


Atlanta Police Department Policy Manual		Standard Operating Procedure
Effective Date April 26, 2021		APD.SOP.7035 Path Force Unit
Applicable To: Path Force Unit Staff, Tactical Crime Analysis Unit (TCAU)		Review Due: 2025
Approval Authority: Chief Rodney Bryant		
Signature: Signed by RB		Date Signed: 4/23/2021

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1. PURPOSE

The intent of this directive is to establish responsibilities and procedures for sworn employees of the Atlanta Police Department's Path Force Unit (PFU).

2. POLICY

It is the policy of the Atlanta Police Department to establish a proactive patrol of the Atlanta Beltline, adjoining parks, and communities while working with all partners of the Beltline to create a safe path and green-spaces for residents and visitors.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 The Community Oriented Policing Section (COPS) commander shall be responsible for the PFU and the implementation of this written directive.
- 3.2 The PFU Commander shall foster an alliance and maintain direct points of contact with Atlanta Beltline partners, to include: Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Watershed Management, Department of Public Works, Atlanta Fire Rescue Department and others. The purpose of this alliance is to develop solutions for existing and future issues along the Atlanta Beltline, adjoining parks, and communities.
- 3.3 The PFU Commander shall meet on a regular basis with Beltline partners to develop solutions for existing and future issues along the Atlanta Beltline, adjoining parks and communities.
- 3.4 The PFU supervisor(s) shall monitor the assigned officers to ensure conformity to this written directive and shall provide Path Force Unit officers with continued training, operation, and maintenance of the Department's specialize vehicles.
- 3.5 The PFU officer shall proactively patrol and monitor the Atlanta Beltline, adjoining parks, and communities to provide a safe and secure path route and green-spaces for the enjoyment of the public.



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- 4. ACTION
 - 4.1 General Deployment
 - 4.1.1 Officers assigned to the PFU shall monitor the activities along the Atlanta Beltline, adjoining parks and communities, and take appropriate action when necessary to accomplish the task.
 - 4.1.2 PFU officers shall be required to patrol the Atlanta Beltline, adjoining parks and communities to meet with citizens and become familiar with the Atlanta Beltline, adjoining parks and communities. Officers shall maintain high visibility to the public to provide a secure atmosphere.
 - 4.1.3 PFU officers shall be proactive along the Atlanta Beltline, adjoining parks and communities. The Path Force Unit shall develop ways to take preventative action to deter criminal activities within the Atlanta Beltline, adjoining parks and communities.
 - 4.1.4 PFU officers shall be responsible for responding to calls for service within the Atlanta Beltline, adjoining parks and communities. It shall be the officers' responsibilities to monitor radio communication in their assigned zones. Similarly, all calls for service shall be handled in a timely manner and officers shall also ensure that incidents are properly documented in accordance with APD.SOP.3060, "Reports and Report Writing."
 - 4.1.5 The Tactical Crime Analysis Unit (TCAU), when requested, shall provide crime data showing trends, if any, along the Atlanta Beltline, adjoining parks and communities.
 - 4.1.6 The Path Force Unit shall utilize the daily and weekly reports from TCAU to identify crime trends and patterns and appropriately deploy plainclothes officers and/or additional resources in identified hotspots. The crime reports shall be monitored daily by the Path Force Unit supervisor.
 - 4.2 Specialized Vehicles
 - 4.2.1 The following specialized vehicles utilized by the PFU shall require the successful completion of approved training prior to operation (CALEA 6th ed. Standard 41.1.3b):
 - 1. Bicycle (APD.SOP.4070, "Bicycle Patrol")
 - 2. All Terrain Vehicles (ATV)
 - 3. Mounted Patrol (APD.SOP.4080, "Mounted Patrol")
 - 4.2.2 All specialized vehicles shall be operated with due regard for the safety of the operator and the public. Path Force officers shall have a working knowledge of all applicable state laws, city ordinances, and Department standard operating procedures regarding the operation of specialized vehicles (CALEA 6th ed. Standard 41.1.3a).
 - 4.2.3 Officers shall adhere to all guidelines and methods taught in the PFU training program.
 - 4.2.4 Officers operating specialized vehicles on the Atlanta Beltline, adjoining parks and communities shall be in compliance with all state laws and city ordinances.
 - 4.2.5 Officers are prohibited from modifying, removing, deactivating or otherwise tampering with any part of the specialize vehicles.



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- 4.2.6 When specialized vehicles (including bicycles) are left unattended in a public place, they shall be secured. In the case of an emergency, where time does not permit it, specialized vehicles may be left unsecured, but then shall be secured as soon as possible.
- 4.2.7 Any specialized vehicle involved in a motor vehicle accident upon state, city, public and/or private property that involves injury, property damage or vehicle damage shall be immediately reported to the PFU supervisor. The incident shall be documented in accordance with APD.SOP.3060, "Report and Report Writing."
- 4.2.8 PFU officers are prohibited from using any specialized vehicles in the pursuit of motor vehicles (APD.SOP.3050, "Pursuit Policy").
- 4.2.9 PFU officers shall ensure the timely maintenance, cleaning and care of his or her assigned specialized vehicle. (CALEA 6th ed. Standard 41.1.3c)
- 4.2.10 Specialized vehicles utilized by PFU officers shall be properly equipped for both on and off-road patrol and maintained in accordance with APD.SOP.3150, "Vehicle Management." (CALEA 6th ed. Standard 41.1.3d)

This shall include but is not limited to:

1. Proper Atlanta Police Department decal and inventory number;
2. Flashing emergency lights and sirens; and
3. Storage areas.

4.3 Path Force Unit Uniforms

- 4.3.1 The Community Services Division Commander shall have the discretionary authority to allow the wearing of unit-specific approved uniforms and equipment necessary to meet operational needs.
- 4.3.2 PFU officers shall wear Department of Transportation approved helmets when operating any Department specialized vehicles, including bicycles.

5. DEFINITIONS

N/A

6. CANCELLATIONS

APD.SOP.7035 "Path Force Unit" effective March 15, 2018

7. REFERENCES

APD.SOP.3050, "Pursuit Policy"
APD.SOP.3060, "Report and Report Writing"
APD.SOP.3150, "Vehicle Management"
APD.SOP.4040, "Special Operations Section"
APD.SOP.4070, "Bicycle Patrol"
APD.SOP.4080, "Mounted Patrol"



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Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, (CALEA) 6th Edition Standard
41.1.3

8. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

- 8.1 References to motorcycle use removed from Section 4.2.1; references to motorcycle license and uniform requirements removed throughout policy.