

CITY OF MERCED
Planning Department

TO: Bicycle Advisory Commission
FROM: Bill King, Principal Planner
DATE: February 24, 2015
SUBJECT: Bicycle Registration

A member of the City of Merced Police Department will present an oral report on this item. Please review the two attachments noted below.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Report from Commissioner Isai Palma from December 9, 2014, regarding Bicycle Registration and Licensing
- B. Bicycle Advisory Commission Staff Report from October 28, 2014, regarding Bicycle Licensing

Bicycle Advisory Commission

Prepared by: Isai Palma

Meet date:
December 9th, 2014

Subject:

At the last BAC meeting there was a discussion around licenses and whether or not they could be registered on line. Commissioner were asked to see if there are processes for registering bicycles on-line that the City of Merced could look into immolating.

Summary:

1. After doing some research I found the National Bike Registry (NBR). They have a website that allows you to register your bicycle on-line and it also allows for different police departments to access the database to identify ownership.
2. See attachment for more details.

Recommendation:

1. I would like to learn more about how the Merced Police department is utilizing this data bank.
2. Have the NBR website added as a link to the City of Merced website so that people can register they bikes on-line.



TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME

How It Works

- THE NBR SERVICE

Many stolen bikes are recovered by police but there is no way to identify the owner. With the NBR service, you can register your bicycle by serial number in our national database and apply the special label you receive to your bike. If your bike is ever stolen, it can be identified and you can prove ownership. **Law Enforcement anywhere can access our database, advise us that your bike has been recovered, and you can be notified immediately.**

- REGISTER YOUR BIKE & PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT

You can register online from our web site. Our highly encrypted and secure server allows you to use your credit card for the registration fee. If you prefer, you can register by phone (800-848-BIKE) or you can print out the registration form from our web page and return it, with your check, to NBR.

\$10 10 years of coverage for an individual bike

\$25 30 years Registration allows you to transfer your registration when you replace your bike. Notify NBR and we will change the information in our database and send you a new certificate and label. This registration is limited to one bike at a time and valid for 30 years.

\$25 Family Registration will cover up to 5 bicycles located at a single address. Each bicycle will have 10 years of coverage.

- NBR GUARANTEE

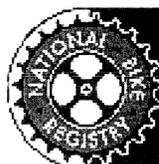
NBR guarantees your registration. If your bike is stolen and not recovered by police within 6 months, NBR will register your next bike for free and the stolen bike information will remain in the database until the bike is recovered no matter how long it takes.

NBR works. Check these [testimonials](#).

- REGISTRATION MATERIAL

Once your information has been entered into the NBR database, **we will send you a Certificate of Registration and an engineered, tamper-proof label** to apply to your bike. The Certificate of Registration can be used to provide proof of ownership if you ever lose or misplace your sales receipt.

- HOW TO APPLY THE NBR LABEL



If found, contact:
NationalBikeRegistry.com
or 1-800-848-bike

NBR#

Our labels are specially engineered to be tamper-proof. They are designed to shred if removal is ever attempted. **Police can identify a bike in the NBR database even with a partial label.**

Register Bike

How it Works

Law
Enforcement

NBR Partnership
Programs

Locking Your
Bike

Bicycle Theft

Free Printed
Material

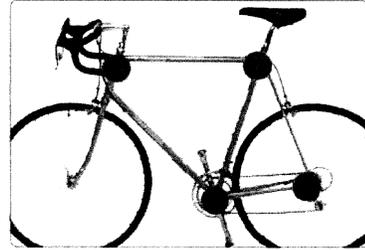
About NBR

Renew Your
Registration

Update Bicycle
Registration

Register Your
Stolen Bike

First, locate the manufacturer's serial number stamped on your bike. It is usually located in one of these four areas on your bike. **Write your bicycle serial number on the label with a ball point pen.**



To maximize its strength, pick a good location for the label on your bike. Look for a smooth surface. Under the top tube near the saddle is a good place. Application works best when the temperature is between 60° and 110° Fahrenheit, you can heat the bike frame with a hair dryer if necessary.

