

Bicycle Patrol Unit

454.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Newark 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.

454.2 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.

An assigned officer, with the help of the Patrol PSA, will maintain a file of the Department's bicycle fleet.

Bicycles may be deployed to any area at all hours of the day or night, according to Department needs and as staffing levels allow. Bicycle officers may ride solo only during daylight hours.

Requests for specific deployment of bicycle patrol officers shall be coordinated through the Watch Commander.

454.3 SELECTION OF PERSONNEL

Interested sworn personnel, who are off probation, shall submit a memorandum of interest per Department policy. The Bicycle Patrol Unit is not an assigned or permanent position. Interested personnel shall be evaluated by the following criteria:

- (a) Recognized competence and ability as evidenced by performance.
- (b) Special skills or training as it pertains to the assignment.
- (c) Good physical condition.
- (d) Willingness to perform duties using the bicycle as a mode of transportation.

454.3.1 BICYCLE PATROL UNIT SUPERVISOR

The on duty Watch Commander will determine where and when to use bicycle patrols, based on crime patterns, staffing, and other identified shift problems.

The Watch Commander will determine the bicycle patrol's effectiveness and efficiency on a monthly and yearly basis.

The Watch Commander should consider utilizing the bicycle patrol unit for the following purposes:

- (a) Special Events
 - 1. Newark Days
 - 2. Halloween

Newark Police Department

Newark PD Policy Manual

Bicycle Patrol Unit

3. Christmas at the Mall
4. New Year's Eve
5. Fourth of July
- (b) Crime Suppression
 1. Patterned burglaries
 2. Drug activity
 3. Sexual assaults
 4. Gang activity
 5. Public intoxication problems
 6. COPPS projects
- (c) Increased Security Areas
 1. Shopping centers
 2. Apartment complexes
 3. Parks
 4. Schools

454.4 TRAINING

Participants in the program must complete an initial Department approved bicycle-training course after acceptance into the program. Thereafter bicycle patrol officers should receive twice yearly in-service training to improve skills and refresh safety, health and operational procedures. The initial training shall minimally include the following:

- Bicycle patrol strategies.
- Bicycle safety and accident prevention.
- Operational tactics using bicycles.

Bicycle patrol officers will be required to qualify with their duty firearm while wearing bicycle safety equipment including the helmet and riding gloves.

454.5 UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Officers shall wear the department-approved uniform and safety equipment while operating the department bicycle. Safety equipment includes department-approved helmet, riding gloves, 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.

Newark Police Department

Newark PD Policy Manual

Bicycle Patrol Unit

Optional equipment includes a radio head set and microphone, and jackets in colder weather. Turtleneck shirts or sweaters are permitted 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.

454.6 CARE AND USE OF PATROL BICYCLES

Officers will be assigned a specially marked and equipped patrol bicycle, attached gear bag, two batteries and a charger.

Bicycles utilized for uniformed bicycle patrol shall be primarily black or white in with a "POLICE" decal affixed to each side of the crossbar or the bike's saddlebag. Every such bicycle shall be equipped with front and rear reflectors front lights and a siren/horn satisfying the requirements of Vehicle Code §2800.1(b).

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, tire pump, repair tool, tire tube, security lock, equipment information and use manuals. These items are to remain with/on the bicycle at all times.

Each bicycle shall be equipped with a steady or flashing blue warning light that is visible from the front, sides, or rear of the bicycle. (Vehicle Code § 21201.3)

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 officer the officer will report the repair to a supervisor and to the bicycle fleet maintenance officer by utilizing an equipment damage report and via email. The officer will also take the affected bicycle out of service by placing an "Out of Service" sign on the bicycle. The bicycle fleet maintenance officer will either repair the bicycle or make arrangements to have the bicycle repaired by the Department's designated repair vendor.

Each bicycle will have scheduled maintenance twice yearly 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.

Electric patrol bicycle batteries shall be rotated on the assigned charger at the end of each tour of duty. During prolonged periods of non-use, each officer assigned an electric bicycle shall periodically rotate the batteries on the respective charges to increase battery life.

Newark Police Department

Newark PD Policy Manual

Bicycle Patrol Unit

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.

454.7 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 are exempt from the rules of the road under the following conditions (Vehicle Code § 21200(b)(1)):

- (a) In response to an emergency call.
- (b) While engaged in rescue operations.
- (c) In the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law.