

Bicycle Patrol Unit

423.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Urbana Police Department has established the Bicycle Patrol Unit (BPU) for the purpose of enhancing patrol efforts in the community. Bicycle patrol has been shown to be an effective way to increase officer visibility in congested areas and their quiet operation can provide a tactical approach to crimes in progress. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the safe and effective operation of the patrol bicycle.

423.2 POLICY

Patrol bicycles may be used for regular patrol duty, traffic enforcement, parking control, or special events. The use of the patrol bicycle will emphasize their mobility and visibility to the community.

Bicycles may be deployed to any area at all hours of the day or night, according to Department needs and as staffing levels allow.

Requests for specific deployment of bicycle patrol officers shall be coordinated through the Bicycle Patrol Unit supervisor or the Shift Supervisor.

423.3 SELECTION OF PERSONNEL

Interested sworn personnel, who are off probation, shall submit a Memo to the Division commander outlining their interest in being a bike officer. The Division Com

- (a) Recognized competence and ability as evidenced by performance.
- (b) Good physical condition.
- (c) Willingness to perform duties using the bicycle as a mode of transportation

423.3.1 BICYCLE PATROL UNIT SUPERVISOR

The Bicycle Patrol Coordinator will be selected from the rank of sergeant by the Division Commander .

The Bicycle Patrol Coordinator shall have responsibility for the following:

- (a) Organizing bicycle patrol training.
- (b) Inspecting and maintaining inventory of patrol bicycles and program equipment.
- (c) Scheduling maintenance and repairs.
- (d) Evaluating performance of bicycle officer
- (e) Coordinating activities with the Divison Commander.
- (f) Other activities as required to maintain the efficient operation of the Bicycle Patrol Unit.

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423.4 TRAINING

Participants in the program must complete an initial Department approved bicycle-training course after acceptance into the program. Bike officer must pass a course certified by the International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA) or the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. The Chief of Police may approve a substitute course with standards essentially the same as the foregoing.

Officers may be sent to refresher courses when available.

423.5 UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Officers shall wear the department-approved uniform and safety equipment while operating the department bicycle. Safety equipment includes department-approved helmet, protective eyewear and approved footwear.

The bicycle patrol unit uniform consists of the standard short-sleeve uniform shirt or other department-approved shirt with department badge and patches and department-approved bicycle patrol pants or shorts.

Optional equipment includes jacket in colder weather, turtleneck shirts or sweaters when worn under the uniform shirt.

Bicycle patrol Officers shall carry the same equipment on the bicycle patrol duty belt as they would on a regular patrol assignment.

Officers will be responsible for obtaining the necessary forms, citation books and other department equipment needed while on bicycle patrol.

The Department will outfit some of the squad cars in the fleet in order to render them capable of using a bike rack for patrol and other transport.

423.6 CARE AND USE OF PATROL BICYCLES

Officers will be assigned a specially marked and equipped patrol bicycle, attached gear bag and front light system.

Every such bicycle shall be equipped with front and rear reflectors.

Bicycles utilized for uniformed bicycle patrol shall be equipped with a rear rack and/or saddle bag(s) sufficient to carry all necessary equipment to handle routine patrol calls including report writing, vehicle storage and citations.

Each bicycle gear bag shall include a first aid kit and tire pump. These items are to remain with/on the bicycle at all times.

Each bicycle shall be equipped with an oscillating, rotating or flashing red and/or blue warning light that is visible from the front, sides, or rear of the bicycle (625 ILCS 5/12-215).

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Bicycle Officers shall conduct an inspection of the bicycle and equipment prior to use to insure proper working order of the equipment. Officers are responsible for the routine care and maintenance of their assigned equipment (e.g., tire pressure, chain lubrication, overall cleaning).

If a needed repair is beyond the ability of the bicycle officers, an email should be forwarded to the program supervisor for repair by an approved technician.

Each bicycle will have an annual scheduled maintenance to be performed by a department approved repair shop/technician.

At the end of a bicycle assignment, the bicycle shall be returned clean and ready for the next tour of duty.

Officers shall not modify the patrol bicycle, remove, modify or add components except with the expressed approval of the bicycle supervisor, or in the event of an emergency.

Vehicle bicycle racks are available should the officer need to transport the patrol bicycle. Due to possible component damage, transportation of the patrol bicycle in a trunk or on a patrol car push-bumper is discouraged.

Bicycles shall be properly secured when not in the officer's immediate presence.

423.7 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY

Officers must operate the bicycle in compliance with the vehicle code under normal operation. Officers may operate the bicycle without lighting equipment during hours of darkness when such operation reasonably appears necessary for officer safety and tactical considerations. Officers must use caution and care when operating the bicycle without lighting equipment.

Officers operating an authorized emergency vehicle may park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS); proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be required and necessary for safe operation; exceed the maximum speed limits so long as he/she does not endanger life or property; disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions (625 ILCS 5/11-205).