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## Bicycle Patrol Unit / Personal Electric Vehicle

### 433.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Irvine Police Department has authorized the use of bicycles 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.

#### 433.1.1 DEFINITIONS

**Full Suspension Electric Bicycles:** Officers who are trained in a department approved electric bicycle class are authorized to use the electric bicycles at the discretion of the field supervisor. Electric bicycles are not Code-3 Equipped and do not have police identifiers. Officers and Supervisors should consider this prior to deployment.

**Open Space Bicycle Patrol:** Officers who are trained in a department approved electric bicycle class are authorized to use the full suspension electric mountain bicycles in the Open Space. Officers who are not trained shall use the patrol bicycle or mountain bicycles, which are located at the Quail Hill Loop facility.

**Pre and Post-Ride Checklist:** Prior to use, the bicycle operator will inspect his or her assigned bicycle to ensure it is safe and ready for use. In the event the bicycle or any of its components are damaged and in need of repair, it is the responsibility of the operator to complete and forward a service request to the department's bicycle repair mechanic (PS\_Bike Repair). At the end of the shift, the operator will clean the bicycle and ensure it is ready for immediate deployment.

**Personal Electric Vehicle (PEV) (VC §407):** Is any 3 or 4 wheel vehicle designed to carry not more than one person, having an electric motor capable of propelling the vehicle at not more than 30 miles per hour.

### 433.2 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.

Bicycles may be deployed to any area at all hours of the day or night, according to Department needs and as staffing levels allow.

Requests for specific deployment of bicycle patrol officers shall be coordinated through the assigned supervisor or the watch commander.

### 433.3 BICYCLE PATROL SUPERVISION

The assigned supervisor will be selected from the rank of sergeant by the Operations Division Commander or his/her designee.

The Bicycle Patrol Unit supervisor shall have responsibility for the following:

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- (a) Ensuring the bicycle storage room(s) are organized and equipped with the necessary items to ensure the bicycles are operational.
- (b) Scheduling bicycle maintenance and repairs.

#### **433.4 TRAINING**

Officers working bicycle assignments must complete a three day, POST approved bicycle-training course or have completed the Department's in-house training.

#### **433.5 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.

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.

Any officer or sergeant who attends a department approved bicycle training course is eligible to acquire a Department issued bike uniform. In subsequent years, shorts and shirts that need to be replaced due to wear and tear may be substituted for an individual's annual allotment of uniform pieces.

Department Issued:

- (a) Department approved navy blue shorts, navy blue polo shirt, bicycle helmet, and black bicycle gloves.

Officers will be responsible for obtaining necessary forms, citation books and other needed equipment to keep available while on bike patrol.

#### **433.6 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.

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

#### **433.7 PERSONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE**

Officers utilizing a PEV must complete a department approved course. Officers leaving a Department PEV unattended for any reason should, if circumstances permit, ensure that it is properly secured so that no unauthorized persons may remove the vehicle, its accessories or contents.

#### **Safety Considerations:**

- (a) Personnel operating a 3-wheeled PEV shall wear a helmet.