

STOCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

EQUESTRIAN UNIT
SUBJECT

DATE: June 13, 2017

NO: K-8

FROM: CHIEF ERIC JONES

TO: ALL PERSONNEL

INDEX: **MOUNTED PATROL/EQUESTRIAN UNIT**
USE OF HORSES
EQUESTRIAN UNIT/INCIDENTS

I. POLICY

- A. The Stockton Police Department will maintain and utilize a Mounted Patrol Unit (MPU). The horses will be assigned to the Special Operations Division, or other sections as needed, and will be used to supplement police operations as a force multiplier.
- B. As with all community interactions, Stockton Police Officers will consider the four guiding principles of Procedural Justice as they relate to the use of the Equestrian Unit. Those principles are:
 - 1. Respect – treating all with dignity and respect
 - 2. Voice – listening and allowing residents to be heard
 - 3. Neutrality – making decisions in a fair and impartial manner
 - 4. Trustworthiness – acting in ways that foster trust, are perceived as legitimate, and exemplify fairness of process
- C. The Equestrian Unit may be used if the following conditions exist:
 - 1. Selective Enforcement and Crime Prevention (Examples – County Fair, events with large crowds at the Arena or Ball Park, City of Stockton events, Mall parking lot area during the holiday season, areas not accessible by other means)
 - 2. Crime scene security and searches
 - 3. Patrol areas inaccessible by motor vehicle (river banks and open fields)
 - 4. Crowd control situations with the approval of the Watch Commander or Program Manager
 - 5. Officer protection
 - 6. Any function or event deemed appropriate by the Chief of Police

NOTE: The Equestrian Unit should always be deployed with at least two or more horses. Any deviation from this procedure must be cleared by the MPU Program Manager prior to use.
- D. It is recognized that situations may arise which do not fall within the provisions set forth in this policy. In any such case, a standard of reasonableness shall be used to determine if the Equestrian Unit should be deployed.
- E. Horses may be used for public relations demonstrations with the intended purpose of highlighting the skills and obedience of police horses, and developing an atmosphere of confidence and trust between the public and our Equestrian Unit.
- F. Stockton Police Equestrian Unit may be used to assist outside law enforcement agencies with the approval of the Chief of Police or his designee.

II. PROCEDURE

A. Staffing the Equestrian Unit

1. The Stockton Police Equestrian Unit will be directed by a designated lieutenant who will report to a designated captain of the Strategic Operations Division. Working in cooperation with the lieutenant will be a designated coordinator, the Department trainer, and/or the in-service trainer. The coordinator will be responsible for, but not limited to, the following duties:
 - a. Liaison with Stockton Police Administration staff.
 - b. Liaison with other police agency Equestrian unit coordinators.
 - c. Maintain accurate records to document Equestrian activities.
 - d. Recommend and oversee the procurement of needed equipment.
 - e. Be responsible for scheduling all police Equestrian-related activities.
 - f. Ensure the Equestrian team is scheduled for continuous training to maximize the capabilities of the team according to P.O.S.T. standards.
 - g. Ensure all Equestrian training records are properly and accurately maintained.

B. Obtaining Horses

1. Horses considered for use by the Equestrian Unit will be obtained by one of the following methods
 - a. Private citizen donation
 - b. City/County Animal Control Shelter
 - c. Private purchase by handler
2. Ownership
 - a. Each member of the Equestrian Unit is responsible for obtaining a horse at their own expense and which meets the Department's approval.
 - b. Pursuant to this order, a contract must be entered into by and between the City of Stockton and the transferor or donor of the animal in question, setting forth the rights and obligations of both parties thereof.
3. Care for the Horse and Equipment
 - a. City agrees to be responsible for the cost of an annual veterinary exam of the horse. This includes any needed vaccinations or other services, in an amount not to exceed \$500 per calendar year. All other health maintenance shall be at Officer's sole cost and expense.
 - b. Officer shall maintain horse in a good healthy condition and shall maintain current vaccination records for horse, and provide current records to the Department. Failure to provide these records will mean that the horse is ineligible to participate in the Equestrian program.
 - c. Prior approval must be obtained from the program manager if a situation arises that necessitates the services of a veterinarian other than the current authorized veterinarian and it is not deemed an emergency.
 - d. Equipment – Blanket, Saddle, Bridle etc.
 - (1) If any equipment is temporarily issued to a potential rider, or when a rider rotates out of the unit, the equipment shall be returned to the program lieutenant or designee.
 - (2) The rider shall properly maintain all Department equipment under their control and assure the equipment is clean and in serviceable condition.

