

PINEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

SECTION 7: SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNITS

SUBJECT: 702 MOTORCYCLE UNIT

EFFECTIVE: 08/08/2017

1. **PURPOSE.** The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines for the Pineville Police Department Traffic Division.

2. **POLICY.** This directive shall apply to all Pineville Police Department personnel who are assigned to the Traffic Division. One of the goals of the Pineville Police Department is to ensure the safe, convenient and efficient transportation of people and property on the public roads and highways of the City of Pineville. The primary goal of the Pineville Police Department Traffic Division is to promote the safe and expeditious flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic through effective and efficient traffic law enforcement and delivery of law enforcement related services designed to reduce traffic collisions and their resultant fatalities, injuries, and property damage.

It is the policy of the Pineville Police Department that traffic law enforcement and the delivery of law enforcement related services are to be applied in a consistent and courteous manner to foster a positive attitude and acceptance of such enforcement and control as is necessary to achieve the goals of the Department.

3. The Pineville Police Department Traffic Division is under the direction of the Patrol Uniform Bureau Commander. The planning, analysis, inspection, and coordination of the Department traffic activities shall be the responsibility of the Patrol Bureau Commander, Special Services Commander(s) and the Traffic Division Supervisor.

4. The Traffic Division is designed to operate on a citywide basis responding to problem areas as needed. Although the Department has a Traffic Division, the responsibility for enforcing traffic laws and regulations shall be shared by all uniformed personnel.

5. OFFICER SELECTION PROGRESS

- A. All full-time law enforcement personnel of the Pineville Police Department shall be made aware of the Traffic Division and the criteria for application and acceptance.
- B. Any full-time law enforcement officer of the Pineville Police Department, upon an opening, who is interested in applying for a position within the Traffic Division shall, through their chain of command, contact the Patrol Division Commander and apply in writing for a position in the Traffic Division.
- C. At the time a vacancy in the Traffic Division opens, all applicants meeting the requirements for the Traffic Division will be interviewed.

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D. Requirements for the Traffic Division (Motor Officer):

1. Must have a minimum of two years patrol experience;
2. Must have a Louisiana motorcycle endorsement prior to being assigned;
3. Must take and pass a Louisiana traffic laws and regulations exam;
4. Must be physically fit and able to dead lift 100 pounds.

E. The final stage of selection will be an oral interview to be conducted by a panel assembled by the Chief of Police inclusive of the Uniform Bureau Commander, Special Services Commander(s) and the Traffic Division Supervisor.

6. SCHEDULING. The work schedules of all personnel in the Department Traffic Division shall be maintained and assigned by the Traffic Division Supervisor, after first being approved by the Patrol Bureau Commander.

A. All personnel assigned to the Department traffic Division will appear for work at their scheduled time unless permission has been obtained by the Patrol Division Commander beforehand.

7. UNIFORM. All personnel assigned to the Department Traffic Division will report for duty dressed in accordance with the Department Uniform Policy.

1. All Traffic Division personnel assigned to motorcycle duty will report for duty only in approved uniform wear issued by the Department.

8. MOTORCYCLES. As a functional component of Patrol, the law enforcement motorcycle is utilized primarily in those traffic assignments which require quick mobility, ease of ingress and egress, and any other situation which would be difficult for traditional law enforcement vehicles to be utilized such as:

Selective traffic enforcement (Problem areas received by complaints or incidents), Traffic point and route control during special events, Escorts, Responding and investigating crashes, Investigate hit and run crashes including follow up investigations, School zone coverage for traffic control, escorts, any other special assignments as required or requested.

1. It is recognized that the Motor Officer's primary assignment is traffic enforcement, however, such officers are also responsible for the general enforcement of all criminal as well as traffic laws. The availability of Motor Officers for response to general calls for service shall be limited to:

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- a. Response to any call where there is a possibility of injury or an Immediate threat or danger to human life; or
 - b. Times when calls for service become excessive.
2. A Police Department motorcycle is a standard motorcycle equipped with a law enforcement package used to enforce traffic laws and for road patrol functions.
3. A Police Department motorcycle is a single passenger vehicle limited to on road use except in exigent circumstances. It requires a motorcycle-endorsed driver's license to operate.
4. Each Pineville Police Motor Officer must possess a Louisiana motorcycle endorsement on their driver's license and be able to successfully complete a 40-hour police motorcycle training course as soon as the course is offered and can be attended. Motor officers will have monthly training, when feasible. Training time can be drawn from parades, competitions, etc.
5. All motor officers are responsible for the scheduling of routine maintenance and inspection of their assigned units. Only vendors approved by the Department are authorized to provide maintenance support for the motorcycle units.
6. The purchase of parts and equipment for any motorcycle unit using a city purchase order must first be approved by the Special Services Commander or Traffic Division Supervisor.
7. No Motor Officer will utilize unauthorized equipment while in the performance of their official duties.
8. Motor Officers will keep Department issued radar equipment and rain gear on the motorcycle units at all times.
9. Unauthorized modifications to any motorcycle unit are prohibited.
10. All Motor officers will wear their Department issued helmet while operating their motorcycle unit, on or off duty, without exceptions.
11. Allowing civilians to operate any Department motorcycle unit is prohibited.

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12. Only Pineville Police Department personnel assigned to the Traffic Division as Motor officers are authorized to operate Police Department motorcycles, unless done so by authorized maintenance providers.
13. Motor Officers shall maintain the appearance and cleanliness of their assigned motorcycle unit in an exemplary manner.
14. Any motor officer operating their assigned motorcycle unit while off duty shall have on their person:
 - a. Departmental credentials;
 - b. Authorized service weapon;
 - c. Portable radio.
15. Motor Officers assigned motorcycle units equipped with camera systems will activate audio and video at the initiation of all traffic stops and will leave systems activated for the duration of the traffic stop.
16. Damage to Motorcycle

Any motorcycle operator involved in a crash, which results in damage to any vehicle will immediately notify a his Supervisor to investigate the incident, regardless of how minor the damage is. Any time a crash or incident results in damage to a department motorcycle, the officer involved shall have a report completed by a supervisor detailing the circumstances of the incident.

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9. POLICE MOTORCYCLE VEHICLE PURSUITS

A. Motorcycles are not intended to be, nor should they be considered as high-speed pursuit vehicles. Due to the nature of the duties assigned to the operators of police motorcycles, there will be times when they will initiate a pursuit. It is at this point where the gravity of the offense should be weighed against the possible consequences of a pursuit. Special consideration needs to be given to the inherent danger of a motorcycle. There will be times and places where the best course of action will be to allow the fleeing vehicle to escape.

B. Police Motorcycles engaged in a pursuit shall follow at a distance and speeds that allow for safe operation, maneuverability, and maintaining visual contact with the fleeing vehicle whenever possible. At any point that the registration of the fleeing vehicle can be obtained, the pursuit should be terminated unless otherwise directed by a supervisor.

C. Due to the increased vulnerability to the operator of a police motorcycle, any pursuit initiated by the motorcycle operator shall be assumed by or directed to a four wheel police vehicle as soon as practical.

D. A police motorcycle officer who has turned over the primary pursuit to a four wheel police vehicle shall continue to track the pursuit in a non-emergency mode. The motorcycle operator shall not continue to be involved in the pursuit unless otherwise directed by the supervisor monitoring the pursuit.

By Order

Darrell Basco
Chief of Police