



East Norriton Township Police Department

GENERAL ORDER 2.1.11

BICYCLE PATROL

Subject:

Bicycle Patrol

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PLEAC STANDARD Reference

1.10.6

Index Words

In-Service Training Specialized Vehicles

2.1.11 Bicycle Patrol

It is the policy of the East Norriton Township Police Department as part of our continuing commitment to Community Oriented Policing (COP) to endeavor to reach out to the Community of East Norriton in the course of normal police operations. It is with this in mind that the East Norriton Police Bicycle Patrol Unit is established. This Unit's mission is to better serve the citizens East Norriton Township by making themselves more accessible and visible than officers on regular patrol.

The Unit offers the Police Administration with a highly trained and dedicated alternative patrol function, not normally found within standard police response capabilities. The establishment of this Unit allows the Police Department to reach out on a more personal level into neighborhoods, business areas, shopping centers, public parks and school district properties. It allows the officers assigned to the Bike Unit the opportunity to forge a positive affiliation with the residents of and visitors of East Norriton Township. This Unit allows for the assignment of officers to specific areas and incidents that have a need for a highly mobile, non-traditional police response.

A. Personnel:

1. Officers for the Bicycle Patrol Unit must meet the following basic requirements:
 - a. Have demonstrated good work habits and are self-motivated.
 - b. Be recommended by the Supervisor.
 - c. Be able to complete a department approved bicycle patrol training program.
 - d. Be physically fit, in good health, and not suffer from medical problems.
 - e. Satisfy an interview by the Chief of Police and Officer in Charge of the Bicycle Unit.
2. Officers assigned to the Unit will be assigned to a regular patrol squad under the direct supervision of the Duty Sergeant. The Chief may assign bike patrol officers to special details or patrol functions. At all times squad integrity and number of officers working will be taken into account.

B. Training and Equipment:

1. Prior to assignment, Officers will attend a basic Police Cycling course sanctioned by International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA). All officers assigned to the Unit recognize the need for continued training and will remain current in all police mountain bike skills.
2. Bike patrol officers will be issued a Department Police Mountain Bike. Officers can customize equipment on their issued bikes with approval of the Chief of Police.
3. Officers assigned to the Unit will be issued specialized cycling uniforms consisting of: jackets, pants, shorts, shirts, cycling helmet, and black sneaker type shoes. These uniforms will be worn in place of the regular police uniform on days when the officer will be performing bicycle patrol. Additional police equipment such as a first aid kit, CPR mask, rubber gloves, repair tool kit, water bottles, will be carried by the officer either in the equipment bag or on the bike.
4. Bike officers, while on patrol will wear a bike helmet, eye protection, and gloves as well as any other required equipment, i.e. ballistic vest.

C. Operations:

1. Bicycle patrol officers will perform regular patrol duties and will supplement their regular patrol tactics with periodic bike patrols in neighborhoods, and areas of high visibility or specific criminal activity. Bike patrol officers will always be aware of squad considerations in performing bike patrols and adjust their patrols in accordance with departmental needs.
2. The Chief, Lieutenant or the Duty Sergeant may, from time to time, assign bike patrol officers to special tasks or details.
3. Whenever a bike patrol officer begins a bike patrol, the officer will first contact the Duty Sergeant or OIC for approval and will provide the location of the Patrol. The officer will then contact Police Radio of the patrol and the times will be recorded in the officer's daily activity report.
4. Bike patrol officers while on patrol should concentrate on:
 - a. Neighborhood patrol and crime prevention.
 - b. Community policing and reducing the fear of crime.
 - c. Apprehension of criminal.
 - d. Assisting regular motor patrol.
 - e. Bike traffic violations.
 - f. Parking lot patrol and violations in shopping centers and other areas.
 - g. Bike safety and education.
 - h. All parks in East Norriton Township.
 - i. All areas in the Township not accessible by regular patrol cars.
 - j. Field contacts.
5. Bike patrol officers will not conduct traffic stops of motor vehicles relative to selective

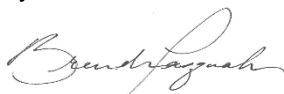
enforcement. If a traffic stop becomes necessary every attempt will be made to have a marked unit conduct the stop. If exigent circumstances exist that would necessitate a traffic stop by a bike patrol officer, the officer will notify the Duty Supervisor of the circumstances of the stop. In the event that a bike officer must make traffic stop, an Incident Report shall be completed detailing the circumstances surrounding the incident.

6. Bike patrol officers will normally work as a one person unit but may on occasion be paired with another bike officer.
7. Bike patrol officers should be willing to participate in special activities and events as necessary.
8. The police bike is not an emergency vehicle but it will be operated in accordance with all Departmental regulations and State laws to prevent injuries and promote good community relations.
9. When left unattended, bike patrol officers will secure their bike properly with the Department supplied bike lock. Should the need arise for a bike officer to dismount to engage in a foot pursuit, the officer should attempt, if able, to secure the bike to some type of stationary object by means of an extra set of handcuffs. If the bike cannot be secured, Police Radio will be notified and will dispatch an available officer to secure to police bike if possible.
10. Bike officers will park the patrol car used for transport of the bike in the area of the intended bike patrol to enable them to return to the car quickly in the event they are needed to assist other officers.
11. The police bikes will not be used when the weather includes rain, snow or temperatures below freezing. The Duty Sergeant, Lieutenant or Chief of Police will make the final decision on the use of the bikes when the weather is questionable.

D. Maintenance and Storage:

1. Bike officers are responsible for routine checks and maintenance on their issued bikes. Maintenance should only be performed to the degree for which they have been trained. Repairs not part of routine maintenance will be referred to a repair facility.
2. Police bikes will be transported using the supplied bicycle racks, which will be temporarily mounted to a patrol vehicle for the duration of the shift. When not in use, the bike rack will be stored in the garage.
3. When the bikes are not in use, they shall be stored on the wall mounted bike racks and secured in the garage.
4. Bike officers will be responsible for inspection of their bike in the same manner that they inspect their patrol cars for damage or items that are in need of repair. Damaged or missing items will be reported on a Vehicle Inspection form and reported to the officer's Immediate Supervisor.

By order of:



Brandon Pasquale
Chief of Police