

# SPECIAL ORDER



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Title  
**Bicycle Recovery Procedures**

Topic/Number  
**SO-08-07**

Effective Date  
**July 2, 2008**

**Rescinds:**

General Order 303.4 (Inspection and Registration of Bicycles) Effective Date November 25, 1974

**Related to:**

General Order 601.1 (Recording, Handling, and Disposition of Property Coming into the Custody of the Department) Effective Date April 30, 1992

I. Background.....	Page 1	IV. Regulations.....	Page 2
II. Policy.....	Page 1	V. Procedural Guidelines .....	Page 3
III. Definitions .....	Page 2	VI. Cross References.....	Page 4
		VII. Attachments.....	Page 4

## I. BACKGROUND

The Bicycle Registration Reform Amendment Act of 2008 (Bicycle Act of 2008) has repealed the regulations governing the mandatory registration of bicycles being operated in the District of Columbia. Bicycles will no longer be registered at District Government facilities, including those of the Metropolitan Police Department.

The Bicycle Act of 2008 requires that, as of June 1, 2008, persons regularly engaged in the business of selling bicycles inform each purchaser, in writing, how to voluntarily register their bicycle. Until the Mayor establishes, through rulemaking, an alternative bicycle registry, bicycle owners will be encouraged to register their bicycles with the National Bike Registry.

The Bicycle Act of 2008 further requires that the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) check the identification number of any bicycle recovered by the MPD against the National Bike Registry (or, in the future, any other bicycle registry established by the Mayor) and notify the owner of the recovered bicycle. The purpose of this Special Order is to establish the procedures for conducting the National Bike Registry check.

[NOTE: The amendments to the District of Columbia Theft and White Collar Crimes Act of 1982 (D.C. Official Code § 22-3201 *et seq.*) and Title 18, District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (Vehicles and Traffic) caused by the Bicycle Act of 2008 are included in Attachment A.]

## II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Metropolitan Police Department to encourage bicycle owners to register their bicycles and to notify lawful owners of bicycle recoveries.

### III. DEFINITIONS

When used in this directive, the following terms shall have the meaning designated:

1. Bicycle – Device that is propelled solely by human power; which is designed to be ridden by one (1) or more persons; which has a saddle or seat for each person that the device is designed and equipped to carry; which has a tandem arrangement of two (2) wheels (or is a device generally recognized as a bicycle though equipped with two (2) front or rear wheels); and which has either one wheel at least twenty (20) inches in diameter or is designed to be ridden on a roadway. This shall not include any device equipped with a motor or engine capable of propelling such device either exclusively or in combination with human power, whether or not such motor or engine is in actual operation [D.C. Official Code § 50-1609(1)].
2. Identification Number – Numbered stamp, sticker, or other label or plate issued for a bicycle for the purpose of identifying the bicycle as having been registered, including any sticker or label provided by the National Bike Registry or a registry established by the Mayor for the purpose of bicycle registration; including a serial number that is originally inscribed or affixed by the manufacturer to a bicycle frame or a bicycle part for the purpose of identification [D.C. Official Code § 50-1609 (1A)].
3. Mayor – Mayor of the District of Columbia.
4. Member – Sworn or civilian employee of the Metropolitan Police Department.
5. National Bike Registry – Nationwide computer database for the registration of bicycles that is an official licensee of the National Crime Prevention Council and is accessible at [www.nationalbikeregistry.com](http://www.nationalbikeregistry.com) or at 1-800-848-BIKE [D.C. Official Code § 50-1609 (1B)].

### IV. REGULATIONS

- A. Members shall encourage bicycle owners to register their bicycles with the National Bike Registry.
- B. Members who recover bicycles shall check the identification number(s) of each recovered bicycle against the National Bike Registry.
- C. Members shall comply with General Order 304.10 (Police-Citizen Contacts, Stops, and Frisks) during all encounters with bicyclists.

## V. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

### A. Referral Procedures

Upon request, members shall advise persons inquiring about bicycle registration procedures that:

1. Bicycle registration is no longer required by law in order to operate a bicycle in the District of Columbia;
2. Registration with the National Bike Registry (NBR) is encouraged by the Metropolitan Police Department and District Department of Transportation (DDOT);
3. Bicycle registration can be accomplished as follows:
  - a. NBR registration kits can be purchased at area bicycle shops; and
  - b. Bicycles can be registered by calling the NBR at 1-800-848-BIKE or online at [www.nationalbikeregistry.com](http://www.nationalbikeregistry.com);
4. Additional information concerning bicycle registration can be obtained by contacting the DDOT Bicycle Program Office at 202-671-0681; and
5. When applicable, a bicycle can be registered with the NBR even after it has been lost or stolen.

### B. Recovery Procedures

1. Members shall follow the procedures established in General Order 601.1 (Recording, Handling, and Disposition of Property Coming into the Custody of the Department) for bicycles and play vehicles.
2. In addition, recovering members shall contact the National Bike Registry (NBR).
  - a. During normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 1200 to 2000 hours, the NBR can be contacted at 1-800-848-BIKE.
  - b. At any time, the NBR can be contacted through the [www.nationalbikeregistry.com](http://www.nationalbikeregistry.com).
  - c. The NBR can search its database by the manufacturer's serial number, the NBR registration number, or the bicycle make, model, color, and frame size.

