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## Bicycle Patrol

### 426.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines for the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety to safely and effectively use bicycle patrol for the purpose of enhancing field patrol efforts in the community.

### 426.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety that patrol bicycles may be used for regular patrol duty, traffic enforcement, parking control or special events. The use of the patrol bicycle will emphasize public safety officer mobility and department visibility in the community.

### 426.3 OPERATIONS

Bicycle patrol has been shown to be an effective way to increase public safety officer visibility in congested areas, and the quiet operation of the patrol bicycle can facilitate a tactical approach to crimes in progress. Patrol bicycles may be deployed to any area, at any hour of the day or night, according to department needs and as staffing levels allow.

Requests for specific deployment of bicycle patrol public safety officers shall be coordinated through the Shift Commander.

### 426.4 PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Public Safety Officers should operate the bicycle in compliance with the vehicle code under normal operation, unless their duties require otherwise (MCL 257.656 et seq.).

Public Safety Officer may operate the bicycle without lighting equipment during hours of darkness only when it reasonably appears necessary for officer safety or tactical considerations. Officers must use caution and care when operating bicycles without lighting equipment or when they are operating in violation of the rules of the road.

Public Safety Officers are exempt from the rules of the road under the following conditions (MCL 257.603):

- (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

### 426.5 PATROL BICYCLE

Patrol bicycles shall be primarily black or white in color with a "Public Safety" decal affixed to each side of the crossbar or the bicycle's gear bag. Every patrol bicycle shall be equipped with:

- (a) Front and rear reflectors.
- (b) A flashing or steady white light projecting to the front of the bicycle and a flashing or steady red light that projects to the rear of the bicycle to be used during night time operation.

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- (c) A rear rack and/or gear bag sufficient to carry all necessary equipment to handle routine patrol calls, including report writing and citations.
- (d) A gear bag that should include a first-aid kit, security lock, high-visibility vest and equipment information and use manuals. These items are to remain with/on the patrol bicycle at all times.

Patrol bicycles shall be properly secured when not in the public safety officer's immediate presence.

#### **426.5.1 TRANSPORTING THE PATROL BICYCLE**

The patrol bicycle should be transported using a vehicle bicycle rack. Due to possible component damage, transportation of the patrol bicycle in a trunk or on a law enforcement vehicle push-bumper is discouraged.

#### **426.5.2 MAINTENANCE**

- (a) Public Safety Officers shall conduct an inspection of the patrol bicycle and equipment prior to use to ensure proper working order of the equipment.
- (b) Public Safety Officers are responsible for the routine care and maintenance of their assigned equipment (e.g., tire pressure, chain lubrication, overall cleaning).
- (c) Public Safety Officers shall not modify the patrol bicycle or remove, modify or add components to the patrol bicycle except with the express approval of the officer's Divisional Commander
- (d) If a needed repair is beyond the ability of the public safety officer, the officer shall notify the Service Division to arrange for the bicycle to be repaired by the Department vendor. .
- (e) At the end of a patrol bicycle assignment, the bicycle shall be returned clean and ready for the next tour of duty.

#### **426.6 UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

Public Safety Officers shall wear uniforms and safety equipment in accordance with the Uniforms and Civilian Attire Policy.

Public safety officers assigned to bike patrol shall carry the same equipment on their duty belts as they would on regular patrol assignments. Assignment-specific safety equipment should include, but is not limited to, department-approved helmet, a radio headset and microphone, protective eyewear and approved footwear.

Public Safety Officers will be responsible for obtaining the necessary forms, citation books and other department equipment needed while on bicycle patrol.