

	PARADISE VALLEY POLICE GENERAL ORDER Bicycle Patrol	Order Number
		41.32 Date 03-27-18

41.32 Bicycle Patrol

The Bicycle Unit is a special assignment team, which *will* be use to establish community-oriented, anti-crime bicycle patrols within the *Town of Paradise Valley*.

A. Policy

It is the policy of the *Town of Paradise Valley Police Department* to maintain a Bicycle Patrol Unit. The use of the Bicycle Patrol Unit is an important component of the *Department's* strategy for accomplishing its enforcement objectives due to their mobility and stealth as well as their ability to facilitate a variety of law enforcement and *crime prevention* operations. They are also advantageous in community policing efforts because they are generally perceived as less authoritarian than *officers* in police motor vehicles.

B. Mission

The Paradise Valley Bicycle Patrol Unit's purpose is to provide our residents and visitors to the *Town* with an unsurpassed level of expertise and dedication. They embrace the idea of community policing by making themselves more approachable and accessible to the citizens of our community. The Bicycle *Officer's* primary responsibility is to facilitate positive civilian relations by interfacing with the public throughout the *Town*.

C. Procedure

1. Deployment

Police bicycles are intended for and authorized to conduct the following primary deployment functions:

- a. Police bicycle *officers may* be dispatched or *may* initiate response to all calls for service in which their response time is comparable to that of a motorized patrol vehicle, unless otherwise indicated by this policy.
- b. Police cyclists *should* not normally be dispatched or initiate response to incidents in which their reduced emergency equipment capabilities (such as emergency warning devices) *may* present service problems or dangers. These include but are not limited to the following:
 - 1) Traffic accidents in which a vehicle is not moveable.



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- 2) High-risk felony motor vehicle *stops*.
- 3) Situations in which the lack of cover typically afforded by a motor vehicle would be deleterious. Response to such situations *may* be permitted where exigent circumstances exist and motorized units are not readily available, or as backup where patrol vehicles are already on the scene.
- c. Police cyclists *may* be used for targeted patrol operations based on specific crimes, geographic area, or crime targets.
- d. Police cyclists *may* be given preference, where appropriate, in response to the following:
 - 1) Off-road emergencies, to include search and rescue, enforcement, and preventive patrols as required on trails designated for walking, hiking, and biking.
 - 2) Any incidents in which the volume of vehicle or pedestrian traffic *may* inhibit the response of police motor vehicles.
 - 3) Special events, such as but limited to Law Enforcement Torch Run, The Wounded Warrior ride, Coffee with a Cop, and the Town's annual Car Show.
 - 4) Demonstrations, for monitoring and controlling crowds.
 - 5) Disaster situations in which movement by conventional motorized *authorized emergency vehicles* is limited or impossible.
- e. Police cyclists *may* initiate traffic *stops*, giving particular attention to motorist and *officer* safety.
 - 1) Physical contact with a moving vehicle is not authorized unless exigent or related *emergency* circumstances dictate.
 - 2) Whenever possible, the driver *should* be instructed to move out of the traffic lane for the duration of the *stop*.
 - 3) Police bicycles *should* be kept out of traffic.
 - 4) *Officers* are encouraged to use other available cover.



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- 5) Marked patrol units *should* be requested where appropriate to provide emergency lighting and cover from traffic.
- f. Prior to initiating bicycle patrol, *officers shall* inspect their equipment to ensure that it is in proper working order. If a problem is discovered that the *officer cannot fix*, notice *shall* be given to the *shift supervisor*, who *will* forward it to the bicycle unit *supervisor*.
- g. Police cyclist and *supervisors shall* exercise discretion in determining whether or not to use a bicycle on patrol when excessively high or low temperature or other weather conditions *may* make the use of bicycles inadvisable or hazardous.
- h. While patrolling at night, unless employing stealth, police cyclists *will* use the legally mandated lights and reflective equipment which consists of a front light at least 42 lumens and an active rear light, steady or flashing.
- i. When possible, police cyclist *shall* notify dispatch of all potential enforcement contacts, to include their exact location.
- j. In *arrest* situations, police cyclist *shall* request a motorized transport unit for the prisoner.
 - 1) A police cyclist *shall* not secure a prisoner to an object and leave him or her unattended, unless an *emergency* exists that requires immediate action by the police cyclist.
 - 2) The police cyclist *shall* respond to the PD immediately to process the *arrestee*.
- k. During plainclothes operations, police cyclists *shall*:
 - 1) Wear helmets and protective eyewear.
 - 2) Have police indicia readily available.
 - 3) Carry at least the minimum equipment required by the plain clothes assignment.
- l. When leaving bicycles unattended, *officers shall*, whenever possible, do the following:



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- 1) Secure their bicycles with a locking device. Police cyclists are not expected to secure bicycles when the situation does not allow, as in a foot pursuit.
- 2) Secure the frame of the bicycle to an immovable stationary object.
- 3) Take all reasonable precautions to ensure that the bicycle does not obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- m. If minor damage is sustained during the *shift*, the police cyclist *shall* notify the *shift supervisor* by the end of the *shift*. If substantial damage to the bike or injury to the *officer* or a civilian is sustained, the *officer shall* immediately notify the *on duty supervisor*.
- n. When not in use, all police bicycle equipment *shall* be stored and locked in the designated area.

