	Matthews Police Department		
	General Order: POLICE MOTORCYCLE POLICY	Section 04: Equipment & Personal Appearance	Order #: 04-13
	Review: Annually in December by the Patrol Division Commander	Issue Date: 11/16/2018	

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this General Order is to establish written guidelines for the use of the police motorcycles operated by Matthews Police Department Patrol Division.

II. CROSS-REF:

G.O. 04.01 Equipment
G.O. 04.03 Police Vehicle Accidents
G.O. 04.04 Police Vehicle Care
G.O. 08.01 Pursuit Policy
CALEA STANDARDS: 41.2.1; 41.2.2; 41.3.2; 46.2.7

III. DISCUSSION:

Motorcycle patrol is an alternative to foot patrol, bicycles and patrol in police cars. The benefits of motorcycle patrol include: maneuverability in heavily congested areas to respond to calls for service and to alleviate traffic congestion; access to pathways of parks and other areas too narrow for cars; escort of funerals and parades, where maneuverability around traffic is required; traffic enforcement efforts in areas where the parking of a car would not be feasible; use as a public relations tool during parades and other special events; as well as promotion of community efforts increasing visibility and interaction between citizens and officers while on patrol.

IV. POLICY:


It is the policy of the Matthews Police Department to utilize motorcycle officers to supplement other methods of patrol. Motorcycle patrol officers will be deployed to increase police visibility, maneuverability, and community interaction through routine and directed patrol, directed enforcement, and during special operations and special events. The Patrol Division will administer the motorcycle patrol program.

V. DEFINITIONS:

INCLEMENT WEATHER: Heavy rain, thunderstorms, high winds, snow, fog, ice, or temperatures below forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit.

VI. Operational Guidelines:

1. Motorcycle officers will adhere to all traffic enforcement techniques and policies as outlined in MPD General Orders and Standard Operating Procedures.
2. Only officers who possess a North Carolina Class "C" or higher driver's license with a "Motorcycle Endorsement" (M) and have successfully completed an approved 80-hour Police Motor Officer Certification course will be authorized to operate police motorcycles for traffic-related duties.
3. The department may utilize motorcycle officers for 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.
4. The police motorcycle may also be used for assisting and supporting patrol, including but not limited to:
 - a. Community policing efforts by providing high visibility patrol and presence in problem areas;
 - b. Support unit for additional manpower when in an on-duty status;
 - c. Search operations;
 - d. Crime scene and perimeter security;
 - e. Patrolling town parks;

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- f. Patrolling bike paths and greenways;
 - g. Special events, to include, but not limited to: DWI checkpoints and saturation patrols;
 - h. Responding to calls for service.
- 5. All requests for escorts will be approved by the patrol captain or his designee before being conducted. The use of motorcycles for escorts may be requested for situations involving the following, but not limited to:
 - a. Oversized or hazardous loads traveling upon the roadways within the town limits of Matthews.
 - b. Persons or groups traveling in multi-vehicle caravans, i.e.; dignitary support.
 - c. Any special events, such as sporting events, parades, foot or bike races, etc. that may affect traffic patterns.
 - d. Other instances when the use of the motorcycle would promote public safety as determined by the unit supervisor.
- 6. The closest available officer in a patrol vehicle will transport an arrest made by a motorcycle officer.
- 7. Officers are prohibited from riding passengers on a police motorcycle.
- 8. Motorcycle operators may drive the motorcycle to a secondary employment assignment unless the employer has requested the presence of an officer and a marked patrol car.
- 9. Any motorcycles that are assigned to an officer will not be utilized for personal use.
- 10. The motorcycle officer will not operate motorcycles in severe storm conditions or inclement weather conditions that are unsafe as determined by the operator or unit supervisor.
- 11. Motorcycle patrol officers will adhere to the following procedures:
 - a. Officers will not let the motorcycle idle for an extended period of time when the temperature is above eighty (80) degrees Fahrenheit;
 - b. Officers will lock the ignition and saddlebags when the motorcycle will be out of their sight;
 - c. Officers will conduct regular safety checks of the motorcycle and it's equipment to include maintaining the recommended air pressure in the tires;
 - d. Motorcycles can only be fueled by gasoline of 93 octane or greater.

VII. TRAINING:

- 1. All motorcycle officers must complete an approved 80 - hour Basic Motor Officer Certification course, such as but not limited to, the one provided by the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety, or similar, and which the Commander of the Patrol Division approves.
- 2. All training for motorcycle patrol officers will be coordinated between the Patrol Division and the Training Unit.
- 3. Motorcycle officers will train as a unit at least once per month on basic skills and are required to document all training on an approved training form and submit this form to the Training Unit for record keeping purposes.

