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**SUBJECT: POLICE BICYCLE PATROL  
PLEAC 1.10.6 C**

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**1. PURPOSE**

- A. In addition to routine patrol functions, the Police on/off-road mountain bicycle is designed to provide flexibility to ensure maximum effectiveness in addressing specific problems at the district/unit level. A police bicycle patrol team is a maneuverable force used to supplement district personnel in areas not easily accessible by radio patrol cars.
  - B. Officers assigned to bicycle patrol perform the dual function of providing neighborhood-based community policing, while also contributing to tactical strategies for preventing and responding to violent crime. Bicycle patrol is particularly impactful in that it maintains the level of officer presence and accessibility afforded by foot patrol while providing enhanced navigability and span of coverage.
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**2. POLICY**

- A. Police Bicycle Patrol Teams will assist patrol by increasing a district/unit's area of coverage, reducing officer response time, and increasing visibility in selected areas (i.e., parks, recreation centers).
  - B. Police Bicycle Patrol Officers will be collectively utilized at major events, parades, demonstrations and civil disturbances to patrol assigned areas and assist with traffic and crowd control.
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**3. SUPERVISION**

- A. District/Unit Commanding Officers who have bicycle patrols teams will have the ultimate responsibility for the assignment of these officers.
- B. District/Unit Commanding Officers are responsible for the control, care, safeguarding, and recording of the city-owned bicycles within their command.
- C. District/Unit supervisors will use a common sense approach to determine if weather conditions, road conditions (i.e., ice, snow, heavy rain, etc.), or other factors would make it unsafe to ride the mountain bicycle and reassign the officer(s) to other duties.

**NOTE:** Personnel WILL NOT wear bike uniforms when assigned to patrol in RPCs, EPWs, on foot, or in administrative functions.

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#### **4. PERSONNEL AND TRAINING**

- A. All Bicycle Patrol Training will be overseen by the Inspector of the Training and Education Services Bureau.
- B. The Philadelphia Police Department requires that all police personnel assigned to bike patrol be trained, certified, and recertified by the Philadelphia Police Bike Patrol Training Section of the Recruit Training Unit. All training will be conducted by a LEBA certified instructor(s).

##### **1. SELECTION PROCESS, MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

- a. To be accepted into the Bike Patrol Certification Course, the officer must be approved by their Commanding Officer, be in full/active duty status, and pass a physical examination at the Philadelphia Employee Medical Services located at [REDACTED], prior to the first day of training. Officers need to have the physical ability to ride the on/off-road mountain bicycle under various conditions and sometimes over difficult terrain.

##### **2. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

- a. Initial Bike Patrol Training will consist of a one-day (1) introduction to the Bike Patrol Course followed by a six-day (6) Police Bike Patrol Certification Course teaching officers how to effectively utilize the mountain bike as a tool while performing various duties as a law enforcement officer. Attendance at both classes is mandatory. The Certification Course is a pass/fail course. If an officer feels they cannot successfully complete the course and prior to failing, the officer may Drop on Request (DOR).
- b. Drop on Request (DOR)
  - 1) Officers who Drop on Request (DOR) may have the opportunity to return in a future class if approved by their Commanding Officer and Chain of Command. Physicals conducted by [REDACTED] are only valid for six (6) months.
- c. Recertification Course

- 1) All current Bike Patrol Officers trained within the Philadelphia Police Department are required to be recertified by the Philadelphia Police Bike Patrol Training Section every three (3) years or face revocation of their Bike Patrol Officer Certification. (PLEAC 1.10.6 C)
  - 2) The Recertification Course is a one-day (1), pass/fail course. If an officer believes they cannot successfully complete the course and prior to failing, the officer may Drop on Request (DOR).
- d. Bike Patrol Officer Certification will automatically be revoked and the officer's Commanding Officer will be notified by the training personnel whenever the officer does one of the following:
- 1) Fails to attend the mandatory Recertification Course;
  - 2) Fails the Recertification Course; or
  - 3) Voluntarily drops from the Recertification Course.
- e. To attain the Bike Patrol Certification after failing or dropping from the Recertification Course, the officer must submit a memorandum to their Commanding Officer. After obtaining approval from their Commanding Officer and the pertinent Chain of Command, they must attend and pass the six-day (6) Police Bike Patrol Certification Course.
- f. To be removed from Bike Patrol, the officer must prepare a memorandum to their Commanding Officer requesting removal. Once removed from bike patrol, the officer can no longer patrol on a bicycle including overtime details.

