

Laurel Police Department – General Order  
Chapter IV, Section 900, Order 904 – Motorcycle Unit  
November 22, 2009

**4 / 904.05 POLICY**

It is the policy of this Department to utilize motorcycles as part of the vehicle fleet force.

**4 / 904.10 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this General Order is to set procedures for the use and deployment of Motor Cycle units.

**4 / 904.10 DEFINITIONS**

None

**4 / 904.15 PROCEDURES**

A. ASSIGNMENTS

1. Police motorcycles are assigned to the Bureau of Operations, Patrol Division. Due to their mobility, they will be assigned for special details to include: funerals, parades, special enforcement details, VIP escorts, and as directed by the Chief of Police, Deputy Chief of Police, Bureau of Operations Commander or Patrol Division Commander.
2. The Police motorcycle can be a very effective tool in response to violations of the Maryland Transportation Article.
3. The police motorcycle can be used for assisting and supporting patrol, including but not limited to:
  - a. Community policing efforts by providing high visibility patrol and presence in problem areas;
  - b. Support unit for additional manpower when in an on-duty status;
  - c. Search operations;
  - d. Crime scene and perimeter security;
  - e. Patrolling city parks;
  - f. Patrolling bike paths
  - g. Special events; and
  - h. Responding to calls for service.
4. The Patrol Division Commander will routinely deploy the police motorcycles dependent upon favorable weather conditions and availability of qualified operators.

B. QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

1. The police motorcycle is a complicated vehicle that requires specialized training and care in order to be operated safely and efficiently. Components such as air suspension systems, seat adjustments, and clutch adjustments need to be set for each individual operator to maximize effective operation. Therefore, operators will be assigned a specific motorcycle for their primary use. This provision is not intended to necessarily restrict one motorcycle to one particular operator, but is designed to enhance officer safety as much as possible.

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2. The Patrol Division Commander will be responsible for the assignment of each motor unit.
3. Officers assigned to the Police Motorcycle Unit and authorized trained personnel are responsible for the use and maintenance of the police motorcycles.
4. Operators must possess the following qualifications:
  - a. A valid State of Maryland, Class “M” License; and
  - b. Successful completion of a Basic Police Motorcycle Operators Course approved by the Maryland Police Training Commission.

C. MAINTENANCE

1. The Patrol Division Commander will assign one Police motorcycle officer to act as the Maintenance Coordinator.
2. The Maintenance Coordinator will be responsible for conducting monthly equipment checks to ensure that all safety aspects of the unit (brakes, clutch, headlights, brake lights, and emergency equipment) are operating properly.
3. The Maintenance Coordinator will ensure that a preventive maintenance program is in place and will make arrangements to have the units serviced. The Maintenance Coordinator is responsible for ensuring prompt transport to the maintenance facility, when requested.
4. Maintenance will only be performed by authorized mechanics designated by an authorized motorcycle dealer.
5. The individual operator shall be responsible for maintenance of a minor nature (i.e. clutch, seat, air suspensions and tire pressure adjustments, etc).
6. The Maintenance Coordinator will submit a monthly maintenance report to the Patrol Division Commander
7. The Patrol Division Commander shall retain the inspection logs for the Motorcycles.
8. Police motorcycles will routinely be stored in the motorcycle storage shed located at Police Headquarters. However, the Bureau of Special Operations Commander may authorize short-term storage at the operator’s residence as operational needs dictate.

D. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

1. All motorcycle operators will be issued uniforms consistent with General Order 3/609 Uniform and Equipment Wearing and Care.
2. All police motorcycles will display the Laurel Police Department emblem and will be equipped in the following manner:
  - a. Blue/red front facing strobe lights;
  - b. Blue/red rear facing strobe lights;

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- c. Blue/red strobe lights, side facing on rear saddle bag frame or incorporated in the rear radio/storage box; and
  - d. Other equipment as approved by the Chief of Police.
3. All Motorcycle operators will carry the following equipment in their saddlebags:
    - a. Small first aid kit, which minimally includes a CPR Mask, rubber gloves and bandages;
    - b. Citations Books (Criminal, Civil, Juvenile, Traffic Citation, Warning and Equipment Repair Order);
    - c. Reflective Traffic Vest; and
    - e. Notepad;
  4. The Patrol Division Commander, or his designee, will inspect the Motorcycles on a monthly basis to ensure they are properly maintained and that all required equipment is present.

E. OPERATIONS

1. Members of the Department shall not operate, move or tamper with a Police Motorcycle unless authorized by the Chief of Police, Bureau of Operations Commander or Patrol Division Commander.
2. Operators of police motorcycles will follow the existing rules and regulations regarding the operation of Departmental vehicles.
3. In addition to the uniform of the day, operators will wear an issued helmet, safety glasses, gloves, and boots at all times when operating the Motorcycle.
4. During inclement weather and hazardous roadway conditions, Motorcycle operations will cease. Police motorcycle operations may resume once roadway conditions improve.
5. All traffic stops will be made in accordance with established procedures and training received during Basic Motorcycle School.
  - a. Operators must be aware of sudden turns and stops of potential violators.
6. Motorcycle operators shall not initiate High Risk and Felony Stops, unless exigent circumstances exist.
7. Police Motorcycles shall not engage in a pursuit pursuant to General Order 4/101 Vehicle Pursuit, unless exigent circumstances exist.
8. Nighttime traffic enforcement and nighttime traffic stops will not be normal practice.

F. RADIO CALL SIGNS

1. Officers within the Motorcycle Unit who are certified police motorcycle operators will be designated by the radio call sign of “Motor \_\_\_\_” (i.e. Motor 1, Motor 2, etc.)
2. Officers operating a police motorcycle will utilize their call sign whenever they are operating a police motorcycle.

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**4 / 904.20 GOVERNING LEGISLATION AND REFERENCES**

CALEA Standards 41.1.3

**4 / 904.25 ANNEX**

None