- (3) The program manager or designee will conduct routine inspections to ensure the condition of equipment conforms to this policy.

C. Officer Assignment to the Equestrian Unit

1. An officer desiring to become a member of the Mounted Patrol Unit shall submit a written request stating reasons for wanting to join. The request shall be accompanied by a written recommendation from the officer's supervisor (directed to the program manager) and should include a specific description of the officer's understanding and application of the four core concepts of Procedural Justice. The program manager and supervisor will review the request and recommendation. A joint recommendation will then be forwarded to the Chief of Police for approval or denial of the request.
2. An officer who desires to join the Equestrian Unit shall submit complete general history and background of his/her horse. This information must be verifiable.
 - a. The general history and background must include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - (1) Horse's place and date of birth.
 - (2) All training the horse received prior to being obtained by the officer.
 - (3) Any prior employment of the horse by other agencies.
 - (4) Any incidents or demeanor that may be indicative of potential problem areas, i.e., overly-aggressive behavior, etc.
 - (5) Copies of any documents in support of the above.
 - b. Final approval of both horse and rider will be made by the Chief of Police.
 - c. The following are minimum qualifications for the assignment of Police Equestrian Unit Officer:
 - (1) City of Stockton police officer currently off probation.
 - (2) Agree to be assigned to the position for a minimum three-year obligation. The Chief of Police may amend this commitment if necessary.
 - (3) Completion of a Departmental Procedural Justice training course.
3. Both riders and horse will be certified in a manner following P.O.S.T. recommendations.
 - a. The supervisor shall supply the program manager with written documentation of the quarterly certifications.
 - c. Police riders and horses are encouraged to engage in additional training with the approval of the unit coordinator.
 - d. In order to ensure that all training is consistent, no rider, trainer, or outside vendor is authorized to train in a standard that is contrary to the policies of the Stockton Police Department.
 - e. No rider / horse failing P.O.S.T. certification shall be deployed in the field until certification is achieved.
 - f. Officer agrees to ensure that horse becomes and remains fully trained and certified according to City's Police Department standards or other law enforcement standards prescribing any required training or certification of horses.
 - g. City agrees to be responsible for the cost of any law enforcement training approved by City's Police Department that is provided to the horse and rider.

D. Preparation for Utilizing a Horse For Police Purposes

- a. Prior to the use of a horse, the rider and/or the supervisor on scene shall carefully consider all pertinent information that is reasonably available at the time.

E. Use of Police Horses

Properly-utilized horses serve as a valuable resource to the Department. Their use shall be administered with sound police practices in mind and follow all Policies and Procedures in the course of their duty

When Officers are scheduled for duty, the Program Manager will take into account the time it takes to transport the horse to the event. The horses shall be well groomed and all equipment shall be polished or shined in accordance with a professional appearance for both the rider and horse. Once at the event, the rider and horse should be ready to be deployed within 30 minutes and rider/horse be prepared for duty. If more time is needed, the Officer shall notify the supervisor in charge of the event. The same will apply to securing the horse from duty. The unit coordinator/supervisor can evaluate each event and make appropriate changes as they deem necessary.

Off-duty Activity

Officer agrees that Officer is solely responsible for any and all claims, losses, liability, suits, or damages of any kind or nature, for injuries or death of persons, or damage to property, arising out of, or occasioned by, the actions of horse or Officer with regard to horse, when horse is not under the City's control and not engaged in law enforcement training or activity, or is at Officer's residence or used for personal reasons by Officer.