VIII. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT:

- 1. Motorcycle patrol officers are issued equipment and uniform accessories specifically designed for police motorcycle application. The issued motorcycle uniform and accessories include, but not limited to:
 - a. Motorcycle helmet with attached boom microphone;
 - b. Protective eyewear (both sun and clear lenses);
 - c. Warm weather gloves;
 - d. Cold weather gloves;
 - e. Police motorcycle boots;
 - f. Police motorcycle breeches (Navy blue);
 - g. Warm and cold weather protective jacket.
 - h. Rain jacket and nomex rain pants

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2. The Quartermaster will coordinate the ordering of all approved departmental motorcycle equipment. All relevant equipment will be approved by the Chief of Police or his designee and will meet the standards set by the Department of Transportation.
3. Motorcycle patrol officers are required to wear, at all times while operating the motorcycle, all appropriate safety equipment that has been issued to them. Officers may wear their own prescription eyeglasses in lieu of the issued eyewear, as long as the lenses are shatterproof.
4. Motorcycle patrol officers will wear the patrol uniform of the day, supplemented by the specialized motorcycle uniform accessories and equipment issued to them and appropriate for the current riding conditions.
5. All motorcycle officers will carry the following equipment in their saddlebags, but not limited to:
 - a. CPR Mask, rubber gloves and bandages;
 - b. Citations Books (Traffic Citation, Warning and Town Ordinances violation books);
 - c. Reflective Traffic Vest;
 - d. Notepad and pen

IX. INSPECTION, MAINTENANCE, AND STORAGE:

1. Motorcycle patrol officers will, prior to riding the motorcycle, complete a pre-operational inspection of the motorcycle. The motorcycle will be visually inspected prior to and at the end of each usage. It is the responsibility of each motorcycle patrol officer to ensure all motorcycle equipment functions properly prior to riding.
2. Any inspection discrepancies or potential issues with the motorcycle will be noted and reported to the unit supervisor. If the problem will jeopardize the safety of the operator or potentially damage the motorcycle, the motorcycle is not to be used until repairs are completed.
3. Any damage to the motorcycle or equipment will be reported in detail to the patrol captain or his designee. In the case of a motor vehicle collision, the procedures in "G.O. 04-03 Police Vehicle Accidents" will be followed.
4. The Patrol Division Commander, or his designee, will inspect the Motorcycles on a monthly basis to ensure they are properly maintained and that all required equipment is present.
5. Maintenance for the motorcycles will be completed by a certified motorcycle service mechanic, who will perform repairs or scheduled maintenance to factory specifications. All maintenance and repair of motorcycles must first be approved by the patrol captain or his designee.
6. Care and maintenance of the motorcycles shall be by departmental policies regarding vehicle care and maintenance and will be overseen by the patrol captain or his designee.
7. No modifications will be made to the police motorcycle without prior authorization from the chief of police or his designee. Only authorized equipment shall be allowed on the police motorcycle.
8. Police motorcycles will routinely be stored in the sallyport located at the police department. However, the Patrol Division Commander or his designee may authorize storage at the operator's residence as operational needs dictate, but it must be properly stored in an enclosed facility at that location.

X. DEPLOYMENT:

1. The Patrol Commander or assigned supervisor may deploy approved, active motorcycle patrol officers at their discretion, as manpower limits and weather conditions permit. All motorcycle patrol officers will report for duty in the standard uniform of the day unless otherwise instructed. They are to have all equipment and uniform accessories available for immediate use. Supervisors may advise officers in advance to report for duty in the

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motorcycle patrol uniform. Officers will have their standard uniform of the day available in case it becomes necessary for them to be deployed in another capacity.

2. Supervisors may deploy motorcycle patrol officers for routine or directed patrol, directed enforcement efforts, or for any special operations or special events as needed.
3. The unit supervisor will be responsible for the collection of statistical data concerning the deployment of motorcycle patrol officers.

XI. OTHER:

1. Motorcycle patrol officers will follow the direction of their supervisor when assigned to routine or directed patrol, directed enforcement, special operations, or special events.
2. Motorcycle patrol officers will use the radio identifier "M" (motor) as their call sign (i.e. Motor 330). This distinctive radio identifier will be used when engaged in motorcycle patrol, so communications dispatchers and other personnel are aware of their assignment and will know their limitations.