

**DEPARTMENT TRAFFIC COORDINATOR
TRANSIT SERVICES BUREAU**

NOTICE
8.1.3

June 29, 2022

TO: All Department Personnel

FROM: Department Traffic Coordinator, Transit Services Bureau

SUBJECT: OPERATION FIREFLY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Notice is to advise personnel of a bicycle safety program called Operation Firefly and announce the purchase of bicycle lights made possible through a generous donation by the Los Angeles Police Foundation, to enhance public safety.

BACKGROUND

The Department is committed to various strategies to reduce the number of fatalities and suspected serious injury of our most vulnerable road users. Between 2019 and 2021, there were 51 cyclists killed and 416 seriously injured on the streets of Los Angeles. The California Vehicle Code (CVC) requires that a bicycle be equipped with a forward-facing white light and rear-facing red light. When someone is cycling during hours of darkness and do not have the mandated lighting, a cyclist can be cited for the following:

- Section 21201(d)(1) CVC: A white lamp that illuminates the pathway in front of the bicyclists, visible from 300 feet to the front and side.
- Section 21201(d)(2) CVC: A solid or flashing red lamp visible from 500 feet to the rear.

The Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (LACBC), a nonprofit organization that works to make cycling healthy, safe and fun, established Operation Firefly. The purpose of Operation Firefly is to distribute bicycle lights to enhance cycling safely during hours of darkness and ensure compliance with the CVC.

Traffic Group procured approximately 10,000 bicycle light sets through a generous donation from the Los Angeles Police Foundation. The donation will allow the Department to support Operation Firefly and enhance public safety.

PROCEURES

Operation Firefly is an alternative enforcement solution for officers encountering a cyclist operating a bicycle without the required lighting equipment. Currently, officers may issue a warning or a personal service citation, Notice To Appear (Traffic), Form 04.50.00 that has

financial implications for the cyclist. However, once the law enforcement encounter ends, the current practice allows the cyclist to continue cycling without improving overall community safety.

Operation Firefly will afford officers the opportunity to educate cyclists, while simultaneously improve their safety by providing the required lighting. When cyclists are encountered during hours of darkness without the required lighting, officers should conduct a legal stop and provide the cyclist with a free set of lights in lieu of issuing a personal service citation, Notice To Appear (Traffic), Form 04.50.00. The incident disposition for these stops should be “warning” and officers shall include the following remarks in the Comments Section, “Operation Firefly.”

Distribution Procedures

Traffic Group has provided each traffic division with an allotment of the bicycle lights. Geographic Areas interested in participating in Operation Firefly should contact their respective traffic division to obtain light sets. Lastly, the Operation Firefly light sets are intended for use by community members, not for personal use by Department personnel.

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



DONALD R. GRAHAM, Jr., Deputy Chief
Department Traffic Coordinator
Transit Services Bureau

APPROVED:



DANIEL RANDOLPH, Deputy Chief
Chief of Staff
Office of the Chief of Police

DISTRIBUTION “D”