



**BURLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE
DD23 Motorcycle Unit**

POLICY: The Burlington Police Department shall maintain motorcycle patrol vehicles for use during appropriate weather conditions. The motorcycles will foster community-policing philosophy through high profile community relations in addition to answering standard calls for service. Additionally, motorcycle officers will focus on traffic enforcement issues identified in their respective area action plans. Motorcycles shall be hereafter referred to as motors.

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for the use and maintenance of motor patrol vehicles.

CONTENTS:

- I. Use of motors
- II. Personnel authorized to use motors
- III. Maintenance of the motors
- IV. Required equipment
- V. Pursuit operation/operation generally

I. USE OF MOTORS

- A. The use of motor patrol vehicles is recognized as an effective law enforcement alternative to the traditional radio car patrol. Officers on motors may appear more accessible to the public and have contact that is more frequent with citizens, thereby enhancing police-community relations.
- B. Motors can access areas inaccessible to automobiles and therefore increase police presence and response capability. During high traffic volume, motors can reach destinations more rapidly than automobiles.
- C. The Department will maintain motors to enhance police-community relations. Motors can be used for directed patrol initiatives at the discretion of the Lieutenant, Sergeant or area officer. Officers must notify the shift Lieutenant or Sergeant and the Communication Center when using the motor for patrol.
- D. To limit the potential for officer injury, the motors are only to be used during appropriate weather conditions.
- E. Generally, the use of the motors shall be limited to the day and evening shifts. Use during other hours shall be specifically granted by the OIC.

II. PERSONNEL AUTHORIZED TO USE MOTORS

- A. The police motors are the property of the Department. As such, they shall be assigned to the Uniform Services Bureau. The OIC shall be responsible for motor assignments.
- B. Only personnel specifically trained and authorized by the Chief of Police to operate the police motor shall utilize it.
- C. Personnel must have a valid operator's license with a motorcycle endorsement.

III. MAINTENANCE OF THE MOTOR

- A. Any officer operating a motor shall be responsible for inspecting the motor at the beginning and end of each shift. Officers shall be responsible for normal maintenance on the motor such as fluid levels and proper tire inflation.
- B. It is the responsibility of the officer operating the motor to notify the OIC of any maintenance problems with the motor. A qualified motor technician should correct any deficiencies beyond routine upkeep. If a problem is detected that affects the safety of the motor, the motor shall be taken out of service until the problem is corrected.
- C. Under no circumstances shall the motor equipment be modified by the officer without the direct approval of the Chief of Police.
- D. While the motors are parked at Headquarters, they shall be parked and secured in the area so designated for police motor parking.

IV. REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

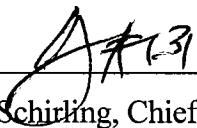
- A. Police motors are required to be equipped with the following (beyond standard equipment):
 - 1. Reflective markings clearly delineating that it is a police motor.
 - 2. Front and rear strobe lights.
 - 3. Siren.
 - 4. Mobile radio with boom style helmet microphone.
 - 5. First aid kit.
 - 6. Traffic vest.
- B. For the safety of the officers operating the motors, they shall wear the following equipment:
 - 1. Riding style jacket (weather permitting)
 - 2. Jodhpurs.
 - 3. Riding boots.
 - 4. Leather gloves.
 - 5. DOT approved motor helmet.
- C. When the officer is not in physical control of the motor, the ignition key shall be removed, all storage containers secured and key removed.

V. PURSUIT OPERATION/OPERATION GENERALLY

- A. For concerns of officer safety, motors shall **NOT** be used in pursuit operations with the possible exception of the following extreme circumstances:
 - 1. As a last resort to protect him/herself or another person(s) from what the officer reasonably believes to be an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury.
- B. Once the decision is made to initiate a pursuit, the officer must follow the guidelines as set forth in Department Directive regarding OPERATION OF POLICE VEHICLES RESPONSE CODES/PURSUIITS.

- C. The motor officer must immediately request a marked patrol cruiser to intercept and continue the pursuit. Once intercepted the motor officer shall abandon the pursuit.
- D. For general operation of the motor, all other department directives shall apply, to include Department Directive regarding OPERATION OF POLICE VEHICLES RESPONSE CODES/PURSUIITS.
- E. Under no circumstances shall the motor be operated with a passenger on board.

Reviewed and adopted by the Burlington Police Commission on January 20, 2002.



Michael E. Schirking, Chief of Police

20 JANUARY 2002
Effective Date