

Hamden Police Department

General Orders

Policy Number: 014-002

Effective Date: June 13, 2018

Section: Patrol

Rescinds: August 1, 2005

Title: Bicycle Unit

Approved By: Police Commission

Approval Date: June 13, 2018

PURPOSE

To establish policy and procedures concerning the use of bicycles in Police Operations.

POLICY

It is the policy of the Hamden Police Department to utilize Bicycle Patrol to enhance police service to the Hamden Community.

Procedures

- A.** Bicycles may be deployed upon approval of the Chief of Police. Generally approved areas include patrolling the Farmington Canal Line, Hamden Mart and Hamden Plaza, Parks and Recreational areas and various neighborhoods including: Highwood, Spring Glen, Whitneyville and State Street. Bicycles may also be deployed as a deterrent in high crime areas.
- B.** Bicycles will not be deployed when conditions pose an undue hazard to the health and safety of bicycle officers. Factors to be considered include:
1. Temperature: Extremely hot or cold weather.
 2. Road and weather conditions, including the presence of ice, snow, fog, heavy rain, slippery conditions, heavy traffic conditions and darkness.
 3. Discretion of bicycle officers: As a general rule the reasonable discretion of the bicycle operator should have significant weight in determining if conditions are too hazardous at any given time. It is the policy of this Department that under questionable operational conditions, SAFTEY will be a top priority.

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C. Training.

1. Prior to operating a police bicycle, officers shall receive basic bicycle training to include:
 - a. How to ride a police bicycle.
 - b. Introduction to bicycle parts, operation and emergency repairs.
 - c. Basic safety practices and equipment.
 - d. State and municipal laws and ordinances.
 - e. Department Policy and Procedures.
2. Officers assigned to Bicycle Patrol will receive formal training from a qualified instructor.

D. Uniform and Equipment.

1. Officers utilizing bicycles will wear the official Bicycle Patrol Uniform. Equipment and clothing may not be interchanged without specific authorization. Officers shall have a standard uniform available to them at all times during their scheduled tour of duty. Should an officer be required to change uniforms due to weather, overtime, another assignment etc. he/she will be allowed a reasonable amount of time to change uniforms.
2. Any bicycle in use shall be clearly marked "POLICE" and conform to C.G.S. 14-288. Standard Equipment shall include:
 - a. Bicycle bag.
 - b. One water bottle.
 - c. Front light, siren and a rear red light.
 - d. Rear view mirror.
 - e. Handle bar extenders.
 - f. Bicycle pump.
 - g. Mileage and speed monitor
 - h. Spare tire tube and tire lever
 - i. First aid kit.
 - j. Infractions, misdemeanor summons and parking tickets. Various reports, statement forms

E. Operational Guidelines.

1. Officers will inspect their bicycles before and after each shift. Maintenance issues or damage should be reported to their supervisor. A bicycle shall not be used if brakes, tires, chains or gears are not functioning properly or

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- if there is any question as to the safety of the bicycle. The bicycle will not be used until it is repaired and examined by a qualified person.
2. Bicycles will not be used in conditions of darkness or poor visibility, unless changing the battery packs after each shift.
 3. Officers shall, at all times comply with all laws pertaining to bicycles.
 4. Officers shall operate bicycles with due regard to safety to all persons and property.
 - a. Bicycles will not be operated in a reckless manner.
 - b. Officers will not carry passengers on their bicycle.
 - c. Officers will not operate or be in the position to operate the bicycle without gloves, helmet and eye protection, which is properly in place and fastened.
 - d. Should it become necessary to leave a bicycle unattended, the bicycle must be locked to a fixed, steadfast object.
 5. Bicycles are deployed to enhance officer's mobility and to improve relationships with the public. They are not for tactical use. While officers may receive training in the tactical use of police bicycles, such tactics may be used only in emergency situations. Officers will only use the bicycle as a weapon in emergency situations, where the officer's options are limited and will be governed by the Department's use of force policy.
 6. Bicycles can be used to pursue motor vehicles in only the most exigent circumstances, "WHERE IMMEDIATE DANGER TO LIFE" is involved and no other reasonable options are available.
 7. Bicycles may be used on extra duty assignments by officers who have received appropriate training, with specific approval of the Chief of Police.