

**NEW CANAAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**SUBJECT: MOTORCYCLES**

**GENERAL ORDER NUMBER: 08-01-114**

**FILE:**

**TRAFFIC OPERATIONS**

**I. PURPOSE/POLICY**

The purpose of this general order is to establish the administrative, operational and support processes necessary to ensure that the New Canaan Police Department utilizes motorcycles appropriately and effectively.

**II. RESPONSIBILITY**

It is the responsibility of all departmental personnel to adhere to this general order. It is the additional responsibility of the Commanders of the Operations Division and Staff Services Division to ensure compliance with this general order.

**III. PROCEDURES (ORGANIZATION)**

**A** The Patrol Section, a component of the Operations Division, shall be responsible for the implementation of the department's traffic enforcement efforts and services by way of the use of a motorcycle.

1. The Commanders of the Operations Division and Staff Services Division shall be responsible for planning, analyzing, monitoring and coordinating the motorcycle program.

**IV. PROCEDURES (OPERATIONS)**

**A** The department shall use motorcycles for patrolling in high density traffic areas, traffic enforcement, funeral escorts, charity escorts, dignitary escorts, parades, school functions, civic functions and other events determined appropriate by the Chief of Police or his designee.

1. The Motorcycle Enforcement Officer (MEO) is tasked with the primary function of traffic enforcement. Special duties assigned to the MEO such as parades, funerals, and other events may be approved by the Operations and Staff Services Captains. Only officers who have successfully completed a certified Police Motorcycle course approved by the Captain of Staff Services will be assigned as a MEO.
2. Motorcycles shall not be used for patrol when road, weather and lighting conditions are such that their use would pose a substantial likelihood of injury to the officer and damage to the motorcycle. The MEO shall decide whether or not it is safe to use the motorcycle during adverse weather conditions.
3. Absent unusual circumstances, the MEO should not be used as a supplement for routine calls of service.
4. The MEO will not be used as a primary unit for medical calls, as the motorcycle is not capable of carrying adequate medical equipment.

5. During adverse weather conditions the MEO will be assigned a patrol car to perform traffic enforcement or other duties.
6. No passengers will be transported on the motorcycle, except in the case of an unavoidable emergency.
7. No one shall operate the motorcycle who is not designated a MEO or a MEO in training.
8. The off-duty use of department motorcycles is prohibited unless approved in writing by the Commanders of the Operations and Staff Services Divisions.
9. The Commanders of the Operations and Staff Services Divisions may establish additional guidelines concerning work schedules and hours and conditions of motorcycle operation.

**V. PROCEDURES**

- A. The MEO will patrol in a manner that will benefit the department and the Town of New Canaan.
- B. The MEO will patrol in a safe and professional manner at all times.
- C. The MEO's primary function is to handle traffic complaints & violations.
- D. All traffic complaints that should be handled by the MEO shall be entered in Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and assigned to the MEO for follow-up.
- E. MEOs will contact the complainant and notify the complainant of the traffic investigation.
- F. The MEO will record follow-up actions, in response to traffic complaints, in CAD comments and/or by way of an incident report.
- G. The MEO shall provide the Chief of Police with a summary of the MEO's activity for the preceding month. This activity will be reviewed by the police commission.

**VI. MOTORCYCLE STORAGE, MAINTENANCE & INSPECTIONS**

**A. Storage of motorcycles**

1. Each motorcycle will be kept secure and under cover.

**B. Maintenance of motorcycles**

1. Maintenance for each motorcycle is the responsibility of the officer it is assigned to.
  - a. Maintenance shall conform to manufacturer's guidelines.
  - b. No motorcycle will be operated when it is known to be defective.
  - c. Maintenance and daily equipment checks will conform to training standards.
  - d. MEOs will be responsible for the upkeep, maintenance scheduling, inspection, cleanliness, and security of the motorcycle. The MEO will be responsible for securing the motorcycle when the unit is parked, and shall make every effort to keep the unit within sight.
  - e. While in public the motorcycle should not be left unattended for extended periods of time.

- f. Mechanical service on the motorcycle will be performed by a certified Harley Davidson mechanic.
- g. The motorcycle and equipment will be secured in a secure, assigned area of police headquarters.

