
	GAITHERSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT		
	Special Purpose Vehicles		
	GENERAL ORDER	606.2	
Effective Date	04/21/2015	41.1.4, 41.2.2, 41.3.1, 42.2.7, 43.1.4, 43.1.5, 81.3.4	
Authorized by:	Mark P. Sroka CHIEF OF POLICE	SIGNATURE	DATE

I. DEPARTMENT POLICY

It is the policy of the Department to utilize multi-purpose/special vehicles to maximize the effectiveness of Department members in their delivery of service to the public. The utilization of such vehicles for certain Department functions and circumstances will be for, and may not be limited to, special events; patrolling specific areas to enhance police visibility and to deter crime; and patrolling/enforcing the law in parks or other areas where the terrain is not suited for conventional patrol vehicles. The eligibility and requirements for use of all specialized vehicles will be fairly applied to all personnel.

II. POLICE ALL-TERRAIN BICYCLES

A. Purpose and Use

1. The purpose of the bicycles is to provide a higher degree of visibility in certain neighborhoods, enhance community outreach efforts and to access areas not conducive to patrol by motorized vehicles.
2. The Department's all-terrain bicycles may be used with the permission of the on-duty police supervisor by members of the Department who have successfully completed a department approved training course. Riders will wear high visibility clothing and an approved bicycle helmet at all times.
3. Bicycles will not be operated on icy or snow-covered surfaces, or during severe weather.
4. Each officer riding the bicycle is responsible for the care and upkeep of the bicycle they ride and will return the vehicle in a state of operational readiness. All deficiencies will be reported to the Fleet Coordinator. Only those officers who have been specially trained to perform repairs are authorized to take apart or dismantle the bicycles. The Fleet Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that preventive maintenance, repairs, and warranty work are scheduled and completed.

5. Each bicycle is conspicuously marked with stickers that identify it as a police vehicle, and will contain reflectors, all terrain tires, special handlebars, and a small storage compartment for citation books and forms.

III. 4 WD VEHICLES

A. Purpose and Use

1. The Department has agency assigned and other City owned four wheel drive vehicles available for use in severe weather that may require traction beyond that of conventional two wheel drive vehicles and in areas where the terrain, and/or surface conditions are rough or impractical for conventional vehicles.
2. These vehicles do not handle like a conventional vehicle and officers should take the time to test capabilities and limitations in the existing conditions at the earliest possible moment. Officers should also keep in mind that these vehicles have a higher center of gravity and are more prone to turnovers when compared to conventional police vehicles.
3. Officers that may be assigned these vehicles as a PPV must be aware that if snow or severe weather is predicted, the vehicle may be needed for patrol assignment.
4. If City owned vehicles from other departments are used by police personnel, officers are reminded that the vehicle does not qualify as an emergency vehicle and that the privileges extended to emergency vehicles are not applicable.
5. Officers using 4WD vehicles will ensure that the vehicle is returned or passed on to the oncoming shift in good working order, and with a full tank of gasoline. All deficiencies will be reported to the Special Operations Bureau Commander and the Fleet Coordinator. The Fleet Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that preventive maintenance, repairs, and warranty work are scheduled and completed.

IV. [REDACTED]

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