

	LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT Ardmore, Pennsylvania	
	Policy 3.18.2	
Subject:		Distribution:
Bicycle Patrol		All Sworn Personnel
Date of Issue:	Expiration Date:	Rescinds:
06-01-2014	Until Amended or Rescinded	Directive: 98-24
References:		
CALEA: N/A; PLEAC: 1.10.6		
By Authority of:		
		Superintendent of Police

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the operation of the bicycle patrol and to establish standards of performance for officers assigned to this activity.

MISSION

The mission of the Township of Lower Merion bicycle patrol program will be to engage in highly visible patrols in an effort to reduce crime, and the fear of crime, and to further an increased positive interaction between the police department and the community it serves. Bicycle patrol will also support the efforts of the Patrol Units in solving community problems as well as providing an efficient and effective alternative response to calls for police service when necessary.

PROCEDURE

A. GENERAL

1. Bicycle patrol officers shall have the same responsibilities as officers assigned to vehicle patrol, and will be assigned to specific duties and areas of patrol based on departmental and shift requirements.
2. Generally speaking, bicycle patrol will be most efficient in commercial areas. However, this does not preclude the possibility of bicycles being used in other applications when warranted. For example, bikes may be used in a township or other recreational area during large events, or, at the discretion of the Operations Division Commander, to supplement a Special Investigations Unit operation. Additionally, patrol supervisors should be mindful of other situations where the obvious community-policing effect of the bicycle patrol officer would be desirable. Bicycle patrol officers may also be called upon to participate in community activities related to the sport of bicycling, such as youth educational programs.

3. Bicycle patrol officers shall concentrate on:
 - a. Crime prevention
 - b. Community policing and reducing the fear of crime
 - c. Apprehension of criminals
 - d. Parking lot patrol and other areas not accessible to vehicles
 - e. Bicycle traffic violations
 - f. Bicycle safety and educational activities
4. Coordination and planning for the deployment of bicycle patrol officers is the responsibility of the Special Operations Unit Supervisor.

B. OPERATION OF BICYCLES

1. Bicycle patrol officers will not effect traffic stops on motor vehicles. If a traffic stop becomes necessary, the bicycle officer will request the assistance of a marked patrol vehicle. Exception - If exigent circumstances exist and the appropriate supervisor is aware of the conditions that require immediate and direct intervention by the bicycle patrol officer, a stop may be attempted.
2. Bicycle patrol officers will work individually, unless specifically assigned otherwise by a supervisor.
3. The police bicycle is a vehicle and will be operated safely and in accordance with all Vehicle Code mandates. As a police vehicle, the bicycle must be kept under control at all times; common sense and good judgment is to be exercised at all times.
4. Bicycle patrol officers will properly secure their vehicles with the issued locking device when leaving it unattended. Officers should also take with them any easily removable equipment, e.g. - mileage computer, etc.
5. In the event that a bicycle patrol officer should dismount his or her bike and engage in a foot pursuit, the Communications Center will assign the nearest available patrol unit to locate and secure the bicycle, as soon as is practical.
6. Adverse weather conditions such as high heat and humidity, sub-freezing temperatures, wind, and precipitation may make the operation of a bicycle at least impractical and possibly hazardous. It is the duty of the patrol supervisor, consulting with the bicycle patrol officers as necessary, to suspend bicycle patrol when such conditions exist.
7. Bicycle patrol officers are responsible for the proper maintenance and safe keeping of all issued equipment in accordance with departmental policy. It is the officer's duty to perform a thorough inspection of the bicycle prior to each tour-of-duty. The inspection shall encompass the entire unit and particularly tire

pressure, tire condition, and chain condition (properly lubricated, etc.). In the event a defective condition is observed, the bicycle is to be taken to the Human Zoom Bicycle Shop, located at 47 W. Lancaster Avenue, Ardmore, for immediate repairs. A receipt indicating the type of service will be obtained and forwarded to the Staff & Inspections Unit with a completed Receipt of Materials & Supplies. If this is not possible, the bicycle will be put out of service until properly repaired.

8. Bicycle patrol officers must wear eye protection, their Department issued protective helmet and gloves, as well as other mandatory equipment, whenever they are operating the bicycle. Wearing of the department issued protective body armor is mandatory. Officers will wear white athletic socks with their issued bicycle shoes.

C. DEPLOYMENT

1. The Special Operations Unit Supervisor shall review current tab activity resumes and liaison reports in order to determine the most advantageous deployment of the bicycle patrol.
2. The Special Operations Unit Supervisor shall review the daily manpower allotment and upon consultation with the Watch Commanders, will determine the number of bicycle patrols to be assigned on any particular shift.
3. During the course of the shift, if a bicycle patrol is required to be discontinued due to deployment needs, the bicycle patrol officer is permitted to finish his/her shift in the department issued bicycle patrol uniform. The bicycle patrol cap is to be worn at this time that the helmet is not in use.
4. Bicycles are to be ridden to the patrol assignment, whenever practical. If assigned to areas that are located a great distance from headquarters, the bicycle patrol officer may be assigned a patrol vehicle and shall utilize the department's bicycle rack to transport the patrol bike to and from the assignment area.
5. Bicycles are to be secured at headquarters in the designated bicycle storage area located at the West Side of the Public Safety Building.

D. TRAINING

1. Police Officers selected to be in the Bicycle Unit shall complete a basic certification course that meets the standards dictated by the International Police and Mountain Bike Association. **(PLEAC 1.10.6 a)**
2. Bicycle Unit members are required to complete annual in house training and readiness exercises as determined by the Department. **(PLEAC 1.10.6 c)**

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