



PRAIRIE VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

WES JORDAN-CHIEF OF POLICE

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Patrol Operations

Cycling continues to gain popularity as a sport and leisure activity in our metropolitan community. With the increase of cyclists on our roadways, it becomes imperative that guidelines be established and followed to protect everyone who uses them. The Prairie Village Police Department was receiving complaints concerning bicyclists who were not obeying traffic laws. The Department began by informing bicyclists of the complaints and asking for compliance with traffic laws before enforcement action was taken. The Department met with the President and other representatives of the Johnson County Bicycle Club to improve communication and get a better understanding of the concerns at hand.

Direct communication between the cycling community and law enforcement is very important. Through this letter, we wish to establish better dialogue with the cycling community to foster an exchange of information for all concerned parties. It is not our intention to recite every law pertaining to cycling in this letter; however, we would like to discuss some basic rules of the roadway. We understand that riding in a group offers more safety to the cyclists, but it is very difficult for a group to proceed through a controlled intersection as a group which can create a situation where riders fail to stop for stop signs and red lights in order to stay with the peloton.

In discussion with the Johnson County Bicycle Club, we recognized that it would be difficult for a large group of riders to proceed through a four-way stop one at a time. Therefore, we have agreed that when cyclists are riding in large groups and approach a **STOP SIGN** we encourage them to come to a complete stop and proceed as allowed as a group of no more than 10 cyclist at a time. Riders will cycle through in the same manner as all other motorists at the intersection. All riders in the group of no more than 10 will be expected to come to a complete stop before proceeding through the intersection together. This procedure should not be practiced outside of the City of Prairie Village or Mission Hills without the express permission of the law enforcement agency in that jurisdiction.

Next, we would like to discuss riding formations. Kansas Law specifies that riders may not travel more than two abreast. Although we understand peloton or pack riding is a common practice, it is neither safe nor practical for busy city streets. Riders must obey all traffic control devices in the same manner as any other motorist. By doing so, we can all help reduce the likelihood of collisions with motorists and pedestrians. I would encourage anyone who is a cyclist to visit www.ksdot.org and review all of the laws pertaining to cyclists on Kansas roadways.

In closing, we consider Prairie Village and Mission Hills as "pro" cycling communities. We want to establish a working partnership with the cycling community -- hopefully what we do now will be of benefit to both current and future riders. Safe Cycling Tip brochures are available in the Prairie Village Police Department lobby. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact me at 913/385-4617, or email me at broberson@pvkansas.com.