

PORT HUENEME POLICE DEPARTMENT MOTORCYCLE UNIT

In an effort to improve traffic safety, the City Council authorized the Port Hueneme Police Department to initiate a motorcycle patrol unit. Officer Frank Michel was selected as the Port Hueneme Police Department's first Motorcycle Officer. Officer Michel has been with the Port Hueneme Police Department for three years and has received several commendations for his outstanding performance within that period.

Officer Michel attended, and successfully passed, a four-week training course with the Oxnard Police Department at Ventura County Naval Base, Point Mugu. The training, conforming to the strictest standards, consisted of high speed, slow maneuver, balance, and many other riding courses. The Motorcycle is a 2006 BMW R1200RT-P, outfitted with emergency lights and siren.

Officer Michel will be assigned at busy intersections and residential areas to monitor traffic flow. The motorcycle officer will be more effective at these locations due to the ease with which the bike can be positioned and maneuvered on the roadway.

Officer Michel will also assume a community-policing role. Citizens should be more comfortable approaching the officer on a motorcycle without the perceived barrier of an enclosed vehicle, thus improving the relationship with the community. Studies have shown the mere presence of the motorcycle is enough to foster a dialogue between the officer and citizen.



Officer Michel will also handle traffic safety presentations to various civic groups, organizations, and our public schools. Although he will have many tasks to perform, his primary goal will be to combat aggressive driving within our City, such as red light violations, speeding, turn violations, and other traffic violations on our City streets.

Traffic enforcement is essential to achieving significant reductions in the number of deaths and injuries due to motor vehicle crashes. Police motorcycle units are an essential component to a well-rounded full service law enforcement agency. This motorcycle will enhance the ability of the Department to provide police traffic services within our City.