

# GENERAL ORDER



## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

|                                                                                               |               |               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Subject</b><br><b>Police Bikes</b>                                                         |               |               |
| <b>Topic</b>                                                                                  | <b>Series</b> | <b>Number</b> |
| <b>OPS</b>                                                                                    | <b>301</b>    | <b>09</b>     |
| <b>Effective Date</b><br><b>July 13, 2022</b>                                                 |               |               |
| <b>Replaces</b><br>GO-OPS-301.09 (Police Mountain Bikes), Effective Date<br>November 12, 2014 |               |               |

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### I. PURPOSE

Police bikes provide a versatile and effective means of deployment of police personnel for daily patrol duties and special events by offering the ability to operate over multiple surface types enhancing visibility, mobility, and community and police interactions. It is the policy of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) that all police bikes be operated in a safe and effective manner consistent with MPD policy and District of Columbia laws and regulations. The purpose of this general order is to establish guidelines for the care and operation of police bikes.

### II. PROCEDURES

#### A. General

1. MPD operates two types of police bikes.

| <b>Police Bikes</b>      |                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mountain bike            | Bicycle with a light sturdy frame, broad deep-treaded tires, and multiple gears, originally designed for riding on mountainous terrain.                             |
| Electronic bike (e-bike) | Electronic vehicle with fully operative pedals for human propulsion and a motor capable of propelling the device at a speed of no more than 20 mph on level ground. |

2. Commanding officials shall appoint an element police bike coordinator to handle all police bike-related matters.

#### B. Selection and Training

1. Members shall be trained by the Metropolitan Police Academy (MPA) prior to operating any type of police bike.

2. District commanders shall determine which members are selected for police bike training. The names of each selected member shall be submitted to the Medical Services Division (MSD) 30 days prior to the start of the member's training.
3. With the exception of members who have completed physical examinations within 90 days of selection, each selected member shall successfully complete a physical examination which includes a review of the member's medical record and sick leave record for any past history of any injury that may be aggravated by police bike duty (e.g., neck, back, and knee injury).
4. The MSD director shall issue each member who successfully completes the physical examination written approval to participate in police bike training.
5. Police bike coordinators shall maintain a current list of all certified mountain bike and e-bike officers and ensure readiness of the mountain bike fleet for immediate Civil Disturbance Unit (CDU) response. E-bikes shall not be deployed for CDU response.

C. Operation

1. Members shall be prepared with the appropriate uniform and equipment when operating a police bike pursuant to [GO-PER-110.11 \(Uniform, Equipment, and Appearance Standards\)](#) and this order.
2. Prior to operating a police bike, members shall inspect the bike using the bike version of the vehicle accountability log and operation record (VALOR) form.
3. Members shall immediately report any damage or malfunctioning equipment (to include missing parts) to an official and document the details of the issue as well as the name of the notified official on the VALOR form. This includes anytime a member drops an e-bike due to the need to inspect the functionality of the e-bike when it has been dropped.
4. Members shall operate police bikes in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Members shall not operate malfunctioning or damaged police bikes.
5. Members shall not use e-bikes as an impact weapon.
6. Members shall only transport police mountain bikes on MPD-approved racks issued by the Fleet Services Division. E-bikes shall be transported using a trailer.
7. While operating a police bike, members **shall not**:

| Prohibitions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a. Transport second riders;                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| b. Use a cell phone; and                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| c. Except in emergency situations or when authorized to do so by an official (and then only when exercising the greatest degree of caution), use access highways and freeways, tunnels, or roadways where bicycles and pedestrians are prohibited by law or regulation. |

8. When dismounting, members shall park in compliance with traffic laws and regulations, and ensure that the bike is locked and properly secured.
9. Members may conduct traffic stops using a police bike when they can do so safely and consistent with their training.
10. Any traffic crashes involving a police bike shall be investigated pursuant to [GO-SPT-401.03 \(Traffic Crash Reports\)](#). Element commanding officials shall forward reports of police bike-involved crashes to the crash review board in accordance with [GO-SPT-401.02 \(Crash Review Board\)](#).
11. Members shall not be assigned to patrol on police bikes when temperatures fall to 20 degrees Fahrenheit or below, absent operational needs as determined by the chief of police or element commanding official. When temperatures are above 20 degrees Fahrenheit, but below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, members assigned to bike patrol may be assigned to patrol in a vehicle at the discretion of their watch commander.
12. Bike coordinators shall designate a charging station for e-bike batteries and lighting systems. Members shall remove and secure the e-bike battery at the end of the member's shift. E-bike batteries shall be charged according to the manufacturer's recommendations (e.g., maximum of five hours and on a dry surface).
13. When not assigned during a shift, e-bikes shall be stored inside.
14. When not in use, members shall ensure that all police bikes are properly secured. E-bikes shall be secured by using the issued locking mechanism when not in use.

D. Maintenance

1. Members shall maintain police bikes in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
  - a. Preventative bike maintenance shall be the responsibility of the assigned member and shall be limited to minor equipment adjustments (e.g., repairing a flat tire, tightening handlebars).
  - b. Bike coordinators shall inspect each e-bike on a weekly basis to ensure operability according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

- c. Members shall not adjust the previously installed e-bike settings. Members shall notify the bike coordinator if they experience any issues with the settings.
2. Bike coordinators shall conduct monthly inspections of the police bike fleet, storage, or maintenance facility, and bike-related equipment and stock parts.
3. Bike coordinators shall facilitate all repair, supply, and service requests in coordination with the Fleet Management Division (FMD). Any requests for supplies and repairs beyond a minor equipment adjustment shall be submitted to the element's bike coordinator who shall coordinate completion of repairs with FMD. Members shall not transport bicycles directly to the vendor without FMD authorization.
4. The FMD director shall ensure that bike coordinators have the necessary equipment and supplies to perform routine maintenance and minor repairs.



Robert J. Contee III  
Chief of Police

RJC:KDO:MOC:SMM