

COLCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: Bicycle Patrol Unit	
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POLICY: It is the policy of the Colchester Police Department (CPD) to maintain a Bicycle Patrol Unit (BPU) to enhance and supplement the department's patrol operations and to effectively help meet departmental goals to include community outreach, service and public safety.

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I. SCOPE & PURPOSE

To provide basic guidelines for the operation of the BPU that will operate as a component of the Patrol Division. This policy is intended to provide general guidance for the training and deployment of the BPU.

The BPU's purpose is to increase the department's effectiveness by placing officers closer to the community by increasing visibility and approachability thus promoting effective interaction with the community that we serve. The inherent agility, efficiency and stealth of a bicycle give the department increased and unique access to patrol areas for service, crime prevention, and enforcement activities.

II. PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS & TRAINING

Personnel desiring to become a member of the BPU must submit a memo of interest through their direct supervisor. This request will then be passed through the chain of command for consideration.

All active members of the BPU will be in good physical condition and without any illness or injury that would impair the Officer's ability to perform their duties. BPU officers who have been out of service due to a long term illness or injury may return to active duty with medical clearance.

All members of the BPU will have satisfactorily completed Bike Patrol Training, such as LEBA, IPMBA or equivalent as approved by the Operations Lieutenant.

At least once a year BPU Officers shall attend a regularly scheduled firearms range and qualify with their issued BPU duty belt and gloves.

The Operations Lieutenant shall recommend to the Chief of Police a BPU Coordinator. The coordinator shall have at least three years of experience on the BPU and be responsible for coordinating equipment needs and special events scheduling.

III. OPERATION

Only members of the BPU and the Community Service Officers (CSO) may use the Police Bicycles. Patrol Bicycles may only be used for police activities and special events. Any other use of the bicycles or other person(s) utilizing the bicycles would require permission of the Operations Lieutenant.

The BPU Coordinator shall monitor BPU activity and shall report to the Operations LT. Officers utilizing bicycles during patrol will report to the shift supervisor.

A helmet and eye protection shall be worn when utilizing the bicycles.

Prior to operation, each officer shall inspect their equipment to ensure that it's working properly. Any issues will be noted and forwarded the BPU coordinator if it can't be fixed by the officer immediately.

The BPU can operate weather permitting when there are at least three patrol officers on shift with the approval of the shift supervisor. It is understood that there may be occasion when deploying a bicycle may be necessary with only two officers are on duty with shift supervisor approval.

When operating in darkness, BPU members shall utilize a rear flashing light, headlight and reflective clothing unless assignment or circumstances dictate otherwise, and then only for brief intervals.

During patrol operations, BPU members should be cognizant of their role as models of safe bicycle operation. Operation of the department's bicycles should be done in accordance with the training of the officer. BPU Officers shall maintain contact with communications and keep them informed of their general location and activity.

BPU Officers will be responsible for all normal police duties during their patrol functions with obvious limitations of transportation.

BPU Officers should not normally be dispatched or initiate response to incidents in which their reduced emergency equipment capabilities (such as emergency lights and siren) may present service problems or dangers. These include but are not limited to:

- a. Traffic accidents in which vehicles are unmovable or there is a road hazard.
- b. High-risk felony stops.
- c. Situations in which the lack of cover or equipment typically afforded by a motor vehicle would be deleterious. Response to such situations may be permitted where exigent circumstances exist and motorized units are not readily available, or as backup where patrol vehicles are already on the scene.

IV. MAINTENANCE & EQUIPMENT

BPU Officers are responsible for the proper care of the bicycles and other related equipment. Any deficiencies shall be reported to the BPU coordinator. The BPU coordinator shall be responsible for coordinating shop maintenance and repairs of the bicycles and recommend equipment and replacement of parts and equipment as needed.

Each BPU bicycle shall be equipped with the following:

1. "Police" marked either on the frame or bag
2. Rear-mounted red flashing safety light
3. Front mounted white safety headlight (at night)
4. Rear mounted storage bag
5. Minimum one spare tube and tool to change a tube
6. Compact air pump
7. Large mini-tool for minor repairs
8. First Aid Kit to include a pocket mask and rubber gloves

Recommended equipment for BPU officers includes:

1. BPU uniform shirt, shorts and pants
2. Bicycle gloves
3. Properly fitted Bicycle Helmet
4. Protective eye wear
5. Nylon duty belt with holster compatible to one issued for Patrol
6. Reflective Bicycle jacket