



WSPD Golf Cart Patrols in Downtown Districts

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Patrol District 4

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Purpose of Golf Cart Patrols



- Provides more personal experience for residents, business owners and visitors; similar to bicycle patrols.
- Offers officers an additional mode of conveyance for improved visibility and the broader effort to enhance public safety in downtown.
- May foster interest in our downtown patrol augmentation opportunities among personnel.
- Allows officers to more easily patrol alleys, parking decks and other areas with limited access.
- Golf carts will aid in the identification and apprehension of vandalism and breaking and entering offenders.

Precedent

- The Asheville PD uses golf carts and other UTVs to patrol areas of the city including their downtown district. APD staff advised the golf carts have enhanced visibility, provided officers with a new way to patrol and improved community outreach.
- The Greensboro Police Foundation purchased the Greensboro PD an “Urban Response Vehicle” in 2020. The vehicle is a UTV vehicle used for special events, search operations, etc.



Legality

- Under North Carolina General Statute § **20-4.01, Definitions, Section (12b), (Effective until July 1, 2025)** a golf cart is defined as *"a vehicle designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour."*
- *The golf carts we plan to use have a top speed of 16 mph.*
- **Winston-Salem City Ordinance, Chapter 74, Article XIV – Golf Carts**, outlines the requirements, rules and regulations for the operation of golf carts as allowed under NCGS 160A-300.6.
- **Currently, Section 74-514 (1)** mandates that golf carts in the central business district and central industrial business district may be used as vehicles for hire only.

Legality

- In order to be compliant with NCGS, we propose an amendment to ordinance Chapter 74, Article XIV, Section 75-514 of the Code of the City of Winston-Salem to allow members of the Winston-Salem Police Department to operate golf carts owned by the City of Winston-Salem on certain public streets, roads, and highways within the City in conjunction with law enforcement and public safety duties and/or other official business related to special events held within the City.


Liability and Training

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Winston-Salem as follows:

Section 1. Section 74-514 of the Winston-Salem City Code is hereby amended to add a new Section 74-514 (5) to read as follows:

(5) When operated by members of the Winston-Salem Police Department in conjunction with law enforcement and public safety duties and/or official business related to special events on applicable public streets, roads, highways and city owned properties.



Liability and Training

- Per the City of Winston-Salem Risk Manager, Julie Carter, the use of the golf carts would be covered as with any vehicle utilized by officers provided city and departmental policy is followed.
- **Departmental policy has been written to address training and safety requirements, usage controls, etc.**
- District 4 has driving instructors on staff to assist with the creation of a qualification/safety course as well.



Questions?