Clean and dry the surface. Expose about half of the adhesive area and place exactly where you want your label. Peel back the rest of the liner paper and smooth the label on the frame. Press down firmly for about 2 minutes, giving special attention to the edges.

For best results, let the label set for 24 hours before using the bike. Once the label is attached to your bike, it can not be removed intact. Your bike is now permanently labeled with your NBR number and your serial number is registered in the NBR database.

- **THE NBR DATABASE**

Information about your bicycle is stored for the life of the registration in our state of the art database. **This information is protected and maintained by NBR and only accessible to the bike owner and authorized law enforcement agents.** You have unlimited and free access to your file if you ever need to change an address or contact information. Your information is private and protected, please click on ***Privacy*** for more detailed information.

The NBR database can be searched by police using the serial number stamped on the bike by the manufacturer. Even if someone has been able to remove part of the label, your bike can be identified by serial number. The police can also search the database by make, model, color, and frame size, if the manufacturer's serial number has been altered.

NBR is working with Law Enforcement Agencies nationwide so that no matter where a bike is stolen or where it is recovered, it can be returned to you. NBR has maintained its database since 1984 and continues to use the latest technology to improve the service and expand police connectivity.

If you would like to see a list of Law Enforcement Agencies working with the National Bike Registry, [click here](#).

Los Angeles Police Central Area
Los Angeles Police Department
los angeles police department
Los Angeles Police Department
Los Angeles Police Department - Harbor Division
Los Angeles Police Department - Southwest Division
Los Angeles Police Department - Topanga Division
Los Angeles Police Department- Pacific Area Detect
Los Angeles Police Department/West Los Angeles Div
Los Angeles Police Dept - West Valley Division
LOS ANGELOS POLICE DEPARTMENT
Los Gatos Police Department
Los Rios Police Department
Madera Police Department
Manhattan Beach Police Department
Manteca Police Department
Marin Community College
Marin County Sheriff Office
Marin County Sheriff's Department
Marina Department of Public Safety
Marina Police Department
Martinez Police Dept.
Menlo Park Police Department
Merced Police Department
Mill Valley Police Department
Milpitas Police Department
Milpitas Police Department
Modesto Police Department
Montebello Police Department
Monterey County Sheriff's Office/South Station
Moreno Valley Police Department
Morgan Hill Police Department
Mt. Shasta Police Department
Mt. View Police Dept
Murrieta Police Department
Murrieta Police Department
Napa Police Department
Newport Beach Police Department
Newport Beach Police Department
North County Regional Center
Novato Police Department
Oakland Police Department
Oakley Police Department
Ocean Police Department
Orange Police Department
Orland Police Department
Pacifica Police Department
Palm Springs P.D.
Pasadena Police Department
Paso Robles Police Department
Petaluma Police Department
Piedmont Police Department
Pismo Beach Police Department
Pittsburg Police
Pittsburg Police Volunteers
Placerville Police Department
Pleasanton Police Department
Plumas County Sheriff's Office
Porterville Police Department
Poway County Sheriff's Department
Presidio of Monterey Police Department

CITY OF MERCED
Planning Department

TO: Bicycle Advisory Commission
FROM: Bill King, Principal Planner
DATE: October 28, 2014
SUBJECT: City of Merced Bicycle Licensing

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to provide the Commission with an update on the process to license bicycles in the City of Merced. Among other items, the report describes the process and associated costs to license a bicycle. Your ideas to improve or supplement this process are welcomed and will be presented to the City of Merced Police Chief for his consideration.

The City's website provides the best description about bicycle licensing in the City of Merced, and is located under the Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) section. One way to access this information is to use the search field, by simply typing "bike." Alternatively, you could add the following to your browser:

<http://www.cityofmerced.org/questions/categoryqna.asp?id=12#665>.

The *Bicycle License Application Forms* are presented in Attachment A. Either form can be submitted to the Police Department.

DISCUSSION

The FAQ section presents the following information:

“Do I need a license for my bicycle?”

Yes, all bikes are required to be licensed. You can obtain a bike license at the Police Department. You can either fill out the form on-line and bring it in to the Police Station or fill one out at the station. For the form you need the following information off the bike: Serial number, wheel size, make, brand and frame size.