Reporting for Tour of Duty

City agrees to indemnify, hold harmless, and defend Officer, from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, or damages, including all costs and expenses and fees of litigation or arbitration, that arise from any acts or omissions occurring while the horse is performing law enforcement activities pursuant to the Agreement to the same extent as such indemnification would otherwise be provided to Officer for acts and omissions occurring during the course and scope of Officer's employment.

F. Incidents

- a. Any incident involving a Stockton Police Department horse which results in an injury, or the claim of an injury, shall be reported by the rider to the Program Manager or Unit Supervisor as soon as reasonably practical. If the incident occurred while the rider was on duty, the rider shall complete the appropriate written report prior to the officer securing from duty, if the officer is uninjured and able to do so.

G. Horse Administrative Leave

1. The Chief of Police may, at his discretion, place a horse on administrative leave. This may occur for a variety of reasons, the most obvious being questionable action by the horse or its rider.
2. Temporary administrative leave may be authorized by the Watch Commander and will be reviewed by the Chief of Police as to the length of leave. The rider will be prohibited from using a horse placed on leave in a working or training capacity until the leave is lifted.

H. On-Duty Injury to Police Horse or Rider

1. Should a horse become injured, the horse should be taken to a veterinary office. If the injury is minor and during business hours, the horse should be taken to the horse's normal veterinary office by the rider. If the horse receives a serious injury, it should be taken to the nearest emergency veterinary office for treatment.
2. If the horse's rider becomes incapacitated or is unable to provide care for its horse, another on-duty rider should be summoned to provide care for the horse. In the event another rider is not available, a patrol supervisor and equestrian unit supervisor(s) should be notified.

I. Rules of Conduct While in the Presence of Horses

1. Do's

- a. Be friendly but do not pet the horse without permission from the rider
- b. Respect the rider's wishes with respect to the horse
- c. Stay away from the horse during training unless assisting the rider
- d. Avoid furtive or sudden movements in the presence of a horse

2. Don'ts

- a. Do not tease a horse
- b. Do not try to entice the horse to break away or disobey commands
- c. Do not use any command you have heard the rider use
- d. Do not try to agitate the horse at any time
- e. Do not feed a horse without the permission of the rider
- f. Do not engage in violent or simulated violent behavior with the rider in the horse's presence.
- g. Do not stare intensely at a horse

J. Law Pertaining to Equestrian Enforcement

Penal Code 600

(a) Any person who willfully and maliciously and with no legal justification strikes, beats, kicks, cuts, stabs, shoots with a firearm, administers any poison or other harmful or stupefying substance to, or throws, hurls, or projects at, or places any rock, object, or other substance which is used in a manner as to be capable of producing injury and likely to produce injury, on or in the path of, any horse being used by, or any dog under the supervision of, any peace officer in the discharge or attempted discharge of his or her duties, is guilty of a public offense. If the injury inflicted is a serious injury, as defined in subdivision (c), the person shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for 16 months, two or three years, or in a county jail for not exceeding one year, or by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars (\$2,000), or by both a fine and imprisonment. If the injury inflicted is not a serious injury, the person shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not exceeding one year, or by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both a fine and imprisonment.

(b) Any person who willfully and maliciously and with no legal justification interferes with or obstructs any horse or dog being used by any peace officer in the discharge or attempted discharge of his or her duties by frightening, teasing, agitating, harassing, or hindering the horse or dog shall be punished by imprisonment in a county jail for not exceeding one year, or by a fine not exceeding one thousand (\$1,000), or by both a fine and imprisonment.

California Vehicle Code 21759

The driver of any vehicle approaching any horse-drawn vehicle, any ridden animal, or any livestock shall exercise proper control of his vehicle and shall reduce speed or stop as may appear necessary or as may be signaled or otherwise requested by any person driving, riding, or in charge of the animal or livestock in order to avoid frightening and to safeguard the animal or livestock and to insure the safety of any person driving or riding the animal or in charge of the livestock.