officers should not operate police motorcycles in severe storm conditions or weather conditions that are unsafe (i.e., icy conditions, extreme heat or cold, snow).
- F. Only officers approved by the Chief of Police may operate a police motorcycle. Officers are prohibited from riding passengers on a police motorcycle.
- G. A police motorcycle with Concord Police Department markings, equipped with operable blue lights and siren, may initiate a pursuit by the guidelines outlined in general order 08.01. The police motorcycle shall be replaced with a marked police vehicle as soon as practicable. Upon becoming involved in the pursuit, the marked police vehicle shall assume as the primary pursuit unit, while the police motorcycle shall immediately assume the role of the secondary pursuing unit.

- H. At no time during the operation of the motorcycle shall the officer exceed the high-speed weight limitation of the saddlebags as specified in the motorcycle operations manual.
- I. The closest available patrol officer in a patrol vehicle shall transport an arrest made by a motorcycle officer. Once the suspect has been transported and properly secured, the assisting unit may return to patrol duty.
- J. Officers assigned to motorcycle duties may drive the motorcycle to a secondary employment assignment unless the employer is paying for the presence of an officer and a marked patrol police vehicle. In such cases, the motorcycle officer shall make arrangements to have a marked vehicle or avoid signing up for secondary employment.

04.12.3 **MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE**

- A. Care and maintenance of the motorcycles shall be by departmental policies regarding vehicle care and maintenance and take home vehicles.
- B. Officers shall meet criteria outlined in General Order 04.05 Department Vehicle Operation to drive vehicle to and from their residence and their duty assignment. Approval of this location shall be obtained by completion of form VEH-1.
- C. The police motorcycle shall be stored in an enclosed facility at the assigned officer's primary residence when not in use.
- D. Motorcycle officers are required to complete a pre-operational inspection of their assigned motorcycle and equipment at the beginning of each shift and before operation of the unit.
- E. Only certified motorcycle mechanics may perform repairs or scheduled maintenance to factory specifications.
- F. No modifications shall be made to the police motorcycle without prior authorization from the chief of police or designee. Only authorized equipment shall be allowed on the police motorcycle.

04.12.4 **SELECTION AND TRAINING**

- A. Applicants for the motorcycle officer position must possess a current State of North Carolina motorcycle operator's endorsement at the time of the selection process.
- B. A supervisory panel may conduct interviews with candidates during the selection process.
- C. Officers applying for a motorcycle officer position shall be tested by practical application and shall complete the following tasks during the screening process:
 - 1. The applicant shall be physically capable of sitting on the motorcycle with both feet completely (heel and ball of foot) on the ground.

2. The applicant shall be physically capable of lifting the fallen motorcycle to an upright position without assistance.
 3. The applicant shall be physically capable of pushing the motorcycle both forward and backward a minimum of 150 feet.
 4. The applicant shall be able to pass a motorcycle riding skills assessment.
- D. If selected, all motorcycle officers shall complete an approved Basic Motor Officer Certification course within a specified period after being selected as a motorcycle officer. The officer shall also agree to serve as a motorcycle officer, at the discretion of the Chief of Police, for a minimum period of two years.
- E. Motorcycle officers shall train as a unit at least one calendar day per quarter on basic skills and are required to document all training on form PM-1 and submit this form to the Support Services Division, Training and Recruiting Unit for record keeping purposes.



GARY J. GACEK
CHIEF OF POLICE