**A. Inspection of motorcycles**

1. Department motorcycles shall be inspected by the MEO on a daily basis and by the Captain of Staff Services semi-annually in April and October.

**VII. MOTORCYCLE CERTIFICATION TRAINING**

**A. Motorcycle certification training is mandatory**

1. No officer shall operate a department motorcycle without successfully completing a basic police motorcycle course approved by the department. The Connecticut State Police Course and the Fairfield Police Department Course are two approved courses.
2. Additional training will be scheduled as required.
3. MEOs must have a valid motorcycle license.

**VIII. MOTORCYCLE UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

**A. Issued equipment must be worn**

1. MEOs will wear issued equipment whenever assigned to motorcycle patrol.
  - a. Equipment will include protective vests, eye wear, helmets, gloves, and footwear.

1) **ISSUED EQUIPMENT:** *Personnel*

- ❖ Helmet
- ❖ Duty gear and associated equipment
- ❖ Ballistic Vest
- ❖ Leather jacket
- ❖ Leather riding boots
- ❖ Uniform breeches
- ❖ Rain suit
- ❖ Leather gloves
- ❖ Clear night glasses
- ❖ Sunglasses
- ❖ Baseball hat

2) **ISSUED EQUIPMENT:** *Motorcycle*

- ❖ Harley Davidson FLHTP motorcycle
- ❖ SetCom communication kits
- ❖ Radar unit

**B. Use of authorized equipment only**

1. Only authorized equipment will be carried on or attached to the motorcycle and no modifications will be made without written authorization from the Captain of Staff Services.

### C. Uniform

1. The MEO will be assigned a specific uniform tailored for motorcycle use. The uniform will consist of a motorcycle helmet, glasses, boots, gloves, and breech pants. A specific "Motor Officer" winged patch will be worn on the left sleeve of the MEO's uniform below the department patch.
2. The MEO will wear a high visibility vest when the officer is not on the motorcycle and is performing traffic direction or during environmental conditions that limit the officer's visibility to traffic.
3. MEOs will wear their assigned motorcycle uniform at all times while on the motorcycle.
4. The MEO may wear a standard uniform when performing traffic duties in a car.
5. No pens or other sharp object will be carried in the breast pocket of the officer's uniform while on motorcycle patrol, to prevent possible injury.
6. The MEO is strongly encouraged to wear the bullet resistant vest; however, due to the high levels of heat that the motorcycle can produce, the bullet resistant vest can be worn at the MEO's discretion. However, the vest shall be carried on the motorcycle when it is not being worn.

## IX. MOTORCYCLE PURSUITS

### A. Operators shall conform to department pursuit guidelines

1. Motorcycles may be used for pursuit in **exigent circumstances only**, including but not limited to; situations where the MEO reasonably believes deadly force has been used by any vehicle occupant, or the pursuit is necessary to protect a life other than the motorcycle operator.
  - a. No pursuit will take place during inclement weather or when road surface conditions are unsafe.
  - b. Whenever a supervisor cannot be immediately contacted for a decision to terminate or continue the pursuit, the pursuit shall be terminated by the MEO.
  - c. When the MEO is joined by a department or another police agency's four-wheeled vehicle, the MEO will drop back and assume the duties of a back-up or secondary pursuit vehicle.
  - d. If a second four-wheeled unit joins the pursuit, the motorcycle will disengage from the pursuit.
  - e. Whenever a pursuit is initiated the MEO must weigh personal safety considerations more heavily against the reasons, which exist for continuing to pursue. The MEO must consider:
  - f. A motorcycle offers less protection against crash injuries or aggressive actions by a fleeing suspect.
  - g. Increasing the distance between a suspect vehicle to lower the speed and intensity of pursuit until a patrol vehicle can take over the pursuit.
  - h. Refer to General Order No. 89-2-55, Pursuit Policy for further guidance and information regarding pursuits.

**X. DISTRIBUTION**

This general order will be reproduced in electronic and traditional media. All sworn personnel shall have access to Department general orders through a read-only file on their individual domain of the Department's computer network. Printed copies and/or CD's will also be placed in locations throughout headquarters so that they are easily accessible to all personnel.

**XI. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This general order approved by the Police Commission and is effective as of August 2008.

Per Order,

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Edward J. Nadriczny  
Chief of Police