

## VICTORY RIDER BLOG: POLICE CHIEF MIKE BEREZIN RIDES A VICTORY - AND SO DO HIS TRAFFIC OFFICERS



Pictured: Officer Robert Lawson with the Victory Police Motorcycle, and Chief Mike Berezin with his personal Vegas.

*Victory salutes first responders this month – and every month – with Hero’s Metal, the Victory-exclusive program that provides police, fire, military veteran, and currently serving military personnel with \$1,000 [USD] off the purchase of any new Victory model. In this Victory Riders Blog, we’re featuring a first responder who is also a Victory owner.*

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Michael “Mike” Berezin, the Chief of Police in Missouri City, Texas, is a Victory man, through and through.

He not only owns and rides a customized Vegas 8-Ball, but his police department is currently using a fleet of five Victory Police Motorcycles as it serves one of Houston’s largest, busiest suburbs.

“I’ve been accused by those who say that the reason we got Victory [Police Motorcycles] was because I am a Victory owner,” Mike laughed.

He was simply choosing the best for his officers. He did his research and it proved conclusively what every Victory rider knows: Victory makes the world’s best motorcycles.

“When I was assistant chief, I was assigned to do research on purchasing bikes,” he said. “I did

research on police motorcycles and on motorcycles in general, including performance testing. That's when I learned how good Victory [motorcycles] were, and I kind of got the itch, if you will."

Inspired by his research, he headed to Polaris West, the Victory dealership in Katy, another Houston suburb, and spoke with owner Rick Luebeck.

"Within 10 minutes we closed the deal," Mike recalled, and he was the new owner of a 2012 Vegas. He has accessorized it for comfort and convenience with a windshield, saddlebags, a Mustang seat, and a cargo rack.

"I like it Plain Jane," he laughed.

Among his favorite rides are trips to the heart of the Lone Star State's Hill Country and its legendary roller coaster roads.

"We ride Texas Hill Country more than anything else," he said. "We make a run to the Three Twisted Sisters, ride those roads, then head to Luckenbach for burgers."

As chief of one of the state's busiest police departments – and one that is very highly regarded – he welcomes the escape he experiences from riding his Vegas.

"When I'm on my bike, that's my release. We get more than 100,000 calls a year for service, so when I'm on my bike, I like to disconnect.

He's enjoying his Vegas, but like all true motorcyclists, he is considering purchasing another bike.

"I'm torn. I like that Vision for the wind management and the fixed fairing, but that Cross Country Tour is pretty awesome, too," he said.

The Missouri City police bikes are Commander I models, which started as Victory Cross Country models and have been equipped with police equipment, such as: lights, sirens, additional electronics, tip-over protection, adjustable windshields, and MCPD badging.

"We've been real satisfied with them," the chief said. "We have had our five bikes at least two years, maybe longer. We use them primarily in the traffic unit, for traffic control operations."

The Victory Police Motorcycles prove invaluable when there is an accident or incident that ties up traffic on the busy roads around Missouri City, which is in the southwest corner of the Houston metro area.

"There are lots of large freeways, beltways, and toll roads in the area, and we can get through traffic to the scene of the crash faster on the Victories than in a regular car," the chief said. "We also partner with the state patrol to help monitor operations around railroad crossings."

The area has railroad crossings that have been rated as some of the state's most dangerous, "so we diligently apply all of our efforts" to promoting the safe crossing of the tracks, he said.

When the MCPD purchased its Victory Police Motorcycles, the motor officers traveled to Tucson,

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Arizona, for training and to pick up the bikes.

“We trained for at least two-plus weeks in Tucson, and also took tech training so we were familiar with minor maintenance,” Mike said. “The officers then rode home as a unit from Tucson to Texas on the bikes. We’ve got some Iron Butt riders in the group, so it was not that big of a stretch.”

Mike is one of three officers on the force who are Victory owners, so the choice of the Victory Police Motorcycles was well received.

Chief Berezin has served on the Missouri City Police Department for 26-plus years (it will be 27 years in January 2016), and has served as chief for nearly two years. He expects to retire sometime in the next few years, and that would be a perfect time to purchase that new Vision or Cross Country.

Actually, since he qualifies for the Victory-exclusive Hero’s Metal discount, he could avoid the tough choice and buy one of each!

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