SECTION 43

MOTORCYCLE PROGRAM

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43.0 PURPOSE
The purpose of this order is to provide guidelines for the utilization of the Department’s motorcycle program.

43.1 OBJECTIVES
A. To reduce the number of traffic collisions within the City by means of high visibility patrol, assignments to locations with a high number of reported traffic violations, and issuance of verbal warnings, written warnings and traffic citations.
B. To assist the patrol division by handling traffic collision investigations and special traffic enforcement.
C. To promote community awareness and acceptance to the Palos Verdes Estates motorcycle program.

43.2 ORGANIZATION
A. The motorcycle program will be a part of the Operations Division, and the motorcycle officer(s) will be under the direct supervision of the on-duty watch commander.
B. The Chief of Police may assign a specific supervisor to the position of “Traffic Supervisor.” The program’s supervisor shall be a corporal or above and will be responsible for all traffic related issues. The supervisor will assign the motor to problem areas within the City as needed.

43.3 POLICY
A. OPERATION
1. Motor officer(s) will patrol on specially equipped motorcycle(s) designed for such duties.
2. Motor officer(s) will not be assigned to a specific patrol area, but shall be allowed to roam free throughout the City, except when assigned to a specific traffic enforcement detail.
3. Motor officer(s) shall be specifically assigned to handle all traffic accident investigations and special traffic enforcement requests.
4. Motor officer(s) may be required to handle calls for service.

B. EQUIPMENT
In addition to the required uniform items designated in this manual, the officer(s) assigned to the motorcycle program shall carry the following items either on the motorcycle or on their person as applicable:
1. Department of Transportation approved helmet of proper size and in good condition.

2. Leather gloves

3. Eye protection

4. Impact weapon


6. Supply of required report forms

7. Citation books

C. MAINTENANCE

Each officer shall be responsible for the maintenance on their assigned motorcycle.

1. Motor officer(s) shall inspect their bikes prior to or at the beginning of each shift.

2. Motor officer(s) shall maintain their bikes in a clean and professional looking condition at all times.

D. UNIFORM

Motorcycle officer(s) will wear a class “A” or “B” uniform as described in section 16 of this manual, with the following differences:

1. The uniform shall have a white “wheel and arrow” insignia on both sleeves below the shoulder patch, with the arrows pointing forward.

2. Trousers will be of the LAPD motor officer design with a rounded bottom and shall have a 1/2 inch nylon white stripe extending from the waist band to the bottom of the outside of the trouser leg. For training events, motor officer(s) may wear blue jeans or BDU type trousers.

3. Boots shall be of the motor officer design. They will be black in color, of smooth leather and accept a shine.

4. The helmet will be of good quality and meet or exceed DOT standards. The helmet shall be white with a black painted frontal area and shall display a silver cap piece or decal centrally located in the frontal area.

5. Gloves shall be of leather material and may be black or natural in color.

6. A black “Dickie” may be worn in inclement weather.

7. The long sleeve class “A” shirt may be worn without a tie.

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8. A jumpsuit type uniform as approved by the Chief of Police may also be worn for training events and commuting to and from work.

E. HOUSING THE MOTORCYCLE
The motor officer(s) shall have the option of taking their bike to and from work and/or any police related activities. Police motorcycles shall be kept in an enclosed area when they are garaged at locations other than the police department.

43.4 SUPERVISION
The motorcycle program supervisor shall be directly responsible to the Operations Division Captain. He will be responsible for:
A. The development and continual training of the motor officer(s).
B. The procurement of all equipment and supplies necessary for effective motorcycle service, maintenance and training.
C. Accurate and timely record keeping of all data involving the activities of the motorcycle program.
D. Assist in the preparation and dissemination of training information pertinent to the use of police motorcycles.

43.5 TRAINING
A. Initial training for motor officer(s) shall be in compliance with POST guidelines.
B. Upon successful completion of the POST training course, newly assigned motor officer(s) shall ride with a senior motor officer for a minimum of 40 hours. During the training period the newly assigned motor officer(s) shall obtain and demonstrate the necessary skill level to qualify him as an enforcement rider.
C. The program's supervisor, along with the senior motor officer, shall establish an ongoing training program, the object of which is to increase rider skill and deter motorcycle accidents.
D. Motor officer(s) shall maintain proficiency in radar enforcement and traffic investigations.

43.6 HAZARDOUS WEATHER
Motor officer(s) shall not engage in traffic enforcement activities on motorcycles when the weather makes such operation hazardous. The riding officer shall make this
determination. If inclement weather prohibits a motor officer from riding home from his shift, the Department shall provide a safe means of transportation.