

WATERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER



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CHIEF OF POLICE

Effective Date: November 15, 2006	Rescinds: Amends:	Number: B-213
Subject: Special Purpose Vehicles, Patrol Bicycle		Re-evaluation Date: November 2009
Distribution: ALL PERSONNEL	Related CALEA Standards:	

This order consists of the following numbered sections:

1. Purpose
2. Policy
3. Definitions
4. Procedure
 - A. Vehicle Usage Objectives
 - B. Instructions, Conditions, and Usage of the Vehicle
 - C. Authorization for Use of the Vehicle
 - D. Qualifications and Training to Operate the Vehicle
 - E. Person or Position Responsible for Maintenance of the Vehicle
 - F. Authorized Equipment Stored in the Vehicle

1. **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this procedure is to establish guidelines for the operation of the partol bike, belonging to the Watertown Police Department.

2. **POLICY**

It is the policy of the Watertown Police Department, that all special purpose vehicles used in support of the law enforcement operation, be operated by qualified individuals within the scope of usage and duties for the vehicle, and that these vehicle will be maintained in a state of operational readiness at all times.

3. **DEFINITIONS**

SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLE ó A vehicle used because of consideration of weather, terrain. Or the need for inconspicuous appearance, quietness, storage requirements, special operational needs, and etc.

4. **PROCEDURES**

A. Vehicle Usage Objectives:

The bicycle is especially effective in many hazardous and non traditional areas. With the flexibility afforded by the bicycle, officers can move quickly, quietly and with little planning. Bicycles can be carried over obstacles, ridden through mud and sand, used as a defensive barrier and can maneuver quickly and quietly through congested areas. The bicycle can be used in situations traditionally reserved for motorcycles, horses and specialized crowd control units. Bicycle patrol officers can maneuver quickly and quietly in large crowds without unnerving people by their presence.

B. Instructions, Conditions, and Usage of the Vehicle

1. Officers assigned to ride bicycles shall be properly trained, equipped and proficient in law enforcement bicycle tactics. In addition, Officers will be trained in the safe use and care of the department bicycle. The bicycle will be used in areas that are conducive to the bicycles unique properties. Parades, crowd control and other related events are some examples of the bicycle utilization.

C. Authorization for Use of the Vehicle

1. Supervisors will have the authority to determine when bicycle utilization is authorized. Only Officers specifically trained in the operation and utilization of the bicycle will be authorized for bicycle assignment.

Qualifications and Training to Operate the Vehicle

1. Officers shall complete the department's approved training course prior to assuming bicycle patrol duties. The department bicycle training class is two (2) hours in duration comprising of both classroom and field instruction. The Officers will also continue training every two (2) years for a one-hour proficiency course.

D. Person or Position Responsible for Maintenance of the Vehicle

1. Officers using bicycle shall complete a daily inspection assuring that the bicycle is clean, safe and in good working order. Any damage or inoperable conditions shall be reported to the supervisor in charge or the supervisor of the unit. The Unit supervisor will then authorize the repair and/or maintenance required for the operation of the bicycle.

F. Authorized Equipment Stored in the Vehicle

Bicycles will be equipped with the following accessories.

1. Carry Rack
2. Gear Box to be mounted on the Rear Rack
3. Lights, both rear and front for night riding
4. Water bottle cage.
5. Any other equipment authorized by the Unit's Supervisor.

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