



RYE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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To: Rye Select Board and Budget Committee

From: Chief Kevin Walsh

Date: September 19, 2024

Re: Police Planning and identifying role and goal setting for a motorcycle patrol unit

A successful motorcycle patrol unit requires the assignment of qualified personnel, the purchase of equipment, and establishment of appropriate management directions. The decision to start a motorcycle patrol unit requires long-term commitment from the Town of Rye. A motorcycle patrol unit contributes towards effective public relations, can resolve specific problems that cannot be handled by a normal patrol vehicle, and can provide additional career opportunities for patrol officers.

The decision to state a motorcycle patrol unit should not be made lightly. Agency planners should conduct a budget review, cost benefit analysis, and forecast available resources before moving forward with implementation. Based on complaints from just about every road in Rye to include Elwyn Road, narrow road widths with next to no location a police cruiser can park to run stationary radar and the ability to make a safe U-turn when a violation is in the immediate area of the cruiser during patrol shifts.

A motorcycle patrol policy has been written to define goals of the motorcycle patrol unit. Motorcycle unit in traffic enforcement are effective especially in congested areas in Rye. The smaller size allows for easier navigation through traffic, enabling officers to reach incidents quickly and the maneuverability of a motorcycle is easier than a police cruiser when turning around on narrow roads to stop a motor vehicle violation. They can maneuver around obstacles that a police cruiser cannot, making them invaluable during peak hours and heavy congestion. The visibility of patrol motorcycle officers can serve as a deterrent to traffic violations, promote safer driving behavior among motorists. Police motorcycle maximize the visible deterrent impact or covert to maximize tactical objectives, red light as Washington Road and Roue 1, stop sign intersection Washington Road at lang Road. Overall, their agility and quick response capabilities enhance traffic law enforcement where traditional police cruisers may face challenges.

The following are some key considerations when command staff considered officers for a police motorcycle unit.

- Experience, all officers have at least 5 years of full-time police experience. This experience includes a variety of department assignments ensuring a well-rounded background.
- Motivation and performance, command staff have reviewed all 3 candidate's motivation levels through performance reviews annual and track statistics in motor vehicle stops and follow through.
- Maturity, command staff have gauged each officer's maturity by reviewing their decision-making ability, communication skills, and response in high-pressures situations.
- Safety orientation, through annual performance reviews, command staff have reviewed past conduct related to safety, traffic stops, and accident avoidance.

- Decision- making skills, through annual performance reviews command staff reviewed officers' ability to make sound judgements in various situations, especially involving high-stress or unpredictable environments.
- Physical fitness, officers take a required 3-year physical fitness test required by NH Police Standards and Training Council. The 3-year test ensures the officers can handle physical demands of motorcycle operations, including balance, coordination, strength, and stamina.
- Training requirements, each officer must participate in training with a two-week certified motorcycle patrol school prior to being certified to ride on patrol. This includes refresher courses annually.

By focusing on these considerations, officers in the motorcycle unit will maintain the required standards and continue to develop their skills.

The motorcycle unit would work weekdays and weekend shifts, weekends especially during spring and summer months. Motorcycle would be used at special events, leading Memorial Day parade, Holiday parade weather permitting, and other Rye events. If the temperature is below 35 degrees (Fahrenheit) the risk to the motorcycle operator increases dramatically and the motorcycle will not be used. The months normally are April until early November each year.

Purchasing equipment is based on make and model. Seacoast Harley Davidson offers a lease agreement. \$5,000.00 per year for one unit, 3-year term. One time purchase of equipment for the lease motorcycle, \$6,460.00, blue lights siren ect. The equipment is transferable to another motorcycle after 3-year lease term is up. A mounted radar unit needs to be purchased separately and installed, approximately \$5,000.00. Each officer would need to purchase a helmet, motorcycle pants, and motorcycle boots (3 officers). 1. Sitcom radio set shared by all motorcycle operators, \$2,500.00. An approximate start up costs \$25,000.00. After year one \$5,000.00 for the lease costs.

Motorcycle maintenance is done at Seacoast Harley. Rye Highway currently has an employee who is a certified motorcycle mechanic.

Engagement with employees fosters a sense of community and belonging, keeping participants engaged over time. Goal alignment programs help align organizational goals with participant interest, enhancing satisfaction and retention. Some examples of a Rye police department officer to employees are use of force instructor and firearms, department armorer, school resource officer, adult elderly fraud program coordinator, being a member of Seacoast Emergency response Team, department web site and social media coordinator, evidence room officer, safety seat belt installer, department vehicle maintenance officer.

Well-designed police programs are vital for sustaining engagement, enhancing skills, and promoting a positive and loyal community.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you for your continued support.

Cc: Town Administrator Matt Scruton