



# SOUTH MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT

<b>GENERAL ORDER NUMBER:</b> 18.5	<b>DATE OF ISSUE:</b> July 31, 2011	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> May 14, 2014	<b>NUMBER OF PAGES:</b> 05
<b>CFA STANDARD:</b> 17 <b>SUBJECT:</b> <i>Motorcycle Patrol – ADMINISTRATION</i>	<b>NEW (X) RESCINDS (X)</b>  <b>AMENDS ( ) OTHER ( )</b>		<b>By Order Of:</b>   <b>Rene Landa,</b> <b>CHIEF OF POLICE</b>

**CFA STANDARDS:** 17.02

**SECTIONS:**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>18.5.1</b> | <b>Duties and Responsibilities</b>                      |
| <b>18.5.2</b> | <b>Uniform</b>  |
| <b>18.5.3</b> | <b>Issuance, Care, &amp; Storage of the Motorcycle:</b> |
| <b>18.5.4</b> | <b>Motorcycle Unit Rules and Regulations</b>            |
| <b>18.5.5</b> | <b>Escort Detail</b>                                    |
| <b>18.5.6</b> | <b>Training</b>   |

**RESCINDS:** All existing orders in conflict.

**PURPOSE:** To provide guidelines for the management and usage of the Department's Motorcycle Unit(s) in field operations

**SCOPE:** All departmental personnel.

**POLICY:** It shall be the policy of the South Miami Police Department to use police motorcycle teams as an additional supportive tool to more effectively attain the primary goal of traffic enforcement, and the ancillary goal of crime prevention by deterrence, offender apprehension, and narcotic detection and confiscation.

**DEFINITIONS:**

UPD: Uniform Patrol Division.

**PROCEDURES:**

**18.5.1 Duties and Responsibilities:**

The Motorcycle Unit is a specialized unit assigned to the Uniform Patrol Division (UPD). Unit members shall properly handle any situation requiring police response directed to their attention. The unit is especially concerned with preservation of life and property through the prevention of vehicular accidents and enforcement of all state, county and municipal traffic laws.

- A. The motorcycle units' primary responsibilities will be enforcement of hazardous moving violations and the handling of accidents and other traffic-related matters.
- B. The motor units' immediate supervisor will be their Shift Commander, Uniform Patrol, to whom they will be responsible for all logs, special reports and specific assignments.
- C. The motor units will be public relations conscious at all times, and keep their uniforms, equipment and motorcycles in an exemplary manner.
- D. The motor units will be operated in a safe and cautious manner at all times.
- E. The motor units will not be assigned to any "3" signals. If a "3-17" is received while the motor units are on duty, a "3-15" will be dispatched to a Marked Patrol Unit, and the motor units will be assigned the "17".
- F. The motor units will not be used when the pavement is wet or in any adverse weather conditions.

**18.5.2 Uniform:**

The Unit uniform shall be worn at all times while operating the motorcycle, except during authorized training sessions and/or when authorized by a supervisor.

- A. The motorcycle helmet shall be worn with chinstrap properly secured while the motorcycle is in operation.
- B. Civilian attire will not be worn while operating the motorcycle, unless authorized by a supervisor.
- C. Issued leather and issued service weapon will be worn while operating the motorcycle.

**18.5.3 Issuance, Care, and Storage of the Motorcycle:**

- A. Unit officers shall be assigned an individual motorcycle to be driven during duty hours.
- B. In circumstances when a motorcycle is driven to an officer's residence, the motorcycle will be stored in the most secure, weatherproof area available within the curtilage of the officer's residence. If the officer has a garage, it is recommended he store the motorcycle in the garage.
- C. Members shall not perform any type of mechanical or maintenance work on any police motorcycle. Members shall not make modifications or additions to any

police motorcycle without the approval of the Chief of Police via the Chain of Command.

