

**DEPARTMENT TRAFFIC COORDINATOR  
TRANSIT SERVICES BUREAU**

**NOTICE**  
8.1

August 31, 2018

**TO:** All Sworn Personnel

**FROM:** Department Traffic Coordinator, Transit Services Bureau

**SUBJECT:** MOTORIZED SCOOTERS

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Notice is to inform officers about Dockless On-Demand electric scooters and the applicable California Vehicle Code (CVC) sections that regulate the operation of these devices.

**BACKGROUND**

Recently, a variety of startup companies have deployed electric scooters throughout the City of Los Angeles. These scooters are available for public use by utilizing a Smartphone application that unlocks the device. Currently, Lime and Bird are the two primary providers of the on-demand style motorized scooters.

**PROCEDURE**

The California State Legislature has enacted various vehicle laws to regulate the safe usage of these devices on the public roadways. When conducting traffic enforcement, citations or warnings issued to the scooter, operators shall be issued in the same manner as that of the driver of a motor vehicle. The following California Vehicle Code (CVC) Sections, which are not listed in the Citation Guide, apply specifically to motorized scooters and may be issued on a Notice to Appear (Traffic Citation):

- Section 21223 (a)(1) Headlamp at night  
(a)(2) Red reflector at night  
(a)(3) White or yellow side reflector at night
- Section 21228 Ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb
- Section 21229 (a) Shall ride in the bicycle lane if available  
(b) Do not exit the bicycle lane until safe to do so
- Section 21235 (a) Brake required  
(b) Scooter shall be operated in the bicycle lane when speed limit is at least 25 MPH.  
(c) Bicycle helmet required and meets the safety standards outlined in Section 21212 CVC.

- (d) Valid driver's license or instruction permit required to operate a motorized scooter
- (e) No passengers
- (f) Carrying a package preventing the operator from placing at least one hand on handlebars
- (g) No riding on the sidewalk
- (h) Handlebars above the level of the shoulders
- (i) Leaving a scooter in a position on a sidewalk that prevents adequate space for pedestrians
- (j) Hitching a ride on other vehicles while on the highway

**Note:** Per Section 21224 CVC, motorized scooters are exempt from insurance, registration, and license plate requirements. The impoundment of scooters is not authorized for CVC violations.

The following Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) is specific to Venice Beach:

- Section 63.44 (o)(1) LAMC Shall not operate a motorized scooter on the Venice Beach bicycle path or boardwalk.

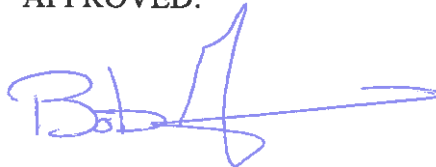
Lastly, riding a motorized scooter while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal and operators are subject to arrest under Section 21221.5 CVC.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice, please contact Lieutenant David Ferry, Traffic Coordination Section, Traffic Group, at (213) 486-0690.

APPROVED:



PHILLIP C. TINGIRIDES, Deputy Chief  
Department Traffic Coordinator  
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DISTRIBUTION "A"