



Shelburne Police Department

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Approved: *Joshua J. Flore*

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POLICY:

It is the policy of the Shelburne Police Department to provide the most efficient and effective response to the community's needs with the establishment, operation and deployment of a police motorcycle unit. The motorcycle officers will respond to routine and emergency calls and enforce parking and traffic violations. The motorcycle unit will provide a highly visible crime deterrent, increase response capabilities, and participate in interdepartmental as well as community events.

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I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this general order is to establish organized, uniform operating procedures for the police motorcycle unit.

II. Personnel:

- A.** No one is authorized to operate a department motorcycle without the approval of the Chief of Police.
- B.** In order to operate the department motorcycle, officers must possess a valid Operator's License with a motorcycle endorsement. Officers must successfully complete a police motorcycle course approved by the Chief of Police within 6 months of being assigned to operate the motorcycle. At the discretion of the Chief of Police, Motor officers may operate the motorcycle prior to completing the motor officer course. Motor officers may become decertified for police motorcycle operation for due cause including violation of provisions of this policy at the discretion of the Chief of Police.

III. Duties and Responsibilities:

- A.** The use of a patrol motorcycle is recognized as an effective law enforcement alternative to the traditional patrol car. Motor officers can appear more accessible and approachable to the public, there-by enhancing community relations.
- B.** Motorcycles can access areas inaccessible to automobiles and therefore increase police presence and response capabilities. During high traffic volumes, motorcycles can reach destinations in a faster and more effective manner than a patrol car.
- C.** The department will maintain motorcycles to enhance its highway safety presence and community relations. Motorcycles can be used for directed patrol in areas where numerous citizen complaints have been received regarding violations of traffic laws or to conduct traffic surveys.
- D.** Duty assignments may include parades, races, escorts; back up to other units; traffic enforcement; community relation programs; and general patrol.
- E.** Fitness: Motor officers working a motorcycle patrol shall maintain sufficient physical condition to complete a regular shift of patrol duties on a motorcycle, so as to prevent the likelihood of injury. Motor Officers should be mindful to take in sufficient fluids before during and after riding the police motorcycle, especially in hot weather.

IV. Operational Schedule:

- A.** The motorcycle unit will begin operations in the spring and terminate operations in the fall. The dates of operation will be determined by the Chief of Police or a designated supervisor.

- B. Motorcycles shall not be operated when weather or road conditions would impair its safe operation, i.e. high winds, rain, sleet, snow, extreme heat or cold.

V. Arrest:

- A. If a motor officer should make a physical custody arrest, the nearest available patrol car will be dispatched to handle the transport. The motor officer will respond to the station to complete the processing of the individual in custody. If custody is continued, the motor officer will utilize an available patrol car to transport the prisoner to the appropriate detention facility.

VI. Pursuits:

- A. For motor officer safety concerns, motorcycles shall not be used in motor vehicle pursuit operations without extreme extenuating circumstances.
 - 1. Facts and circumstances that lead the motor officer to believe that the apprehension of the person(s) in the vehicle(s) attempting to elude them is necessary to prevent possible imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to themselves, other officers, or any other person.
- B. Operating a motorcycle in pursuit is extremely dangerous. Extreme caution shall be exercised. A motor officer who is the primary unit in a pursuit must relinquish primary unit status immediately upon the participation of any police cruiser. Motorcycles may be used as a secondary unit only if there is no other unit available and must relinquish secondary status immediately upon the participation of a secondary marked or unmarked unit.

VII. Uniforms:

- A. Motor officers shall wear the department approved and issued motor officer uniform when operating the department motorcycle. Motor officers shall wear a dress uniform for special details, to include but not limited to, parades, funerals, marathons, and other special events.
- B. A D.O.T approved helmet will be issued by the department and must always be worn, along with the safety strap, while operating a motorcycle.
- C. The uniform issued by the department and approved by the Chief of Police will include motorcycle button down or polo shirt, motorcycle breeches, motorcycle boots, inner vest and a patrol nylon spring jacket. Motor officer uniforms will only be worn on days of motorcycle operation.
- D. Duty gear will consist of an inner and outer web belt, holster, hand cuff case, baton case, OC case and a CEW holster.
- E. Motor officers who wish to do so may purchase on their own and wear: Black leather gloves, protective eye wear, other equipment that must receive prior approval from the Chief of Police.

- F. Motor officers who have completed a department approved police motorcycle training course are permitted to affix the department motorcycle unit patch/pin to their uniform in accordance with department uniform policy.

VIII. Motorcycle Equipment

- A. Police motorcycles will be equipped with the following (in addition to OEM equipment):

1. Reflective markings clearly indicating it is a POLICE motorcycle.
2. Front, rear, and side facing LED blue flashing lights.
3. Siren.
4. First aid kit.
5. Flares or reflective triangle.
6. Traffic Vest
7. Approved speed detection device.

IX. Motorcycle Maintenance

- A. Any motor officer operating a motorcycle shall be responsible for inspecting the motorcycle at the beginning and end of each shift. Normal daily maintenance checks recommended by the manufacturer such as fuel levels and tire pressure, should be performed. Additionally, all police equipment, lights, siren radio, etc. should be checked daily.
- B. It is the responsibility of the motor officer assigned to a motorcycle to notify the Chief of Police by email and supervisor of any maintenance problems with the motorcycle. The motorcycle will be brought to the appropriate certified technician for any required maintenance. The motorcycle will be taken out of service immediately for any maintenance issue that affects the operation of the motorcycle or safety of the motor officer.
- C. Under no circumstances shall the motorcycle or equipment be modified without the approval from the Chief of Police.
 - D. The motor officers are responsible for covering the motorcycle when it is not in use.
 - E. No non-approved ornamentation shall be affixed to the motorcycle.