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NEWS RELEASE

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Traffic Violator at Lakefront Hits Deputy's Motorcycle Motorcycle Safety Tips to Note



Milwaukee, WI – Yesterday, at 3:00 p.m., a deputy on motorcycle patrol with his lights and siren activated, attempted to stop a motorist for failing to obey a traffic sign. The driver continued into the Bradford Beach parking lot, and the deputy stopped about 15 feet behind the violator. The 17-year-old driver then began to back up, striking the deputy's motorcycle, crushing the front fender, tire and forks, and pushing the handlebars into the deputy.

The driver stated she did not see or hear the lights and siren and was focused on getting an open parking spot. She was ticketed for Unsafe Backing, and Failure to Obey Sign.

Motorcycle Safety Tips on Following Page

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Motorcycle Safety Tips

Drivers of passenger vehicles should always remember to follow these steps to help keep motorcyclists safe:

- **Allow a motorcyclist the full lane width. Although it may seem as though there is enough room in a traffic lane for both an automobile and a motorcycle, the motorcycle needs the full lane to maneuver safely. Do not share the lane.**
- **Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic. This allows the motorcyclist to anticipate traffic flow and find a safe lane position.**
- **Remember that motorcyclists are often hidden in your blind spot or missed with a quick glance due to their smaller size. Always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections.**
- **Don't be fooled by a flashing turn signal on a motorcycle – motorcycle signals usually are not self-canceling and riders sometimes forget to turn them off. Wait to be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed.**
- **Remember that road conditions, which are minor annoyances to passenger vehicles, pose MAJOR hazards to motorcyclists. Be aware that a motorcyclist may need to change speed or adjust their position within a lane suddenly in reaction to road and traffic conditions such as potholes, gravel, or wet or slippery surfaces.**
- **Allow more following distance when behind a motorcycle, so the motorcyclist has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency. Don't tailgate. In dry conditions, motorcycles can stop more quickly than cars.**

Motorcyclists can increase their safety by:

- **Avoid riding in poor weather conditions.**
- **Wearing brightly colored protective gear and a DOT-compliant helmet.**
- **Using turn signals for every turn or lane change, even if the rider thinks no one will see it.**
- **Combining hand and turn signals to draw more attention to themselves.**
- **Using reflective tape and stickers to increase visibility.**
- **Positioning themselves in the lane where they will be most visible to other drivers**

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