



NORTH MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES



MOUNTED PATROL 400.09

EFFECTIVE DATE: 03-18-21

APPROVED:


Chief of Police

SUPERSEDES: 11-10-19

CFA: N/A

CONTENTS:

- I. Purpose
- II. Policy
- III. Scope
- IV. Definitions
- V. Required Horse Equipment
- VI. Mounted Patrol Goals
- VII. Selection, Training and Operation
- VIII. Mounted Patrol Officers' Responsibilities
- IX. Mounted Patrol Officers' Stable Responsibilities
- X. Duty Hours and Dress
- XI. Selection of Horses

I. PURPOSE

To provide employees with guidelines for the operation of the Mounted Patrol Detail.

II. POLICY

The Mounted Patrol Detail is an ancillary function of the selected officer(s). The Detail is dedicated to enhancing community engagement and building trust between the NMPD and the City's residents, business owners and visitors during patrol, special events and assignments. In addition, the Mounted Patrol Detail provides support to the Field Operations Division throughout the City of North Miami.

III. SCOPE

This policy applies to all members of the Department.

IV. DEFINITIONS

- A. Tack – The horses' equipment.
- B. Lunging – The horses' mobility when on a long rope line.
- C. Language Clarification:
 - Should: Indicates a general or expected action, absent a rational basis for failing to conform.
 - Shall or Will: Indicates a mandatory action.

V. REQUIRED HORSE EQUIPMENT

- A. Rope halter and lead rope;
- B. Bridle and bit;
- C. Reins;
- D. Saddle pad and blanket;
- E. Leather saddle; and
- F. Hoof pick.

VI. MOUNTED PATROL GOALS

- A. Provide specialized mounted police services citywide and to maintain and promote community engagement.
- B. Minimize criminal activity by providing high visibility and mobility.
- C. Provide back-up services to the Field Operations Division.
- D. Embrace community accessibility.
- E. Participate in special events.

VII. SELECTION, TRAINING and OPERATION

- A. The Mounted Patrol Detail will be supervised by the Special Services Section (SSS) Major, who will assign a Detail Team Leader for the management and communication of day-to-day operations.
- B. During their normal course of duty, Mounted Patrol Officers will be under the direct supervision of their respective section's supervisor. Matters that involve or affect the general operation of the Mounted Patrol Detail will be directed and supervised by the SSS Major.
- C. Mounted Patrol Officer Selection:

1. The SSS Major will publicize the notification of an opening via memorandum. Interested officers will submit a memorandum to the SSS Major.
2. The SSS Major will review the interested member's Departmental personnel file. The Chief of Police will have the final approval on the selection.
3. Prior to assignment, interested officers must demonstrate the ability to mount a standard-sized horse of at least "17 hands," by horse/equine standards, without assistance.

D. Training:

1. The selected member(s) must attend and successfully complete a six (6)-week training course in Basic Law Enforcement Mounted Training provided by a City of Miami Mounted Police Trainer, or another school approved by the Department.
2. In-service training: When scheduling permits, one training day a month will be scheduled by the Mounted Patrol Detail Team Leader with notification to the SSS Major.

E. Mounted Patrol Officers will abide by the same rules and regulations, orders, and directives that govern all members of the North Miami Police Department.

F. Mishandling or abuse of a NMPD police horse, or related City-issued equipment, may be grounds for disciplinary action and/or immediate removal from the detail.

G. Only selected, authorized, and certified Mounted Patrol Officers may ride a NMPD horse. At no time will a civilian or any other law enforcement personnel be permitted to mount or ride an NMPD horse, unless authorized by the Chief of Police, or his/her designee.

VIII. MOUNTED PATROL OFFICERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Mounted Patrol Officers' duties and responsibilities in the care of the NMPD horses will consist of the following:

1. Grooming:
 - a. Prior to mounting, the horse must be brushed and the horse's shoes and hooves be checked. Hooves will be cleaned with a hoof pick.
 - b. Provide shaving and clipping on a regular basis.
 2. Bathing:
 - a. Horses must be bathed prior to the officer's mounted tour of duty, to include the specific care required of male horses, as recommended.
 - b. Upon returning to the stables, officers must rinse the horse.
 3. Following a tour of duty, clean and secure all tack equipment and ensure that sufficient feed and water are in the horses' stalls.
 3. On a regular basis, check the horses for injuries.
 4. Exercise the horses regularly (lunge/ride) and inspect the shoes and hooves. Exercise approximately 30 minutes three times a week in the arena.
 5. Mounted Patrol Officers will care for all NMPD horses, regardless of their preferred or assigned horse.
 6. Arrange for farrier services maintenance every six (6) weeks, or as needed, with the current approved vendor.
 8. Contact the Veterinary (current vendor) as needed for health issues, to include arranging for the yearly maintenance of each horses' Coggins test documentation.
- B. Check all equipment, ensuring operable condition.
- C. Maintain the NMPD horse transport trailer.
- D. Assist the stable attendant, if applicable, with the cleaning of the stalls and maintenance of the stables compound as explained further in Section IX of this policy.
- E. Transport trailered horses safely by driving slowly, particularly when

turning.

