

Common Enforcement Errors Involving Bicyclists



1.	Dooring	
	Incident: Bicyclist struck by motorist opening door into traffic MPD Response: Officer cites bicyclist for riding 2 abreast. (There was no other bicyclist involved).	Why it was Wrong: Title 18 (2214.4) prohibits opening a car door into traffic unless it can be done safely. The officer should have cited the <i>driver</i> for violating 2214.4. Title 18,1201.2 calls for bicyclists to ride as far right as practicable.
2.	Traffic Circle	
	Incident: Bicyclist in traffic circle is struck by car entering the circle MPD Response: Officer tickets bicyclist for failure to yield.	Why it was Wrong: Motorist failed to yield right-of-way to traffic already within the circle (Title 18, 2208.7)
3.	Left-turning vehicle	
	Incident: Bicyclist going straight is hit by oncoming vehicle turning left across her path. MPD Response: Officer cites bicyclist for failure to control speed.	Why it was wrong: The turning driver failed to yield the right-of-way to the cyclist who was going straight. (Title 18, 1200.3). Turning drivers must yield to vehicles approaching from the opposite direction (Title 18, 2207.4 and 2208.2).
4.	Right-turning vehicle	
	Incident: Bicyclist going straight in the right lane is hit by car from same lane while the cars is making a right turn. MPD Response: Officer cites bicyclist	Why it was wrong: Title 18 (2203.3) requires that both the approach for a right turn and the turn itself shall be made as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway.



Common Enforcement Errors Involving Bicyclists



5.	Passing too close		
	Incident: Bicyclist riding on the right side of the road is struck by overtaking vehicle in the same lane MPD Response: Officer cites bicyclist		Why it was wrong: Title 18 (2202.2) requires an overtaking vehicle to pass to the left at a safe distance.
6.	Sidewalk riding		
	Incident: Bicyclist stopped for riding on the sidewalk outside of the Central Business District Officer cites bicyclist for riding on the		Why it was wrong: Title 18 (1201.9) permits bicycle riding on sidewalks except in the Central Business District. (Roughly Massachusetts Avenue to the north, Constitution Avenue to the south, 23 rd Street NW, to the west and 2 nd Street NE to the east)
	sidewalk.		
7.	Riding outside the bike lane		
	Incident: Bicyclist stopped for riding in the road when a path or bicycle lane is present Officer cites bicyclist		Why it was wrong: Title 18 (2220.6) states that the existence of Restricted Lanes on any roadway does not limit those vehicles for which the restrictions are established solely for use of the Restricted Lanes unless specifically indicated by signs.
8.	Incident: Bicyclist riding in the center of a narrow travel lane is stopped by police for impeding traffic		Why it was wrong: Title 18 (1201.3) says that a bicyclist riding on a highway shall not unduly or unnecessarily impede or obstruct traffic. However, according to Title 18 (1201.2) a bicyclist does not have to ride to the far right if the lane is narrow or if he/she is trying to avoid car doors, pavement hazards,
	Officer cites bicyclist for obstructing traffic	[or similar hazardous conditions. A narrow lane is defined as one 11 feet or less. Most lanes in the District are 11 feet or less.
9.	Incident: Bicyclist riding on sidewalk is hit by car entering or exiting driveway		Why it was wrong: Title 18 (2207.2) requires that drivers of a vehicle crossing a sidewalk shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and all other traffic using the sidewalk.
	MPD Response: Officer cites bicyclist.		