D. *Personnel Selection / Bicycle Officer Profile*

1. *Officers* participating in the bicycle patrol *should* have the following attributes:
 - a. Have a high standard of personal appearance.
 - b. Self-motivating and productive work ethic.
 - c. Ability to work without close supervision.
 - d. Good physical condition and a willingness to continually improve same.
 - e. Not abusive of sick time.
 - f. Good public relations skills.
 - g. Interest in making the bicycle patrol program a success.
 - h. Desire to participate in bicycle education programs for the public.

The Bicycle Unit *supervisor will* make the final selection to the unit.

2. An *officer* who fails to meet the expectations in any of the above listed categories *may* be subject to suspension or dismissal from the program.



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3. Suspension from the unit for non-compliance with this *order* prohibits the *officer* from riding on-duty, wearing the bicycle uniform, or performing bicycle-related extra-duty employment or assignments.

E. Training

1. All bicycle *officers will* have participated in and passed a *Department* approved training course prior to being assigned to street duty.
2. This training *may* be taught in-house or at another police agency with the **International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA) Police Cyclist Course** as the curriculum. That course *must* include the following topics:
 - a. Safe riding techniques when cycling in motor vehicle traffic based on The Complete Guide to Public Safety Cycling.
 - b. State of Arizona traffic laws as they relate to the operation of a bicycle on the roadway.
 - c. Basic riding skills, with an emphasis on shifting and braking skills.
 - d. Physical training methods to enhance performance on the bicycle.
 - e. Suspect contact and apprehension techniques.
 - f. Basic repair and maintenance of the police mountain bike.
 - g. Injury prevention and first aid as it relates to certain cycling injuries.

F. Bicycles and Equipment

1. Bicycle units *must* only use *Department* specified Volcanic mountain style bicycles properly fitted to the *officer*. Each bike *will* be black in color.
2. Bicycle *officers will* operate with all necessary equipment as required by the Arizona Vehicle Code.
3. Bicycles *will* have black, road compatible tires, geared toward the riding terrain.
4. Bicycles *must* have a minimum of **two** non-plastic water bottle holders.



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5. Pedal retention devices are **MANDATORY**. A pedal retention device *will* be on one side of the pedal with a regular platform on the other side of the pedal.
6. *Officers will* use approved bicycle racks.
7. *Officers will* use an approved locking system to secure bicycles when unattended.

G. Safety and Maintenance

1. Uniform bicycle *officers must* ride properly equipped *Department* bicycles. *Officers will* not alter bicycles without approval from the bicycle unit *supervisor*.
2. Only properly trained *PVPD* bicycle *officers will* ride *Department* owned bicycles.
3. *Officers*, without exception, **MUST** wear helmets which *will* only be black or white in color when *on duty* as a bicycle *officer*.
4. Black riding gloves are optional for hand safety.
5. Bicycle *officers must* carry an approved firearm and the assigned police radio while riding a *Department* bicycle.
6. *Officer* beginning their tour of duty as a bicycle *officer must* complete an A, B, C, Quick Check.
7. The bicycle *officer should* notify their *supervisor* of any bicycle maintenance problems that are not correctable.

H. Uniforms

1. Due to high-profile nature of the bicycle patrol, it is imperative that ALL *officers* maintain a high standard of personal appearance.
2. Only the *Department*-approved bicycle uniform and accessory equipment *shall* be worn on-duty unless otherwise authorized by the patrol commander or the bike unit *supervisor* when exigent circumstances exist.
3. No part of the bicycle uniform *may* be worn with the regular duty uniform.
4. The *Department* approved bicycle uniform is as follows:



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- a. A black ANSI or Snell approved helmet *will* be worn anytime an *officer* is riding a bicycle.
- b. Any brand COOLMAX short sleeve polo shirt.
- c. Any brand COOLMAX long sleeve polo shirt.
- d. Any brand polo style bike shirt made with synthetic COOLMAX fabric or similar breathable material.
- e. Shoulder patches, embroidered nameplates with letters no smaller than 1 ½" and rank *must* be attached to uniforms shirts. A single breast pocket is optional.
- f. *Supervisors will* have an embroidered gold badge or gold patch and an embroidered nametag in gold lettering on right breast.
- g. *Patrol Officers will* have an embroidered silver badge or silver patch an embroidered nametag in silver lettering on right breast.
- h. Bike style shorts with an inseam measurement of a least 5". Lycra style cycling shorts *may* be worn under the uniform shorts, but *must* be black if visible below the leg of the uniform shorts.
- i. Shoes: Only black, low cut court coach's, cross trainer or cycling type shoes with black laces and no ornate designs, logo and in no case *shall officers* wear boots with shorts.
- j. Socks: Black, low-cut socks.
- k. Duty belt *will* be nylon web gear with black under belt.
- l. Sunglasses or other eyewear with dark frames and lenses of a conservative color. If riding at night an *officer may* wear clear lenses. Mirrored lenses, as determined by the ability to see the *officer's* eyes through the lenses are not approved.
- m. No modifications *will* be made to the above-described uniform without written permission from the *Chief of Police* or designee.



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5. The bicycle uniform is not approved for extra-duty assignments unless that assignment specifically requires the use of the police mountain bike as part of the duty.
6. The bicycle uniform *will* not be worn for court appearances unless the *officer* is called in unexpectedly from street duty for the appearance.
7. If the bike uniform is not worn, a regular patrol uniform is authorized to use when riding the police bike.

I. References

1. Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), www.cops.usdoj.gov.
2. Complete Guide to Police Cycling, International Police Mountain Bike Association