- F. Maintain high visibility during all assignments.
- G. Provide back-up to the Field Operations Division.
- H. Engage the community and build partnerships with local merchants and their employees.
- I. Be aware of the crime trends and quality of life issues within the area of patrol.
- J. Be responsible for the safety and wellbeing of the horses and of persons that may come in close proximity to them.
- K. NMPD horses will not be used in vehicular chase situations.
- L. Horses will be secured to a trailer tie at all times when inside the trailer for no more than 45 minutes, unless there are inclement weather conditions.
- M. At no time will a NMPD horse be tied up in an unsafe manner. When needed, horses will be properly secured on a firmly-anchored location, such as a tree, and away from vehicular traffic and property that may become damaged. Less than firmly-anchored posts, such as stop signs, are not adequate for securing a horse and is prohibited.
- N. Provide adequate water and shade to the properly secured horse.
- O. The Mounted Patrol Detail Team Leader will ensure that all documentation collected in relation to the horses (registration, specialized training, Coggins, etc.) be forwarded to the SSS Major.

IX. MOUNTED PATROL OFFICERS' STABLE RESPONSIBILITIES

Mounted Patrol Officers will ensure that all NMPD horses are maintained in a clean and healthy environment while at the stables by doing the following:

- A. Sweep and clean the stable's breezeway and work areas manually or by operation of a blower.
- B. Collect rubbish from the compound and dispense at the proper waste

collection receptacle site.

- C. Water and feed horses, mixing and apportioning feed and feed supplements according to the established diet.
- D. Remove all manure and soiled bedding from the horses' stalls on a daily basis using manure forks and wheelbarrows.
- E. Completely turn stall bedding weekly.
- F. Clean all water and feed buckets daily.
- G. Maintain a record of all deliveries of food and food supplements.

X. DUTY HOURS AND DRESS

- A. The Mounted Patrol Detail is an ancillary function that will be scheduled as determined by the SSS Major with the approval of the Chief of Police, or his/her designee. The Detail will be flexible to provide for special events and assignments.
- B. Mounted Patrol Officers will wear the assigned police uniform or other approved attire.
 - 1. Class A uniform will consist of:
 - a. Dress blue (long sleeve) shirt, breeches, leather calf-length riding boots, patent leather gun belt and riding helmet.
 - b. Award ribbons, to include the Mounted Patrol ribbon.
 - 2. Class B uniform will consist of:
 - a. Blue (short sleeve) shirt, breeches, leather calf-length riding boots, patent leather gun belt and riding helmet.
 - 3. Training day attire will include a black shirt with police decals on the front and back, navy blue or black BDU pants, black nylon belt, boots, or any other approved attire by the SSS Major.

XI. SELECTION OF HORSES

- A. Prior to selection, NMPD Mounted Patrol Detail Officers will visually and otherwise examine the horse under consideration for the following:
 - 1. Hooves: Surface ridges, cracks, deformities, decay, fungus, etc.
 - 2. Skin and coat parasites, fungus, wound scars, summer sores, etc.
 - 3. Legs: Injuries and conformation defects of joints, bones, ligaments, tendons, etc.
 - 4. Mouth: Wear of teeth, lesions on tongue or gums, jaw alignment, etc.
 - 5. Ears: Parasites, hearing quality, etc.
 - 6. Nose and eyes: Mucous drainage, inflammation and/or obstruction of tear ducts, vision, nasal cavity, etc.
 - 7. Height: Meets minimum standards; that is, “15 hands” by horse/equine measurement standards.
 - 8. Obtain a current owner’s laboratory certified copy of an official negative Coggins test dated within 12 months of the blood sample being taken. A positive test forbids selection.
 - 9. The horse’s disposition will be checked for undesirable behavior, such as biting, kicking, ill-tempered and destructive behavior.
 - 10. The horse’s lunging ability and ability to move freely in various gaits (walk, trot, canter) will be observed on both the left and right side.
- B. The Mounted Patrol Detail Team Leader will discuss all findings with the SSS Major prior to any selection.