



POLICE DEPARTMENT
Inter-Office Communication

To: Honorable Mayor and Members Of The City Commission Date: 04/21/14

Via: Russ Blackburn
City Manager

From: Chief Tony Jones & Sergeant Jaime Kurnick

Subject: Bicycle Registration Referral

In completing research for this program, I was unable to locate any Florida Cities which have a bicycle operator license requirement for individuals riding bicycles. There are several cities which have a mandatory bicycle registration program which requires all residents to register their bicycle in order to assist in the recovery of stolen bicycles. Many bicycle owners do not collect or record their serial numbers from their bicycle and this inhibits Law Enforcement from locating the bicycle once it is stolen. The Cities in Florida that require a bicycle to be registered are Ft. Lauderdale, Daytona Beach, and St. Petersburg.

Ft. Lauderdale Police Department offers to register each permanent residents bicycle for a fee of \$1.00. All permanent residents are required to register their bicycle. Each individual is responsible for bringing \$1.00, a valid identification and the bicycle to the Police Department. The registration occurs on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 1230-1530hrs. during the week. Each bicycle will have a issued sticker for registration. Non-residents of the City do not have to register their bicycle. If Law Enforcement comes upon a resident of the City with an un-registered bicycle, the bicycle can be impounded until it is registered and proof of ownership is shown for the bicycle. A civil citation of \$10.00 for an unregistered bicycle will be given in addition to the impoundment of the vehicle. Impound fees for the bicycles are also charged.

Daytona Beach Police Department is responsible for registering bicycles. All persons shall register their bicycle when it is utilized within the City limits unless the bicycle is registered in another jurisdiction. An application for registration is to be completed at the Police Department and it does not have any fees. If a Law Enforcement Officer comes upon an individual within the City limits with an un-registered bicycle, the bicycle can be impounded until it is registered and proof of ownership is shown for the bicycle. Each bicycle will have an issued sticker for registration. There are no civil citations or fees for unregistered bicycles Impound fees for the bicycle can be charged, but it is not their regular practice.

St. Petersburg Police Department is also responsible for registering bicycles. All residents of the City are required to register their bicycles. Non-residents and visitors are not required to register their bicycle. If a Law Enforcement Officer comes upon a resident within the City limits with an un-registered bicycle, the bicycle can be impounded until it is registered and proof of ownership is shown for the bicycle. Each bicycle will have an issued sticker for registration. There are no impound fees to hold the bicycle. There is a civil citation for \$93.00 which can be issued for having a non-registered bicycle.

History

At GPD in 1983, there was a mandatory bicycle registration which made anyone utilizing the roadways with a bicycle to get a license. The fee was \$5.00 to register the bicycle and \$1.00 to replace a stolen/damaged decal. The program was developed to assist Law Enforcement in the recovery of stolen bicycles. If a bicycle was located without a legal registration, the bicycle could be impounded for a fee of \$1.00.

Civil Citations were charged for any portion of this ordinance with varying fees. Registrations were taken at several firehouses, parks and recreations areas, and the Police Department.

Currently in Gainesville

Both GPD and The University of Florida Police Department have free bicycle registration programs for both students and residents. GPD's program is an on-line application. Once completed, a registration sticker is mailed to the applicant.

The University of Florida Police Department has a program in which the individuals come to the police station to turn in the application and then they receive a sticker. The Alachua County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit is evaluating the potential of teaming up with GPD to have a combined registration program.

Law

An ordinance could be drafted to establish a mandatory bicycle registration/licensing program for all bicycles in the City. It has been done in several other jurisdictions, but the fees are usually \$1.00 or free. Some agencies have a civil citation which would charge a fine for a non-registered bicycle. The fines vary from \$10.00 to \$93.00. Most agencies do not enforce and use the civil citations for non-bicycle registration because they think it deters individuals from registering their bicycle.

Safety

In conducting the research, I was unable to locate any crash analysis data to determine if a bicycle registration/license program existed would it impact traffic crashes involving bicycles and bicycle safety. The programs researched in Florida were designed as Law Enforcement tool to recover stolen bicycles, not for road maintenance or bicycle safety. There were only 88 crashes out of 5121 involving bicycles in Gainesville in 2013.

Bike crashes in the City of Gainesville (provided by Sgt. J. Raulerson)

	2013	2012	2011
Bike Crashes	88	99	106
Fatal Crashes with Bikes	0	1	1
All crashes (all vehicles)	5121	4906	5113