- D. Unit members shall advise the Fleet Manager (Services Supervisor), in writing, of maintenance problems involving their assigned motorcycle. Unit members shall keep their scheduled service appointments.
- E. Unit members shall keep their assigned motorcycles clean and polished. Unit members shall work seven and one-half (7-1/2) hours per day on regular duty. The remaining one-half hour shall be designated as motorcycle maintenance time.
- F. The Patrol Sergeant will conduct weekly motorcycle inspections to ensure proper maintenance of assigned motorcycles.
- G. Unit members shall carry the following equipment and supplies on the motorcycle:
  - 1. Rain gear;
  - 2. Flashlight;
  - 3. Moving and parking citation booklets, reports, and forms;
  - 4. Whistle;
  - 5. Speed RADAR;
  - 6. Traffic Safety Vest;
- H. Unit members are responsible for all issued speed measuring devices. Each member shall ensure that the units they utilize have met current calibration standards and that the current calibration certificate is filed in the Records Section. Officers will obtain a "true copy" of the calibration certification from the Records Section as documentation in court proceedings.

**18.5.4 Motorcycle Unit Rules and Regulations:**

- A. Unit members will not conduct patrol duties on motorcycles during inclement weather. Unit members shall take note of impending inclement weather and respond to the station. After notifying the on-duty supervisor, the unit member will take a spare marked police vehicle (using proper KeyTrak procedure) and resume his/her duties.
- B. Unit members will patrol singularly or in pairs, as assigned by a supervisor.

- C. While operating a motorcycle, Unit members shall *not* be assigned to any call on a code "3" (lights and siren); unit members shall *not* respond to any call on a code "3" without supervisory authorization. Unit members may engage in felony-related pursuits, but only until assistance can be obtained from a marked, patrol vehicle; the motorcycle officer deems the pursuit unsafe; or a supervisor orders the pursuit abandoned. (See GO# 18.2.2 - Emergency and Pursuit Operation of Police Vehicles.)
- D. Motorcycles will not be used in riot control.
- E. Motorcycles are not to be used for daily routine traffic enforcement activity after dark. However, motorcycles may be used after dark when assigned to special details, or for portal to portal transportation.
- F. Motorcycles offer less cover and concealment than cars; unit members are reminded that courtesy and considerate demeanor will reduce confrontation and will favorably impress the violator.
- G. Unit members are encouraged to use their assigned police motorcycles when working off-duty details and while on police-related activities.

**18.5.5 Escort Detail:**

- A. Escort details are an extension of a motorcycle officer's regular police duties when assigned during duty or off-duty hours.
- B. Escort criteria:
  - 1. Except for funeral escorts, must originate within the City of South Miami unless:
    - a. Assistance is requested by another agency.
    - b. Approved by the Operation Bureau Captain, Assistant Chief, and/or Chief of Police.
  - 2. Escorts will be divided into the following categories:
    - a. Funeral escorts.
    - b. Oversized load escorts.
    - c. Dignitary or VIP escorts.
    - d. Parade or special event escorts.
    - e. Security details.
  - 3. If a Department member or employee passes or is killed in the line of duty, the SMPD Motorcycle Unit will provide a funeral escort if requested by the Department member or employee's family. In addition:

- a. The burial is to be in Miami-Dade, Broward, Monroe, or Collier County; other counties may be approved by the Chief of Police.
  - b. The escort is operationally possible (there are enough motorcycle officers available).
4. Escorts will be worked in full police uniform.
  5. Will be conducted on a police motorcycle.
  6. The purpose of a police escort is not expeditious movement, but safe movement. At no time should an escort be conducted at a speed faster than the posted speed limit.
  7. Intersections will be entered cautiously and prudently by an escort vehicle. Once entered, the cross traffic will be held for as many light changes as necessary for the escort and all escorted vehicles to move safely through the intersection.

**18.5.6 Training:**

- A. In-service training: When scheduling permits, each officer will attend in-service training.
- B. Initial motorcycle training is required upon assignment and will be conducted by available police motorcycle schools approved by the Training Unit and the Chief of Police.
- C. It is encouraged that a motorcycle unit member apply to attend motorcycle instructor training if that member is ITW certified, and if that training is desired.