



POLICE DEPARTMENT

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CHIEF OF POLICE

Press Release

Fort Police Encourage Citizens to Register Bikes

Fort Atkinson, WI: The Fort Atkinson Police Department is looking to its citizens to help reduce bicycle thefts in the City of Fort Atkinson by licensing their bikes through the city. Licenses have a minimal cost and are good for the life of the bicycle with that owner.

Over the past few years the police department has seen a large decrease in the amount of bicycle licenses sold and a large increase in the amount of bicycles that go missing or are stolen. The police department also recovers a number of bikes each year that are unregistered and are never returned to the owner because the owner information is not available.

When a bicycle is reported stolen, the police rely on the serial number as a means to recover a bike. With a recorded serial number the bike can be entered into a database which will allow for it to be recovered by police anywhere in the US. Registered bicycles act as a deterrent to theft. Thieves are less likely to steal a registered bike because the owner can be easily identified. Registering your bike greatly increases the likelihood it will be returned if recovered. Having a registered bike gives the officers one more resource to recover stolen or lost bicycles quickly. Unregistered bicycles have a very limited chance of ever being found, recovered or returned to the rightful owner. Each year Officers recover bicycles that cannot be traced to the owner. These bicycles are eventually sold or recycled, never to be returned to the original owner.

From a safety perspective having a registered bicycle also aids in the identification of the owner or operator during an accident involving bicycles. Often times bike riders do not carry identification. This is especially true for children who rarely have identification. The registration on a bike will help emergency responders quickly identify the rider and even a parent.

Do yourself and your loved ones a favor and register your bicycles today at the Fort Atkinson Police Department. For more information about bike registration or bike safety contact our department.

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<http://www.fortatkinsonwi.net/departments/police.htm>