3. A record of the NBR contact, and any owner notification(s)/attempt notification(s), shall be included on the related police report(s).
4. Members are reminded that bicycles that cannot be returned to an owner shall be processed through the element Property Clerk pursuant to the related procedures in General Order 601.1.

## VI. CROSS REFERENCES

- A. General Order 304.10 (Police-Citizen Contacts, Stops, and Frisks)
- B. General Order 601.1 (Recording, Handling, and Disposition of Property Coming into the Custody of the Department)
- C. Bicycle Registration Reform Amendment Act of 2008
- D. D.C. Official Code § 22-3201 *et seq.*
- E. D.C. Official Code § 50-1609(1), (1A), and (1B)
- F. Title 18, District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (Vehicles and Traffic)

## VII. ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment A: Amendments to the District of Columbia Theft and White Collar Crimes Act of 1982 (D.C. Official Code § 22-3201 *et seq.*) and Title 18, District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (Vehicles And Traffic)
2. Attachment B: Contact Information, National Bike Registry



Cathy L. Lanier  
Chief of Police

CLL:JAE:JGW:phc

## Attachment A

### **Amendments to the District of Columbia Theft and White Collar Crimes Act of 1982 (D.C. Official Code § 22-3201 *et seq.*) and Title 18, District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (Vehicles And Traffic)**

---

---

- A. The District of Columbia Theft and White Collar Crimes Act of 1982, effective December 1, 1982 (D.C. Law 4-164; D.C. Official Code § 22-3201 *et seq.*), is amended by adding a new section 134 to read as follows:

Sec. 134. Altering or removing bicycle registration numbers.

1. It is unlawful for a person to knowingly remove, obliterate, tamper with, or alter any identification number on a bicycle or bicycle part.
2. Any person who violates subsection 1 of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be imprisoned for not more than 180 days, or fined not more than \$1,000 or both.
3. For purposes of this section, the term:
  - a. "Bicycle" shall have the same meaning as provided in section 10(1) of the District of Columbia Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation and Safety Act of 1984, effective May 23, 2000 (D.C. Law 13-112; D.C. Official Code § 50-1609(1) ("Bicycle Act")).
  - b. "Identification Number" shall have the same meaning as provided in section 10(1A) of the "Bicycle Act".

- B. Title 18 (Vehicles and Traffic), Chapter 12 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations:

1. Chapter 12 is amended as follows:
  - a. Section 1200.7 is repealed.
  - b. Section 1202 is repealed.
  - c. Section 1203 is repealed.
  - d. Section 1207 is amended as follows:
    - (1) Subsection 1207.2 is repealed.
    - (2) Subsection 1207.3 is repealed.

- (3) Subsection 1207.5 is repealed.
  - (4) Subsection 1207.6 is repealed.
  - (5) Subsection 1207.7 is repealed.
  - (6) Subsection 1207.8 is amended by striking the phrase “the time for which it is rented, and the bicycle’s registration tag and registration plate number” and inserting the phrase “and the time for which it is rented” in its place.
2. Section 2602.1 is amended by striking the following phrases:
    - a. “Failure to register a bicycle (§ 1202.1) \$5.00”.
    - b. “Operating an unregistered bicycle (§1201.2) \$5.00”.
    - c. “Removing registration plate or number (§1201) \$5.00”.
    - d. “Renting and unregistered bicycle (§ 1207.7) \$ 5.00”.
  3. Section 9901 is amended by striking the following phrases:
    - a. “Bicycle Registration Year – a twelve (12) month period beginning and ending on dates designated by the Mayor. (Reg. No. 71-26)”.
    - b. “Registration Tag (bicycle) – a numbered stamp or sticker issued for a bicycle which shall identify the bicycle as having been registered for a current bicycle year. (Reg. No. 71-96)
-

## Attachment B

### Contact Information, National Bike Registry

---

---

1. National Bike Registry Website: [www.nationalbikeregistry.com](http://www.nationalbikeregistry.com)
  2. National Bike Registry Telephone Number: 1-800-848-BIKE
  3. To access the National Bike Registry Law Enforcement web page:
    - a. Go to [www.nationalbikeregistry.com](http://www.nationalbikeregistry.com)
    - b. Click the “Law Enforcement” button located on the left sidebar.
    - c. At the “LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL ONLY” page, enter your login and the password. The login for the Metropolitan Police Department (300 Indiana Avenue, NW) is:  
  
Username: 2027274218-PD  
Password: MPDDC (the password is case sensitive)
    - d. The “Police Bike Search” option should be used to search for bikes by serial number (exact or partial) or by other criteria.
    - e. If performing a “Similar Search,” the question mark (?) symbol should be used to match any one character. The asterisk (\*) symbol should be used to match any number of zero or more characters or display patterns.
- 
-