There is a charge of \$5.00 for a license, and it is good for 3 years.

You may want to bring the bike down to the station with you to ensure you have all the needed information.

All bicycle licenses are done at the Central Police Station at 611 W. 22nd Street, Merced, between 8:00 a.m.- 1200 Noon & 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m”

The “fee” part of the FAQ website information needs to be updated. There is an initial cost of \$5 to register the bicycle, which is confirmed by receipt of a license sticker to be affixed to the bike. At that time, a second sticker is issued (no charge), and lists the expiration date of the license, which will

ATTACHMENT B

always be 12/31/YEAR. For example, if you license you bike on 7-1-14, the expiration date will be 12/31/2014. As there is no 3-year expiration date; that part of the FAQ needs to be corrected. Instead, there is a \$3 annual renewal fee that updates the initial expiration date. Payment of the annual renewal fee is on the honor system, however; there is no specified due date to pay. The Police Department could ask for back-payment if someone seeks renewal years after they receive the initial license.

The only other part of the FAQ that needs updating is the hours to process a request. Bicycle licenses may be obtained from the Police Department between the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, including the lunch hour.

ACTION

None required: This is an information status report only. If the BAC opts to provide a recommendation to City Staff, for example, suggested approaches to education through the permit process, then a formal vote should be taken.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Bicycle License Application Form

BICYCLE LICENSE

THIS INFORMATION IS TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE BICYCLE OWNER AND PRESENTED TO THE LICENSING AGENT.

OWNER: _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE _____

HOME PHONE: _____ SCHOOL: _____

BICYCLE MANUFACTURER: _____

MODEL: (Raleigh "Gran Prix" etc.) _____

TYPE: (boys, girls, tandem) _____

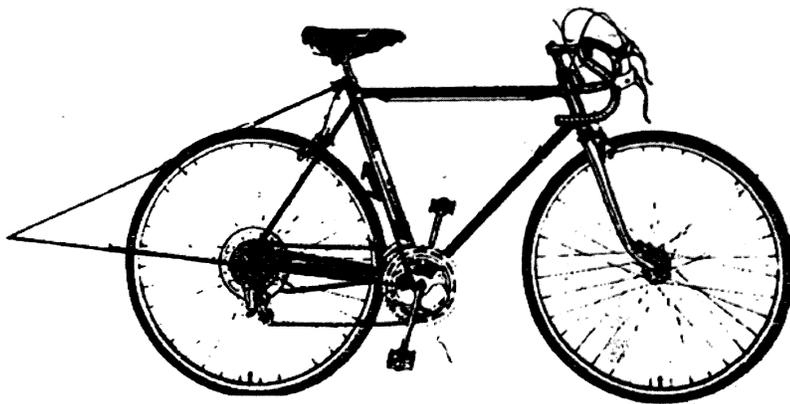
NUMBER OF AXIAL SPEEDS: (1 speed, 3 speed, etc.) _____

SERIAL NUMBER: _____ COLOR _____ WHEEL SIZE _____

FRAME SIZE: MEASURED FROM TOP OF CENTER POST OF FRAME TO CENTER OF CRANK: (See Example Below)

FRAME SIZE: _____

MEASURE FROM CENTER OF CRANK TO TOP OF FRAME POST. DO NOT INCLUDE SEAT OR SEAT POST.



MERCED CITY BICYCLE LICENSE INFORMATION

This information is to be filled in by bicycle owner and presented to Merced Police Department.

Please Print

Owner : Last, First name _____

Date of Birth: _____

Address : _____ City/Zip Code _____

Home Phone: _____ School (if applicable) _____

Bicycle Manufacturer (Make): _____

Model : (Raleigh, BMX, etc) _____

Type: (Boys, Girls, Tandem) _____

Number of Axial Speeds : (1 Speed, 10 Speed, etc) _____

Serial Number: _____ Color _____ Wheel Size _____

Frame Size: _____ Measured from top of center post of frame to center of Crank (See below example)

License # _____

City Tag number _____ City Tag year _____

MEASURE FROM CENTER OF
CRANK TO TOP OF FRAME
POST. DO NOT INCLUDE
SEAT OR SEAT POST.

