

WEST PALM BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

IV-29 POLICE MOUNTAIN BIKE FUNCTION

EFFECTIVE: 01/01/2005

CALEA Standards: 41.1.4

CFA Standards: 17.02

I. POLICY: The purpose of this procedure is to establish the Police Mountain Bike patrol function, and to designate equipment and authorized uniform.

II. BICYCLE PROCEDURE:

A. Use of bike patrol will be guided by the need or circumstances of the basic patrol function.

B. Bike patrol will be assigned to specialized assignment functions where appropriate. Deployment for such special use will be under the control of the immediate supervisor of the specialized function.

III. EQUIPMENT, UNIFORM AND TRAINING:

A. Equipment - Bicycle is a 21 speed mountain bike clearly marked "Police". It is equipped with the following accessories:

1. Equipment trunk and rack;
2. Front, rear and wheel reflectors;
3. Water bottle and cage;
4. High intensity, rechargeable lighting system;
5. Reinforced, high pressure tires;
6. Front and rear cantilever brakes;
7. Horn or other audible device;
8. Toe clips; and a
9. Lock.

B. Optional accessories - Officers assigned to bike patrol may choose to equip their bikes with additional items for comfort. Padded seats and high rise handle bar stems must be approved by the supervisor prior to their installation and use. No optional equipment can be used that will hinder the operation or identification of the bike.

C. Uniforms - Officers using the bike for patrol duties will wear the regulation uniform. This will consist of:

1. Issued helmet or personally owned white "Snell" approved helmet;
2. Blue uniform shirt with badge and name tag;
 - a. White Special Detail Shirts are to be worn for Downtown Extra Duty Details and other extra duty details as specified;

3. Nylon or leather duty belt with sidearm, spare magazine, radio, handcuffs, baton, and any other department approved equipment;
4. Soft body armor;
5. Department approved riding shorts or cool weather long riding pants and jackets when necessary;
6. Department approved jacket when necessary;
7. White socks;
8. Department approved black shoes; and
9. Protective eyewear (sunglasses or clear lens).

D. Training - Prior to using the bicycle for patrol duty, officers will be trained and certified by authorized department instructors. Training will cover topics such as:

1. Safe use and operation of the bicycle,
2. Traffic laws and protocol,
3. Emergency and tactical skills, and
4. First aid.

E. Night Riding - Unless assigned to a special detail, such as providing security at festivals, officers will patrol at night with at least one partner, when possible.

1. All night safety equipment, such as lights and reflectors, will be used.
2. When using the roadways, all traffic regulations will be obeyed unless exigent conditions are present.
3. Dispatch will be notified of exact location when conducting investigations, F.I.C,'s etc.

F. Police mountain bikes will be operated only by members who have completed at least a basic level Police Mountain Bike Patrol course.

IV. SECURITY:

A. To prevent theft, bikes left unattended in non-exigent circumstances will be secured with a lock.

V. MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR:

A. All basic repairs and maintenance to the bikes will be performed by the officer(s) assigned to that bike.

1. The officer completing the repair or maintenance will notify by memo the supervisor in charge of the bikes of the work performed.

B. When major repairs are needed, the unit supervisor will be notified by memo so the bike may be fixed by the approved repair company.

VI. REFERENCE:

- SOP # II-20 Uniform and Plain Clothes Attire, Equipment and Appearance for Police and Civilian.

Delsa R. Bush, Chief of Police

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History: SOP # changed to IV-29 on 01/01/2005, SOP # changed to 17.14 on 03/01/99
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Revision Dates: 03/01/99, 12/15/1999, 11/24/202, 01/01/2005

Job Title Task Files: Patrol Captains, Bicycle Unit Supervisor