Bicycle Patrol Unit

454.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE
The California State University Bakersfield, Police Department has established the Bicycle Patrol Unit (BPU) 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.

454.2 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 Sergeant or event planning.

454.3 SELECTION OF PERSONNEL
Officers will be given the opportunity to apply by submitting a memorandum of interest to the bicycle patrol supervisor. Bicycle officers will be selected upon the recommendation of the bicycle patrol supervisor to the Chief of Police. All officers are encouraged to apply.

454.3.1 BICYCLE PATROL UNIT SUPERVISOR
The Bicycle Patrol Supervisor will be selected from the rank of sergeant by the Chief of Police.

The Bicycle Patrol supervisor shall have responsibility for the following:
(a) Inspecting and maintaining inventory of patrol bicycles and program equipment
(b) Scheduling maintenance and repairs.
(c) Evaluating performance of bicycle officers.

454.4 TRAINING
Participants in the program should consider attending a department approved bicycle patrol training course.

454.5 UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT
Bicycles officers shall wear the departmentally approved uniform and safety equipment while operating the police bicycle. Safety equipment includes departmentally approved helmet, riding gloves, and approved footwear.

Officers will be responsible for obtaining necessary forms, citation books and other needed equipment to keep available while on bike patrol.
454.6 CARE AND USE OF PATROL BICYCLES

Officers will be assigned a specially marked and equipped patrol bicycle, attached gear bag, batteries and a charger.

Bicycles utilized for uniformed bicycle patrol shall be primarily black or white in with a "POLICE" decal affixed to each side of the crossbar or the bike's saddlebag. Every such bicycle shall be equipped with front and rear reflectors front lights and a siren/horn satisfying the requirements of Vehicle Code §2800.1(b).

Bicycles utilized for uniformed bicycle patrol shall be equipped with a rear rack and/or saddle bag(s) sufficient to carry all necessary equipment to handle routine patrol calls including report writing, vehicle storage and citations.

Each bicycle shall be equipped with a steady or flashing blue warning light that is visible from the front, sides, or rear of the bicycle. (Vehicle Code § 21201.3)

Bicycle officers shall conduct an inspection of the bicycle and equipment prior to use to insure proper working order of the equipment. Officers are responsible for the routine care and maintenance of their assigned equipment (e.g., tire pressure, chain lubrication, overall cleaning).

If a needed repair is beyond the ability of the bicycle officer, a repair work order will be completed and forwarded to the program supervisor for repair by an approved technician.

Each bicycle will have scheduled maintenance twice yearly to be performed by a department approved repair shop/technician.

At the end of a bicycle assignment, the bicycle shall be returned clean and ready for the next tour of duty.

Officers shall not modify the patrol bicycle, remove, modify or add components except with the expressed approval of the bicycle supervisor, or in the event of an emergency.

Bicycles shall be properly secured when not in the officer's immediate presence.

454.7 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. All bicycle accidents involving injury or damage shall be reported to a supervisor.

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