

COLCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: MOTORCYCLE UNIT	
EFFECTIVE DATE: February 3, 2015	NUMBER: G. O. #37
REFERENCE: G.O. #1 Rules 1, 11, 18 & G.O. #14	
REEVALUATION DATE: as needed	APPROVED: <i>Momon #190</i> NO. PAGES: 3

POLICY: It shall be the policy of the Colchester Police Department to provide and maintain police motorcycles for use by the Colchester Police Officers as a valuable patrol alternative. Any properly trained and equipped officer may, at the discretion of the current on-duty Shift Supervisor, opt to conduct patrol utilizing a department motorcycle. The Colchester Police Department recognizes the unique advantages and the limitations that motorcycles can provide in day to day patrol operations. Only those officers who have successfully completed the minimum requirements set forth in this policy will be authorized to operate police motorcycles. Colchester Police Officers will operate police motorcycles in compliance with this General Order.

PROCEDURES:

- 1. Supervision:** The Chief of Police will designate an officer as the Coordinator of the Motorcycle Unit; however implementation of the patrol will be at the discretion of the on-duty Shift Supervisor. The Motorcycle Unit Coordinator will maintain training records of the authorized officers and track the maintenance and care of equipment related to the unit. The Unit Coordinator will report to a supervisor (Sergeant or higher) designated by the Chief of Police.
- 2. Authority to Operate:** No one is authorized to operate a department motorcycle without the approval of the Chief of Police. Officers wishing to become authorized to ride a department motorcycle should submit a letter of interest with the appropriate training request for police motorcycle training.

In order to operate the motorcycle, members must possess a valid Vermont Operators License with motorcycle endorsement, and have successfully completed a police motorcycle course approved by the Chief of Police. 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

3. **Equipment:** Members who operates a police motorcycle shall be in uniform and wear an approved helmet and eye protection.
4. **Implementation:** The daily use of motorcycles for patrol functions will be at the discretion of the on-duty Shift Supervisor. The Shift Supervisor will take into account weather conditions, staffing levels, day of week & time of day, activity levels, and call volume when making this decision. Special assignments shall be coordinated through the Motorcycle Unit Coordinator.
5. **Duties:** The duties of officers using motorcycles will remain the same as officers assigned to regular patrol duty. A motorcycle officer will from time to time stop in high visibility areas to promote public relations with pedestrians, tourists, businesses and other citizens. The members of the motorcycle unit are expected to engage in proactive patrol operations.

Duty assignments may include: parades, races or escorts; backup to other units; traffic enforcement; community relations programs; and general patrol.

6. **Arrests:** If an officer assigned to a motorcycle should make a physical custody arrest, the nearest available patrol car will be dispatched to handle the transport. The motorcycle officer will respond to the station to complete the processing of the individual in custody. If custody is continued, the motorcycle officer will utilize an available patrol car to transport the prisoner to the appropriate detention facility.
7. **Pursuits:** Operating a motorcycle in a pursuit is extremely dangerous. Extreme caution shall be exercised. A motorcycle 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.
8. **Fitness:** Officers working a motorcycle patrol shall maintain sufficient physical condition to complete a regular shift of patrol duties on the motorcycle, so as to prevent the likelihood of injury. Officers should be mindful to take in sufficient fluids before during and after riding the police motorcycle, especially in hot weather.

9. Maintenance: Officers riding police motorcycles will inspect their assigned motorcycle to insure it is in safe operating condition before beginning & after each shift on the motorcycle. This inspection will include: inspecting the headlight/warning light and taillight systems for proper operation, inspecting the frame for cracks, checking the tires for proper inflation, inspecting the braking system for proper operation and checking the drive belt assembly for grease and dirt build-up. Any defective equipment found will be brought to the attention of the Motorcycle Unit Coordinator so that repairs may be completed. It is the responsibility of the officer to ensure the motorcycle is fueled up at the end of his/her shift. Only high octane gasoline should be used. The officer also is responsible to ensure the motorcycle is clean and free of any trash or debris that may have been left in the saddlebags.

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