

	ROSENBERG POLICE DEPARTMENT	
	General Order 7.21 Bike Patrol Operations	
	Effective Date: 1-9-2014	Replaces: N/A
	Approved:  Chief of Police	
	Reference: N/A	

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Rosenberg Police Department to utilize bicycles to conduct proactive patrol during normal tours of duty. Police bicycles combine mobility with close citizen contact and will also be used for patrol and crowd control during special events. Use of bike patrols will provide police services in the areas where they are assigned. These areas include residential neighborhoods, public housing, business districts, parks, recreational areas and other areas as appropriate. The primary function of a bike patrol is to serve as an effective proactive force in crime prevention, detection, and enforcement.

II. PURPOSE

The Bicycle Patrol purpose is both to reduce criminal activity within specific areas and significantly increase positive community relations by increased visibility. The bicycle officer is more available and readily accessible to the citizens, whereas the patrol vehicle often creates a barrier to the public. This accessibility enhances a more personal relationship between the community and the police department.

III. ORGANIZATION, ADMINISTRATION AND TRAINING

A. Organization

1. All bicycle officers will be assigned to the Patrol Division and will be under the command of the Police Lieutenant.
2. When bicycle patrol officers are deployed, they are under the direct command of the on-duty supervisor.
3. A bicycle patrol coordinator will be assigned and will act as a facilitator of the unit. This assignment will be a collateral duty, done in addition to the selected individuals primary duties.

B. Bike Patrol Coordinators Responsibilities

The person assigned as the coordinator will be required to meet all of the training and physical requirements of the bicycle unit. The bike patrol coordinator shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Regularly inspect and provide general maintenance of the bicycle fleet.
2. Complete an annual inventory and operational inspection of the entire bike fleet to be completed and submitted to the senior sergeant by the last day of the month of February.
3. Keep maintenance records on each bicycle and who that bike is assigned to.
4. Maintain an inventory of minor replacement parts for the bike fleet (i.e. tubes, tires, chain grease, etc...).

C. Hours of Operations

Authorized bike patrol officers may operate with the approval of the bike coordinator and that officer's immediate supervisor during any normal tour of duty day or night. If operating at night officers shall be required to use a head light as required by Texas Traffic Code, a flashing "red" tail light and shall be required to wear reflective material on their blouse or shirt.

D. Selection

1. Officers will be selected for bike patrol duty based on need, availability of bicycles, and performance. When additional bicycle patrol positions are open and funding exists for training, the department will post a notice and officers will submit their names for consideration.
2. No officer will be assigned to bike patrol without first successfully completing the departments FTO program.

E. Training

1. Before participating as part of the bicycle patrol, officers must complete a TCLEOSE approved school such as one sponsored by the International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA) or equivalent. This course may be taught in-house or at another police training facility by a certified bicycle patrol trainer.
2. Only officers that have completed the above requirements/qualifications are authorized to ride department bicycles.

F. Uniform, Appearance and Equipment

1. Due to the high-profile nature of the bicycle patrol, it is strongly encouraged that officers maintain a high standard of grooming and appearance.
2. If chosen as a bicycle patrol officer, officers will operate with a departmental approved bicycle, helmet, blouse/shirt, shorts, gloves and any other equipment as needed. When performing as a bike officer the helmet, and gloves shall be worn at all times.

3. Officers will wear their standard departmental uniform as their daily uniform and shall have their bicycle uniform readily available. If the officer knows ahead of time that they will be riding a bicycle that particular shift they may wear their bike uniform to show up, however, they will be required to have their standard uniform readily available in such cases as the weather turns foul or they are removed from the bike for the remainder of the shift. Officers will refer to policy 4.5 “Uniforms, Appearance and Equipment” for any other uniform questions.
4. The bicycle uniform shall not be worn on off-duty assignments unless approval has been given by the Patrol Lieutenant.
5. No bicycle officer shall wear their winter jacket when they are wearing the standard patrol uniform.
6. Departmental bicycles will not be used for any purpose other than departmental functions unless approved by the Patrol Lieutenant.
7. No personally owned bicycles will be used for police operations unless approved by the Patrol Lieutenant.

G. Bicycle Maintenance

1. Before riding, officers shall perform a pre-ride check of the bicycle (i.e. Tire pressure, headlights, chain lubrication, etc...).
2. Minor maintenance or repairs will be done by the bicycle officers.
3. Those repairs of maintenance that cannot be completed by police personnel will be done by an authorized bike dealer/shop.

H. General Duties and Deployment

1. Bicycle officers will remain flexible in days off and hours worked, depending on the operation being undertaken.
2. Bicycle officers will have access to bicycle racks to be used for the back of their assigned patrol vehicle. Bicycle racks are to be used for no other purpose than to transport bicycles unless approved by the Patrol Lieutenant.
3. It is possible the officers will be assigned as a roving unit so as to be free to patrol on the bike when and where they are needed. They may ride in pairs or alone.
4. Bicycle officers will function just as if they were deployed in a squad car, day or night. They will complete all the job tasks and provide all normal

service requests from the citizens, the same as if they were in a patrol vehicle.

5. Officers may respond to calls for service in their assigned area. There may arise a need to have a marked unit respond to assist the bicycle officer. The discretion will be left the bicycle officer and the on-duty supervisor.
6. Before their tour begins officers should have all pertinent report forms, ticket books, and literature to hand out to the public should the need arise.
7. Bicycle officers may also assist in conducting plain clothes activities including surveillance or other covert activities. These types of operations must first be approved by the Patrol Lieutenant.
8. Bicycle officers will not deploy during extreme bad weather conditions (i.e. snow, extreme cold, severe rain, etc...)