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A MESSAGE FROM POLICE CHIEF, BRIAN STURGILL

May is...

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

#seemotorcycles

With warmer weather coming to Northeast Ohio, the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department would like to remind everyone to be on the alert and to share the road with motorcyclists.

Tips to Observe for Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

- **Always check your blind spots** - Motorcycles are smaller than other vehicles and can be even more difficult to spot while merging or changing lanes. Before merging, devote several seconds to searching each of your car's blind spots before proceeding with your intended maneuver.
- **Be extra cautious when passing** - Make sure to signal your intention to pass a motorcyclist by using your turn signal. Always ensure you are several car lengths ahead of the motorcycle before returning to your lane.
- **Motorcycles react more quickly than cars** - Make sure that you maintain an adequate following distance behind motorcycles. Rear-ending a motorcycle can be fatal to the rider.
- **Be aware of the weather** - Inclement weather has more drastic effects on motorcycle riders than on automobile drivers. Also, remember that weather conditions often reduce visibility and may cause motorcycles to be more difficult to see.
- **Nightriding** - Help riders stay safe after dark by increasing your following distance, ensuring that your high beams are turned off when you notice an approaching motorcycle, and refraining from passing. If you are driving with your high beams on, you must dim them at least 500 feet from any oncoming vehicle, including a motorcycle.
- **Stay in your lane** - Motorcycles are legally entitled to their own lane of traffic. In no situation are you allowed to drive your automobile in the same lane and in close proximity to a motorcycle. No matter how small these vehicles are or how much extra room there appears to be, sharing a single lane with a motorcycle is illegal and a recipe for a crash.
- **Inform motorcyclists of your intention to turn** - Initiate your turn signal sooner than you normally would when you know a motorcycle is driving behind you.
- **Intersections are danger zones** - Many vehicle accidents that involve both automobiles and motorcycles occur at intersections. Always follow the safety protocol for intersections every time that you approach one: come to a complete halt, view and obey posted traffic signs and signals, look both ways for approaching traffic, and proceed slowly.
- **Take a second look at left turns** - Before you cross a lane or lanes of traffic to turn left, take a second look for approaching motorcycles. Vehicle accidents involving the collision of a left-turning car and an approaching motorcycle can be very severe.
- **Distracted driving** - Distractions during driving could mean the difference between seeing a motorcyclist or not. Don't let one text change anyone's life forever!