



**California State University, Los Angeles**  
**Department of Public Safety**

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NUMBER: IV-22 APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Curreri, Chief of Police

EFFECTIVE: April 19, 2012

SUPERSEDES: 4/12/2010 Reviewed/Revised: April 19, 2012

SUBJECT: **Bicycle Patrol**

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I. PURPOSE:

This policy is established to set forth and designate duties and responsibilities of Police Officers assigned to bicycle patrol.

II. POLICY:

It is the desire of this department to establish and develop a collaborative process between the police and the university community that identifies concerns and produces effective solutions. The use of innovative patrol techniques that enhances relationship with the community and increases personal contact will be utilized when staffing and budget allocation levels permits.

III. DEFINITIONS: None.

IV. PROCEDURES:

A. Statement of the operational objectives of the Bicycle Program:

1. The Bicycle Program is designed to enhance crime prevention, selective enforcement and community based efforts by increasing visibility and police presence in the campus interior and parking lots.
2. It shall be the policy of the department to utilize bicycle patrol, when officers are trained and available, to:
  - a. reduce the opportunity for criminal events;
  - b. enforce laws and regulations;
  - c. patrol areas of the campus which are less accessible, or which are inaccessible to motor vehicles; and to
  - d. increase contact with the public so as to further develop the department's community-based policing philosophy with the university.

B. Instructions, conditions, and limitations of usage.

1. The officers assigned to bicycle Patrol use the bicycle as a means of transportation in the performance of regularly assigned patrol duties during established shifts. Their primary task is enforcement of state laws, in particular selective enforcement of common crimes [i.e., bicycle theft].

2. Police Officers may be assigned to a standard shift or a special time period, and will be under the supervision of the Watch Commander on duty unless otherwise instructed by a Command Officer.
  3. The Operations Lieutenant is responsible for the Bicycle Program. He/she may designate a supervisory coordinator (sergeant or corporal) to enhance control.
  4. Bicycle patrol shall be approved only when there are two police vehicles on patrol – they will never be utilized as the only mobile unit.
  5. Bicycle Officers will perform the same patrol duties as all other officers, except those that cannot be performed on a bicycle.
  6. Bicycle Officers shall obey all traffic laws and regulations. Officers will be permitted to ride on sidewalks and within the core of the campus when safe to do so, and when it is in the course of their duties.
  7. Bicycle patrols will be temporarily suspended during inclement weather conditions.
  8. During patrol Bicycle Officers will concentrate on the following:
    - a. Safety;
    - b. Crime prevention;
    - c. Pedestrian, Bicycle, Skateboard & vehicular traffic in campus core;
    - d. Community-based policing;
    - e. Parking lot patrols; and
    - f. Report writing/investigations;
  9. Police bicycles are not emergency vehicles as defined within the Vehicle Code. Vehicle stops may be made by an assigned Police Officer under authority of CVC Section 2800. Such a stop will be made only when it is reasonably safe to do so, and only within the guidelines of the California Vehicle Code and departmental policy.
- C. Authorization for use in various situations. Bicycle Patrol Officers may be used:
1. in traditional patrols to supplement patrol shifts;
  2. for special events; and
  3. to focused areas of enforcement due to recently identified trends in activity.
- D. Qualifications and training for personnel assigned.
1. Officers who have successfully completed their new hire probationary period are eligible to apply for the Bicycle program.
  2. The Operations Lieutenant will solicit letters of interest whenever an opening is available. The Command Staff shall select program

candidates from the submitted letters. Selection will be made based on willingness to ride every day of the week, physical fitness and eligibility.

3. A shift supervisor (sergeant) can submit a request to the Operations Lieutenant to have an officer removed from or added to the program. The final decision shall rest with the Operations Lieutenant, approved by the Chief of Police.
4. Bicycle officers who are proven to recklessly endanger themselves or the public as determined by a Command Officer, shall be removed from the Bicycle Program for no less than six months. Officers also may be removed from the program if their bicycle is stolen or damaged beyond repair because of officer negligence or unreasonable response to a situation.
5. Training:
  - a. Police Officers shall successfully complete regularly scheduled training assignments as set by the Police Lieutenant in charge of training. Officers who fail to maintain the specified level of proficiency will not be eligible for assignment until they have demonstrated acceptable skills.
  - b. Prior to assuming assignment, selected officers shall attend bicycle training that conforms to the curricula provided by POST.
  - c. Officers shall begin patrolling on bicycles only after they receive the required training.
  - d. The training and qualifications for Eagle Patrol and Parking Bicycle Program employees shall be the equivalent of the POST training. Eagle Patrol student assistants must receive approval from the Police Deputy Chief or his/her designee prior to being allowed into the program. Parking personnel must get approval from the Director Parking Services.

E. Maintenance.

1. The Police bicycles will be maintained in a clean, safe and lawfully operable condition at all times.
2. The assigned officers will do general maintenance and repairs.
3. Repairs that cannot be done by the assigned Officer will be done at an authorized repair facility as designated by the Operations Lieutenant.
4. Daily inspection shall include the frame, brakes and cables, tires, crank and quick releases as taught in bike class.

F. Authorized equipment.

1. Bicycles and field support equipment shall be checked out in the same manner as vehicle assignments.
2. Only approved wearing apparel shall be worn. The Operations Lieutenant will determine the bike uniform, as approved by the Chief of Police.
3. Bicycle Officers will wear an approved bicycle helmet and other assigned safety equipment. This will include the appropriate uniform, portable radio, and for police officers, protective body armor.
4. Each Officer will perform a thorough inspection of his/her equipment prior to any assignment/shift, as well as throughout the remainder of the shift. Discrepancies or hazards shall be immediately reported, and repairs that cannot be made will suspend the assignment for that officer, if replacement equipment is not available.
5. During the hours of darkness, officers shall meet the requirements of CVC Section 21201 (d). Every bicycle upon any highway during darkness shall be equipped and utilize the following:
  - a. A lamp emitting a white light that illuminates the highway in front of the bicycle and is visible from a distance of 300 feet in front and from the sides.
  - b. A red reflector on each pedal visible from front and rear, which shall be visible from a distance of 500 feet.
  - c. A white or yellow reflector on each pedal visible from front and rear of the bicycle from a distance of 200 feet.
  - d. A white or yellow reflector on each side forward of the center of the bicycle, and with a white or red reflector on each side of the rear of the center of the bicycle.

G. Positions authorized to operate and use bicycles.

1. Corporals and officers are the primary positions in which bicycle patrol personnel are selected.
2. The designated watch commander shall not participate in bicycle patrol duties.
3. Sergeants may participate in the program, but only when they are not the designate watch commander, or place themselves in a position to have dual supervision responsibilities of related staff.

V. APPENDICES: None.