

GENERAL ORDER, OPERATIONS, NUMBER 9
APRIL 3, 2001
WATERLOO POLICE DEPARTMENT

A. SUBJECT:

Motorcycle Units, Operations and Duty Specific Requirements

B. PURPOSE:

To establish policy and procedure for the operation of Department motorcycle units.

C. POLICY:

Department motorcycle units will be utilized in the enforcement of traffic laws, traffic control, accident prevention, related traffic and patrol duties and the riders selected in compliance with the following procedures.

D. PROCEDURES:

1. Motorcycle units will be assigned patrol watch hours which will most effectively utilize their expertise and capabilities. Units will be operated during daylight hours only.
2. Motorcycle officers shall be principally assigned to traffic law enforcement duties except as needed for in progress crimes, cover and emergency situations.
3. Motorcycle officers who become engaged in a vehicle pursuit shall relinquish the pursuit to the first available patrol car and thereafter shall not continue the pursuit unless it is essential for the safety of other pursuing officers. Motorcycle units shall not exceed seventy (70) miles per hour.
4. Motorcycle units shall be utilized from May 1, through October 1. This may be extended if weather permits. Motorcycle units shall not be operated during inclement weather. During these periods, the officers will be reassigned to patrol cars.
 - a. If any type of inclement weather occurs prior to the officer's watch, the officers will leave the assigned motorcycle at its normal storage location and report for assignment to a patrol car.
 - b. If inclement weather occurs during the assigned watch, the officer will take the motorcycle to a designated city parking/storage area and be reassigned to a patrol car for the remainder of the officer's assigned watch.

5. Each Department motorcycle will be assigned to an individual officer. It will be the assigned officer's responsibility to make certain that the motorcycle is in good repair, cleaned and polished. That proper maintenance is performed at appropriate approved service establishments.
6. Motorcycle officers shall wear the below listed, approved equipment when operating the Department motorcycle.
 - a. Department approved motorcycle helmet.
 - b. Department approved motorcycle trousers.
 - c. Department approved motorcycle boots.
 - d. Gloves.
7. Assigned motorcycle officers living within the City limits and who have access to a locked storage facility at their residence, may take their assigned motorcycle home.
 - a. Officers taking their assigned motorcycle home must insure that it is stored in a locked storage facility.
 - b. Motorcycles taken home shall be used to proceed to and from work only and shall not be used for any type of personal business.
8. Motorcycle officers living outside the City limits shall, unless authorized by the Chief of Police, store their assigned motorcycle at a designated City parking/storage area.
9. Officers shall not make any modifications to their assigned motorcycle without the written approval of the Division Commander.
10. Assignment to motorcycle patrol duties shall be for a two-year period.
 - a. Assigned officers may be extended for an additional time period with the officer's agreement and staff approval.
 - b. The Patrol Division Commander may initiate any early or temporary assignment back to the officer's former position.
 - c. The inability or failure of the assigned officer to satisfactorily perform the assigned duties, failing to ride properly and safely or involved in motorcycle accidents with unsatisfactory review, will result in early reassignment of the officer back to a former position for the officer's

safety. Early return for the above reasons will require the recommendation of the immediate supervisor and the Patrol Division Commander with the approval of the Chief of Police.

11. Criteria and method of selection of motorcycle officers shall be as follows:
 - a. Selection of officers for the Motorcycle Unit will be in accordance with General Order, Administration, Number 6, (Revised), Personnel selection process for non-ranking, supervisory and/or administrative assignments.
 - b. The following additional criteria shall be required of officers applying for positions in the Motorcycle Unit.
 1. Officers must be in good physical health and may be required to take a medical examination prior to selection.
 2. Officers while straddling the seat on the motorcycle unit, must be able to sit on the seat with arms extended, hands on the handle bar grips, and place both feet flat on the ground.
 3. Officers must have an interest in traffic law enforcement, traffic control and related traffic patrol duties.
 4. Officers must have a comprehensive knowledge of traffic enforcement section of the Code of Iowa and the City traffic ordinances.
 5. Officers must possess a valid Iowa Driver License with motorcycle privileges.
 6. Officers must successfully complete a motorcycle operator's training course approved by the Department.

By order of:

Thomas J. Jennings
Chief of Police