

BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

BICYCLE PATROL

Reviewed by: Asst. Chief Gregory Scott	Effective Date: May 16, 1996
Authorized by: Chief Clay Wheeler	Revision Date: June 1, 2018

PURPOSE

Bicycle patrols will be used to supplement regular uniformed patrol only as the shift manpower permits. Bicycle units are able to respond to calls in the same manner as regular patrol units and will be given calls in the same manner as a marked car (with the exception of major traffic crashes and transports). Bicycle patrols may be used to provide covert coverage where a marked car would be difficult to use.

EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING

The bicycles used by the department will be of a mountain bike style with a rack over the back tire. A bag will be attached to the rack for carrying equipment and will clearly marked "POLICE". The bicycle will have "POLICE" on both sides of the frame clearly marking it as department property.

Officers assigned to the bicycle patrol unit must complete and pass a thirty-two hour Police cyclist course.

Officers assigned to bicycle patrols are to carry with them all materials required to complete their tour of duty. Bags initialed with the police logo have been placed on the Department bikes in an effort to enhance identification as well as the ability to carry required equipment. When practical, bicycle officers will secure their bicycles when away from them. This may be done with locks, if provided, or a spare pair of handcuffs.

The following list of equipment is required when assigned to a bicycle patrol unit. Any officer not wearing the listed equipment will not be allowed to use a bicycle for police duty.

1. Bicycle helmet
2. Eye protection
3. Body armor
4. Gloves
5. Issued patrol utility shirt with reflective "POLICE" on back. If "POLICE" is not reflective, other reflective material (reflective tape) may be temporarily attached to the back of their equipment belt visible to traffic approaching from behind.

6. **OPTIONAL:** If an officer chooses, they may in addition to number 5, wear their issued reflective vest.

Since the majority of injuries occur from taking a fall with the bike, this protective equipment is intended to minimize injury as much as possible. It is strongly recommended that each officer maintain a supply of water while on the bicycle. It is very important that the officers be properly hydrated due to the increased physical demands.

NIGHT PATROL

Bicycle units used at night must be equipped with a front and rear flashing light. A "Vista Light" with a clear lens for the front and a red lens for the rear will be used. If a bicycle is not equipped with a red "Vista Light", the officer may use a "Vista Light" clipped to his belt. When on the roadway, these lights must be operated. In addition to the flashing "Vista Lights", each bicycle intended for night patrol will be equipped with a head lamp. These will be used as needed during patrol. The user officer is responsible for proper functioning of lighting systems prior to his tour of duty. The head lamp system may be assigned to specific officers to maintain.

MAINTENANCE

Each bicycle officer is to ensure his unit is in proper working order. Each officer will follow the standard "ABC Quick Check" prior to each tour of duty. If any problems are observed with the bicycle unit, the officer will mark it out of service and select another unit. The officer will then advise the bicycle coordinator in writing via email of the problem so that it may be corrected.