

41.32 Bicycle Patrol

The Bicycle Unit is a special assignment team, which *will* be use to establish communityoriented, 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*.

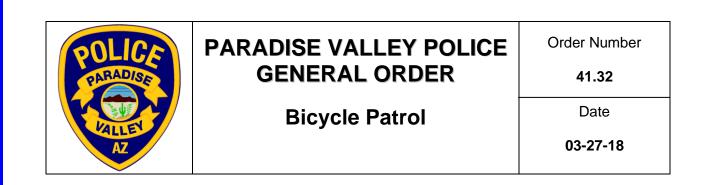
C. Procedure

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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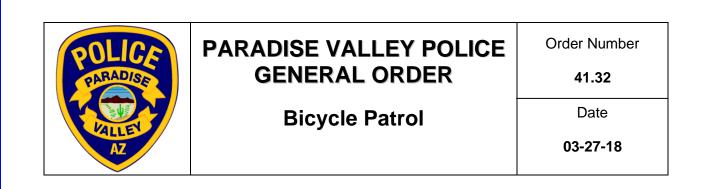


- 2) High-risk felony motor vehicle *stops*.
- 3) Situations in which the lack of cover typically afforded by a motor vehicle would be deleterious. Response to such situations *may* be permitted where exigent circumstances exist and motorized units are not readily available, or as backup where patrol 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.
 - 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.

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 of flashing.

When possible, police cyclist *shall* notify dispatch of all potential enforcement contacts, to include their exact location.

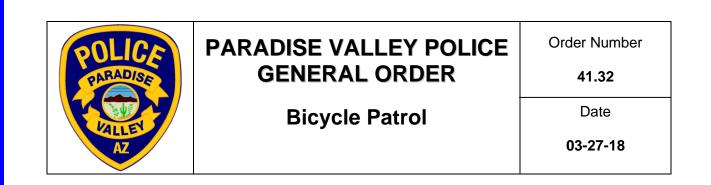
In *arrest* situations, police cyclist *shall* request a motorized transport unit for the prisoner.

- 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.
- I. 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*.
 - When not in use, all police bicycle equipment *shall* be stored and locked in the designated area.
- D. Personnel Selection / Bicycle Officer Profile

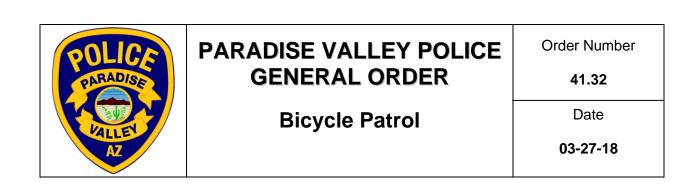
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- 1. Officers participating in the bicycle patrol should have the following attributes:
 - a. Have a high standard of personal appearance.
 - b. Self-motivating and productive work ethic.
 - c. Ability to work without close supervision.
 - d. Good 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.

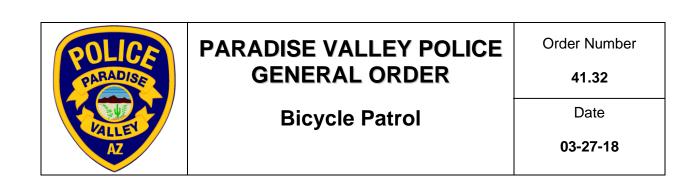
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3. Suspension from the unit for non-compliance with this *order* prohibits the *officer* from riding on-duty, wearing the bicycle uniform, or performing bicycle-related extra-duty employment or assignments.

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 <u>two</u> non-plastic water bottle holders.



- 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.

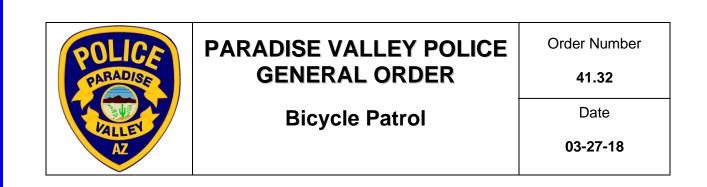
G. Safety and Maintenance

- 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, <u>MUST</u> 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:

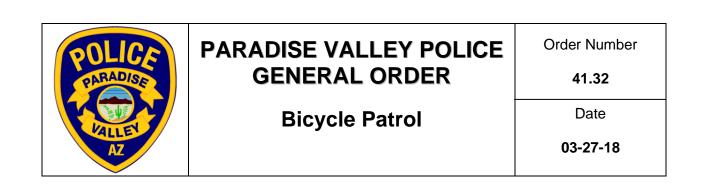
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- a. A black ANSI or Snell approved helmet *will* be worn anytime an *officer* is riding a bicycle.
- b. Any brand COOLMAX short sleeve polo shirt.
- c. Any brand COOLMAX long sleeve polo shirt.
- d. Any brand polo style bike shirt made with synthetic COOLMAX fabric or similar breathable material.
- e. Shoulder patches, embroidered nameplates with letters no smaller than 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ and rank *must* be attached to uniforms shirts. A single breast pocket is optional.
 - 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.
 - 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.
- I. 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

