I. POLICY

The department encourages trained officers to ride department bicycles as part of their patrol assignment or during special events. The following policy outlines the proper use of bicycles by members of the department.

II. PROCEDURE

A. Authorized Personnel

   Officers who have completed department approved training can use a department issued bicycle as a means of patrol with prior approval of the on-duty Watch Commander.

B. Officers are expected to obey all applicable California Vehicle Code statues on bicycle patrol unless they are in pursuit of a person suspected of illegal behavior.

C. Training

   Officers who intend to use a bicycle while on patrol, shall receive training in bicycle nomenclature, riding skills, and basic maintenance. This training will consist of a test of rider skills. The class shall be taught by an instructor approved by the Department Training Manager.

D. Uniform and Equipment

   1. Officers who use a bicycle while on patrol, shall wear a uniform that meets the requirements set forth in Chapter 10 of the Davis Police Department Policy and Procedures Manual.

   2. In some cases, tactical and investigation situations will require the officer to ride the bike in plain clothes. If such an event arises, the officer shall notify dispatch and the on-duty Watch Commander.

   3. Helmets are provided by the department, and must be worn while on or astride the bicycle. Personal helmets are allowed with approval of a Patrol Commander.

   4. Eye protection must be worn by all bicycle officers, day or night. The department issued “shooting” glasses are acceptable. Regular prescription glasses or sunglasses (purchased by the individual officer) are also permitted.

   5. The Davis Police Department will supply bicycles. As city property, officers are not to make any adjustments or additions to the bikes that would not be considered routine maintenance. No personal bicycles may be used.
6. Bicycles will be equipped with a white light to the front. This light shall be used during any nighttime riding in compliance with VC 21201(d), except when in a “stealth” mode or in the actual surveillance of a suspect.

7. Officers working bicycle patrol are expected to be familiar with the laws regarding bicycle equipment. The officer is expected to examine their bicycle prior to starting the shift, and report any deficiencies to the Watch Commander.

8. Other specialized equipment, including locks and racks will be purchased by the department as the need exists.

E. Logistics

1. Patrol bicycles will be stored at the Police Department.

2. When an officer is working on a bike and is considered part of minimum staffing, they may be required to respond to a call where a patrol car is essential. When in this status, the officer will prepare their patrol car at the start of the shift. The vehicle will be parked in an area that will allow for a five minute response to the vehicle.

3. On any other special assignment where the officer is NOT part of minimum staffing, officers can park their assigned vehicle at the police department.

4. Bicycles should not be operated during rainy weather.

Darren Pytel
Police Chief

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