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# NEW BERN

## NEW BERN POLICE DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 1129, New Bern, NC 28563-1129  
(252) 672-4100

*Police and Community come together here.*



Toussaint E. Summers, Jr.  
Chief of Police

**For Immediate Release**

**May 19, 2016**

### **POLICE PARTNER WITH GHSP TO HOST MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS RALLY**

The New Bern Police Department is partnering with the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) to host a Motorcycle Safety Awareness Rally on Saturday, May 28, 2016 inside Union Point Park, at 10:00 a.m. All motorcycle riders are welcome to attend.

Governor Pat McCrory has proclaimed May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month to encourage drivers to share the road with those riding motorcycles and to remind motorcyclists to practice safe riding. Motorcycle related injuries decreased in North Carolina with 3,618 in 2014 and 3,359 in 2015. Crashes involving motorcyclists also decreased from 3,783 in 2014 to 3,641 in 2015. However, motorcycle fatalities have increased 14.2 percent from 2014 (148) to 2015 (169). As the weather gets warmer and the days get longer, more people are on the roads, including more than 469,000 drivers licensed in North Carolina with a motorcycle endorsement.

The New Bern Police Department, NCDOT and GHSP offers the following important safety tips to motorcyclists and other drivers:

#### Motorcyclists:

- Wear a DOT compliant helmet and other protective gear
- Obey all traffic laws and be properly licensed
- Use hand and turn signals at every lane change or turn
- Wear brightly colored clothes, gear, and reflective tape to increase visibility
- Obey the posted speed limit
- Never ride distracted or impaired

#### Other drivers:

- Share the road. Motorcyclists have the right to a full lane
- Stay alert. Be aware that motorcycles can be easily hidden in a car's blind spot. Take an extra moment to thoroughly check traffic when changing lanes, especially at intersections
- Always signal when changing lanes or merging with traffic

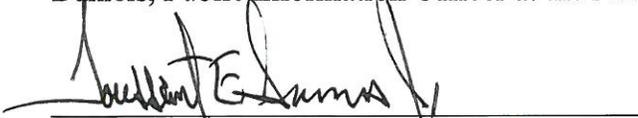


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- Keep a safe distance. Allow more following distance, three to four seconds, behind motorcycles
- Be cautious. Be aware that not all turn signals on a motorcycle are self-canceling, thus some riders sometimes forget to turn them off after a turn or lane change
- Obey the posted speed limit
- Never drive distracted or impaired

In conjunction with the Motorcycle Safety Awareness Rally, the New Bern Police Department will host a free Bike Safe Class. The Bike Safe Course will be take place from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Union Point Park and students can pre-register at <http://www.bikesafenc.com/>.

Citizens are encouraged to become a “**Partner in Policing,**” by reporting suspected illegal activity to the New Bern Police Department’s TIPS line at **(252) 636-5034** or the Craven County Crime Stoppers line at (252) 633-5141. For additional information, please contact Sergeant David Daniels, Public Information Officer at the New Bern Police Department at (252) 672-4285.



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Toussaint E. Summers, Jr., Chief of Police