



# CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

### MOUNTED PATROL UNIT

**GENERAL ORDER:** 10.04

**CREATED:** November 6, 2018

**ISSUE DATE:** October 1, 2022

**ACTION:** Re-numbers general order dated November 12, 2018

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2022

#### **10.04.0**     **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this general order is to establish guidelines on the use and deployment of the department's Mounted Patrol Unit.

#### **10.04.1**     **POLICY**

It shall be the policy of the Concord Police Department to utilize a Mounted Patrol Unit to enhance the department's visibility and community relations efforts; and to provide a supplemental response capability.

#### **10.04.2**     **ORGANIZATION**

- A. The Mounted Patrol Unit shall be a component of the Operations Bureau and shall be utilized for special events to include, but not limited to parades, concerts, and festivals.
- B. Authorization for use of the Mounted Patrol Unit shall be made by the Chief of Police or designee.

#### **10.04.3**     **CONDITIONS OF USE**

- A. Only trained and certified coworkers are authorized to ride their assigned horse or operate a department owned vehicle when transporting horses.
- B. Only one person shall be allowed on a Mounted Patrol Unit horse unless required for training exercises or during exigent circumstances.
- C. The Mounted Patrol Unit may be utilized:
  - 1. To provide heightened visibility for the detection and deterrence of criminal activity in specifically assigned areas.
  - 2. Community events (e.g. parades, festivals) to promote public relations and police visibility.
- D. The Mounted Patrol Unit should not be utilized:
  - 1. When ambient or heat index temperatures exceed 95 degrees Fahrenheit;
  - 2. When ambient or wind chill temperatures are below 25 degrees Fahrenheit;

3. During extreme weather conditions such as steady or heavy rain, heavy winds, sleet, snow or ice;
  4. When the horse is ill or injured;
  5. On any type of terrain that may cause injury to the horse or coworker.
- E. The Mounted Patrol Unit shall not be used to pursue vehicles or persons; or for crowd control purposes.
  - F. During hours of darkness, Mounted Patrol Unit coworkers shall wear department approved reflective vests and/or reflective clothing.
  - G. Except during exigent circumstances horses shall not be left unattended unless in a stall or horse trailer.
  - H. Coworkers shall, as soon as practicable, notify the Operations Bureau commander in the event their horse bites or causes injury to any person or damage to property while serving in an official police department capacity.

#### **10.04.4    TRAINING**

- A. Coworkers assigned to the Mounted Patrol Unit shall be trained and certified by the Carolinas Mounted Patrol Association. Coworkers shall be trained to such proficiency to have the ability to handle their horse under normal circumstances.
- B. Coworkers shall be trained in all principles of riding and caring for the horse such as:
  1. Basic stable duty;
  2. Horse behavior;
  3. Horse anatomy;
  4. Riding skills;
  5. Care and use of assigned equipment.
- C. Coworkers shall regularly train with their assigned horse to ensure a high standard of proficiency.
- D. All training records related to the Mounted Patrol Unit shall be maintained in each coworker's personnel file within the Office of the Chief of Police in accordance with the N.C. Municipal Records Retention and Disposition Schedule.

**10.04.5      CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

- A. Prior to being utilized in an official role, the horse owner shall furnish the Chief of Police with medical clearance from a qualified or licensed veterinarian that affirms the horse's ability to serve in the capacity required by this general order. Such clearance shall be obtained at the expense of the horse owner.
  
- B. Coworkers assigned to the Mounted Patrol Unit shall have the primary responsibility for the care and maintenance of their assigned horse and department issued equipment.
  - 1. Horses shall be kept clean and well groomed.
  - 2. Horses shall be fed diets approved by a qualified or licensed veterinarian.
  - 3. Horses shall be kept hydrated.
  - 4. Checking for loose shoes and the application of hoof dressings.
  - 5. If a horse is injured at any time, the assigned coworker shall:
    - a. Notify the Operations Bureau commander;
    - b. Provide immediate care if possible;
    - c. Seek follow up care from a qualified or licensed veterinarian.



GARY J. GACEK  
CHIEF OF POLICE