



<b>SPECIALTY OPERATIONS</b>			<b>908.00</b>		
		<b>POLICE BICYCLE OPERATIONS</b>			
<b>ISSUED:</b> 01-29-1997	<b>EFFECTIVE:</b> 02-08-1997	<b>REVISED:</b> 08-14-2025	<b>REVIEWED:</b> 08-14-2025	<b>PAGES:</b> 3	

**CONTENTS:** This procedure consists of the following numbered sections:

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|---|--|
| I. SELECTION, QUALIFICATIONS,<br>AND TRAINING | IV. REQUIRED EQUIPMENT<br>V. INCLEMENT WEATHER |
| II. OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES                    |  |
| III. MAINTENANCE AND CARE                     |  |

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this standard operating procedure is to establish guidelines for the operation of the Police Bicycle.

## **SCOPE**

This procedure shall apply to all Punta Gorda Police Department personnel.

## **DISCUSSION**

A Police Bicycle Officer allows an opportunity to strengthen community relations while saving fuel and promoting officer health. A bicycle officer can respond to a greater area quickly, quietly, with little planning and a low profile.

## **PROCEDURE**

### **I. SELECTION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND TRAINING**

- A. Officers who are in good physical condition and who have the ability to interact and work closely with the public in high visibility situations will be considered to be a bicycle operator.
- B. Only members who have received department-approved training in bicycle operations shall be allowed to operate department bicycles. Department-approved training shall consist of, at a minimum, a sixteen (16) hour Police Mountain Bike Training Course.

C. Police Bicycle operators shall participate in annual training sessions.

## II. OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

A. Police bicycle operations shall be under the direct supervision of the Special Operations Section Supervisor.

B. Motor Vehicle Stops: Bicycle officers may make motor vehicle stops but must adjust their style to accommodate the bicycle.

1. Officers shall use voice commands in addition to lights and sirens to signal cars to pull over in the event a visual signal does not work.

2. The officer should dismount the bicycle, position it to the rear of the violator's vehicle, and approach like a normal traffic stop in accordance with existing department policy.

3. Felony and other high risk stops should not be initiated by bicycle officers. Bicycle officers may assist regular patrol officers with such stops.

C. Photographs: It is very common for the public, specifically the children and area vacationers, to be very intrigued with bicycle officers. As such, officers may be asked to pose for pictures. Under these circumstances, it is encouraged to be photographed as long as the pictures/poses will not cast discredit upon the department.

D. Fluids: It is important for bicycle officers to drink water or electrolyte replacers continually throughout their shift.

III. **MAINTENANCE AND CARE:** Police Bicycle Officers shall continually inspect the bicycle to ensure its safe operation. This can be done by inspecting the frame for cracks, the tires for adequate inflation, and the chain and gear assembly for dirt or grease build-up. Any defective equipment should be noted on the standard department form and given to the team leader.

## IV. REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

A. Bicycle officers shall carry the following items in the rear bicycle bag while riding on duty, unless a situation or detail warrants otherwise:

1. Department-issued toolkit;
2. Uniform Traffic Citations;
3. Uniform Tobacco Citations;
4. Notices to Appear;

5. Written Warning book;
6. Parking Citation book;
7. Field Interview cards;
8. CPR micro-shield clear mouth barrier;
9. Latex gloves; and
10. Spare radio battery.

B. Absent of exigent circumstances, helmets shall be worn at all times.

C. Department bicycles will be equipped with emergency and statutorily-required lighting and visual identification signs stating "POLICE".

V. **INCLEMENT WEATHER:** The Police Bicycle is designed to be used during good weather. The Police Bicycle is not intended to be used during long-term inclement weather.

**APPROVED**



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**PAMELA R. SMITH, CHIEF OF POLICE**

**STAFF REVIEW DATES:** 12-31-1997, 03-24-1998, 06-01-2000, 08-02-2002, 11-17-2003, 05-31-2006, 06-27-2008, 07-22-2011, 06-17-2014, 10-21-2016, 09-19-2018, 07-14-2020, 08-10-2023, 08-14-2025

**REVISION DATES:** 12-31-1997, 03-24-1998, 06-01-2000, 08-02-2002, 11-17-2003, 05-31-2006, 06-27-2008, 07-22-2011, 06-17-2014, 10-21-2016, 09-19-2018, 08-14-2019, 07-14-2020, 08-10-2023, 07-01-2025, 08-14-2025