



**BURLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE
DD24 Operation of Police Bicycles**

POLICY: The Burlington Police Department shall maintain police bicycles for use during appropriate weather conditions.

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for the use and maintenance of police bicycles.

CONTENTS:

- I. Use of Bicycles
- II. Personnel Authorized to Use Bicycles
- III. Maintenance of Bicycles
- IV. Required Equipment

I. USE OF BICYCLES

- A. The use of bicycle patrols is recognized as an effective law enforcement alternative to traditional radio car patrol. Officers on bicycles may appear more accessible to the public and have more frequent contact with citizens, thereby enhancing police-community relations.
- B. Bicycles can access areas inaccessible to vehicles and therefore increase police presence and response capability in non-traditional terrain. During some periods of high traffic volume, bicycles can reach destinations more rapidly than police vehicles.
- C. The Department will maintain police bicycles to enhance police/community relations. Bicycles will be used for directed patrol initiatives at the discretion of the Lieutenant, Sergeant or area officer. Officers must notify the shift Lieutenant or Sergeant and the Communication Center when using the bicycle for patrol.
- D. To limit the potential for officer injury, bicycles are only to be used during appropriate weather conditions.
- E. Pursuant to 23 VSA 1136(c) officers operating police bicycles are subject to all of the duties applicable to operators of vehicles, except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application.

II. PERSONNEL AUTHORIZED TO USE BICYCLES

- A. The police bicycles are the property of the Department assigned to the Uniform Service Bureau. The OIC shall be responsible for bicycle assignments.
- B. While it is desirable to have personnel operating police bicycles receive training specific to the use of police bicycles, it is not mandatory.

III. MAINTENANCE OF BICYCLES

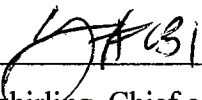
- A. All police bicycles will be inspected each spring, prior to initial usage for the season, by a qualified bicycle technician.

- B. Any officer operating a bicycle shall be responsible for inspecting the bicycle at the beginning and end of each shift. Officers shall be responsible for normal maintenance on the bicycles, such as proper tire inflation.
- C. It is the responsibility of the officer operating the bicycle to notify the OIC of any maintenance problem(s) with a bicycle. A qualified bicycle technician should correct any deficiencies beyond routine upkeep. If a problem is detected that affects the safety of the bicycle, the bicycle shall be taken out of service until the problem is corrected.

IV. REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- A. Police bicycles are required to be equipped with the following:
 - 1. Reflective markings clearly delineating that it is a police bicycle;
 - 2. Front and rear reflectors;
 - 3. Rear red flashing light;
 - 4. A front headlight;
 - 5. A bicycle lock or handcuffs to secure the bicycle when unattended.
- B. For safety purposes, as well as for setting a good example, officers operating bicycles are required to wear ANSI certified helmets.

Reviewed and adopted by the Burlington Police Commission on June 19, 2000.



Michael E. Schirling, Chief of Police

19 JUNE 2000
Effective Date