

GENERAL ORDER 41.4.9

Bicycles

GENERAL ORDER CROSS-REFERENCE: None.

SUMMARY

Establishes a procedure for handling stolen, recovered, found and seized bicycles.

DISCUSSION

The monetary loss from bicycle thefts is one of the community's highest losses each year. Bicycles are easy to steal and sell, and are becoming more expensive. Clear, detailed and consistent descriptions on stolen, recovered and found bicycles allow for an easy cross-reference. Our goal is to return all bicycles to the legal owners.

POLICY

I

STOLEN BICYCLES

A detailed description of the bicycle will be documented on the incident report. The description will help with the identification and recovery of reported, stolen, found or recovered bicycles.

Stolen bicycles shall be entered into RMS; and if a serial number is located, entered into the existing stolen bicycles files in LEDS and NCIC, if applicable.

II

FOUND BICYCLES

When information is received about a found bicycle, citizens are advised to either bring the bicycle to the station if possible, or keep the bicycle at their residence to be picked up at a later date by Department personnel.

Found bicycle serial numbers shall be run through RMS, LEDS & NCIC.

Citizens who bring a found bicycle to the station shall be directed to the records division.

If a serial number can be located, records shall make a computer inquiry to determine if the bicycle is stolen. If the bicycle is reported stolen, records shall attempt to contact the legal owner of the bicycle to respond to claim the bicycle.

If the bicycle is not stolen, records shall attach a tag to the bicycle indicating the case number of the new incident report to the bicycle, and lodge it in property.

All bicycles listed as found are entered into the RMS property file.

If the reporting citizen does not transport the found bicycle to the station, the bike should be stored at their residence for pick-up by Department personnel. In this situation, records personnel shall enter a call for service including the reporting person's name, address and phone number, including a brief description of the bicycle.

A member of the Patrol Division, generally a Community Service Officer will then respond, seize and transport the found bicycles to the police station.

The responding personnel shall determine if a serial number is present, and if so, have records or dispatch enter the number into the computer to see if the bicycle is reported stolen.

If the bicycle returns stolen, the responding personnel will complete an incident report, attach a tag with the report case number to the bicycle and lodge the bicycle into property. If the found bicycle is not reported stolen, the responding personnel will complete a new incident report. The responding personnel shall inquire if the finder would like to claim the bike under the finder's law, ORS 98.005, and document the response on the report. The responding personnel will explain this law to the finder. If the finder wants to claim the bicycle it will be left in the possession of the finder and if the responding personnel determines the bike to have a value of more than \$250 a copy of the finder's law will be left with the finder indicating what they must do to comply with this law. If the finder does not want to claim the bike it will be taken to the impound lot cage and lodged into property.

III

SEIZED BICYCLES

When a citizen is arrested, the officer is responsible for the arrestee's bicycle while the person is in police custody. The officer shall seize the bicycle at the scene, confirm through a records check by serial number that the bicycle is not stolen, and transport the bicycle to the police station ancillary building and lodged into property.

The bicycle shall be documented in the incident report including arrestee's name, address and a description of the bicycle. The report shall also include when the bicycle should be returned to the arrestee

IV

When bicycles are determined to be stolen or found, it is the responsibility of the investigating officer, CSO, or records personnel to make every effort to contact the legal owner of the bicycle and notify them on the procedure to recover their property.

V

When an officer has recovered a bike which has stolen parts, the officer shall decide whether the suspect has a right to parts not claimed by the victim. When parts are to be returned to the suspect, arrangements with property will be made for removal of said parts by the suspect.

VI

When a bike is seized for investigative reasons due to the obliteration of a serial number, property control shall hold the bike for a minimum of 30 days to determine if there are any stolen reports on said bike. The impounding officer shall make the determination to give the bike back in the event no stolen report is found or if it should be seized by the Department per City Ordinance 2.772 in an attempt to locate the legal owner.

VII

Bikes will be sold at public auction when every effort to determine ownership has been unsuccessful. Found bikes will be available for sale 60 days after this Department received the bicycle when no owner has been located or the finder does not wish to claim. Recovered stolen bikes will be available for sale when the legal owner has been notified by mail and has made no effort to claim the bicycle within the specified time period or when all efforts have been unsuccessful in determining a current address for the legal owner.

Richard L. Lewis
Chief of Police