### 3. TRAINING SCHEDULE

- a. As it is not beneficial for the training process, no bicycle training will be conducted during the months of December, January, and February. Unpredictable and harsh weather such as snow, ice, wind, and below freezing temperatures during these months is detrimental to the training environment and can create unsafe riding conditions for untrained officers.

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## 5. PROCEDURES

- A. Officers assigned to Bicycle Patrol functions will wear the prescribed uniform as outline in [Directive 6.7, "Uniforms and Equipment."](#)
- B. Bicycle officers will strictly adhere to PPD Use of Force policy as outlined in [Directive 10.1, "Use of Force – Involving the Discharge of Firearms"](#) and [Directive 10.2, "Use of Moderate/Limited Force."](#)

- C. While riding during the evening hours and/or during times of inclement weather, bicycle officers will use their illumination equipment (front and rear lights) for safety and visibility.
  - D. Police Bicycle Patrol Teams will not initiate a vehicle pursuit.
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## **6. MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, AND REPAIR OF POLICE MOUNTAIN BICYCLES**

- A. Officers will perform safety checks and minor maintenance of the bicycle as per the instruction given during the certification course.
  - B. For major repairs and routine preventative maintenance, officers will transport the bicycle to the current contracted vendor.
  - C. Whenever police mountain bicycles are left unattended in a public area, the officer shall make every effort to secure the bicycle as trained (i.e., bike locked to fixed object, etc.). If no fixed object is available, at minimum, a bike lock should immobilize the rear wheel by connecting it to the frame.
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## **7. TRANSPORTATION OF POLICE BICYCLES**

- A. Whenever there is a need to transport bicycles, personnel will utilize the Saris MTR 4 Bike Rack (Refer to Training Bulletin No. 19-05 for assembly instructions).
- B. This bike rack will increase the total length of a vehicle so officers must be mindful when reversing and/or entering garages and lower entrances. It will also change the handling characteristics of a vehicle and officers must pay particular attention to speed, crosswinds, bends, and braking.
- C. When not transporting bicycles, the Saris Bike Rack must be removed and securely stored at the district/unit. The bike rack will be removed prior to preventative maintenance on the vehicle and/or taking the vehicle through the car wash.
- D. Bicycle cargo bags and any loose items will be removed from the bicycle prior to transporting.
- E. The bike rack will not be used on vehicles containing long guns.
- F. Any damage to the bike rack will be reported as soon as possible to the Automotive Services Unit at (215) XXX-XXXX and documented on a 75-48.

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## 8. RESPONSIBILITIES

### A. Training and Education Bureau

1. The Philadelphia Police Bike Training Section will maintain a paper and electronic record of all bike trained personnel. Records will include Introduction Day Course, Certification Course, and Recertification Course. Bike Training personnel will also maintain a record of the status of all officers in the Philadelphia Police Department regarding active or revoked Bike Patrol Certification.
2. Instructors are required to maintain their General Instructor Certification with the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC).

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<b>RELATED PROCEDURES:</b>	Directive 6.7	Uniforms and Equipment
	Directive 6.9	Selection and Training
	Directive 8.3	Demonstrations and Labor Disputes
	Directive 8.16	Accreditation
	Directive 10.1	Use of Force – Involving the Discharge of Firearms
	Directive 10.2	Use of Moderate/Limited Force
	Directive 12.9	Inventory of City-Owned Property

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### BY COMMAND OF THE POLICE COMMISSIONER

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**PLEAC** – Conforms to the standards according to the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission