

ALERT

Public Service Announcement – Motorized Scooters

From the Office of Chief Frank Lightbourn
Broward Sheriff's Office - District 11 – Pompano Beach, Florida

With the Christmas rush behind us, the Sheriff's Office has received numerous complaints and inquiries regarding the legality of **Motorized Scooters** operated within the City of Pompano Beach. Undoubtedly, owners of these popular gifts need to be made aware of the laws that pertain to them.

In order to give a definitive answer regarding the legality, 2 types of **Motorized Scooters** will be addressed below:

MOTORIZED SCOOTERS WITH A SEAT ATTACHED

Per Florida state statutes 316, 320 & 322, scooters with seats attached are **NOT** considered **Motorized Scooters** and therefore are subject to motor vehicle/motorcycle laws. Accordingly, this type of vehicle cannot be registered as such and therefore **cannot be operated on a public street, roadway or sidewalk.**

MOTORIZED SCOOTERS WITHOUT A SEAT ATTACHED

Motorized scooters, or "Go Peds" as they are commonly referred to, **WITHOUT** a seat attached and is ridden within the City of Pompano Beach, are regulated by Municipal Code Ordinance 131.21 "Operation of Motorized Scooters" and requires the following:

- ✘ May not be operated on sidewalks or in parking lots or areas open to the public designated for parking which are maintained by the City;
- ✘ May not be operated in public parks within the City of Pompano Beach unless such use is specifically permitted by signage posted in that particular park;
- ✘ Must be operated and used by one person only at any one time; NO passengers!
- ✘ May not tow any person, object or vehicle of any kind;
- ✘ May only be operated during daylight hours within the City of Pompano Beach;
- ✘ Shall be operated as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when preparing to make a left-turn at a intersection or into a private road or driveway;
- ✘ Must be operated only in a single file formation, and not be operated abreast of each other;
- ✘ Must be operated at all times with both of the operator's hands on the scooter's handlebars;
- ✘ May not be operated unless the operator, at all times, is wearing a helmet, securely fastened – **Regardless of age!**;
- ✘ Must be equipped with a working brake;
- ✘ May not be operated with a muffler cutout, bypass, or similar device or part which modifies the scooter in such a manner that the noise emitted by the motor is above that emitted by the vehicle as originally manufactured or, that causes excessive fumes or smoke to escape;
- ✘ May not be operated by any person wearing a headset, headphones, or other listening device, other than a hearing aid or instrument for the improvement of defective human hearing;
- ✘ Must be operated at all times in accordance with all authorized traffic control devices and traffic laws;
- ✘ Operator must possess a valid driver's license;
- ✘ It shall be unlawful for any parent or guardian of children under 18 years of age who operate motorized scooters to knowingly permit any such child to violate any provision of this ordinance.
- ✘ **Penalties:** Civil infraction and be subject to a \$25.00 fine for each offense, payable to the City within fourteen (14) days of the violation. Any violation not paid within 14 days of the issuance shall be assessed an additional \$10.00 fee. The City may commence a prosecution in Broward County Court for any such violation that remains unpaid for more than 30 days. Following a hearing, a County Court Judge shall determine whether a violation has been committed and shall impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$100.00 plus costs.

Together, By Obeying The Laws As Mentioned Above, We Can Ensure The Safety Of Our Loved Ones!

