

BURLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

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BURLINGTON POLICE TAKE DELIVERY OF BUDNITZ BIKES FOR PATROL

Last Friday, the Burlington Police Department took delivery of a fleet of five Budnitz Bicycles. The product of inventor and innovator Paul Budnitz, they are bicycles designed, assembled and sold in Burlington, by local Vermonters, based out of a studio on Pine Street. As bike patrol resumes for the Burlington Police for the first time in several years, the program will consist of Burlington police officers patrolling on Burlington's Budnitz Bikes. The bikes have unique features such as greaseless belt drives, internal hub gearing, and titanium components, complimented by front suspension and disc brakes. The fleet was custom-designed for the BPD by Budnitz.

The rollout was made possible by the generosity of the Queen City Police Foundation, a tax-exempt charity that funds projects of crucial importance to the Burlington Police Department using private donations. The Foundation teamed up with Budnitz, which offered their bikes at a substantial discount off of their high retail value, a price which reflects the innovative materials and engineering used in their design and construction. No taxpayer dollars will be used to acquire the bicycles.

"The reintroduction of police bike patrols is a key additional initiative in our push to broaden the department's street presence and deepen relationships between officers and the citizens they protect," said Mayor Miro Weinberger. "I am excited that a partnership between BPD, the Queen City Police Foundation, and Budnitz Bikes is making it possible for our officers to patrol the city on Burlington-made bikes."

"Bikes this advanced and well-made would normally be out of reach of a police department in terms of price, but thanks to the Queen City Police Foundation and Budnitz, our officers will be able to patrol our streets on a world class bike designed and built right in our own city," said Brandon del Pozo, the Chief of Police. "I don't know of another city in the nation where the cops can say that. It's not unlike the tradition of German and Italian automakers providing some of their best sports cars to their local police. Except better for the environment, healthier, and probably more durable. And better for community engagement. It's very Vermont, and even more Burlington."

"These bikes are a perfect example of the good that the Queen City Police Foundation strives to do," said the Foundation's President Johanna Prince. "Our work is at its best when it bridges the gap between the community and the police. To make it possible for our officers to patrol on some of the world's best bikes, locally made, shows what a unique city we have, and what value comes from collaboration between the police

department and the local businesses that make our city so great. We're proud to have made this happen."

"It is our sole mission here at Budnitz Bicycles to perfect the city bicycle experience," said Jeremy Kent, CEO of Budnitz Bicycles. "Our Owners create one-of-a-kind models that look beautiful, perform to perfection and last virtually forever. We ship to people all over the world, from Bahrain to Brooklyn, from Silicon Valley to south of France. However, there is something incredibly special about designing and building a custom fleet for our own Queen City. Budnitz is extremely proud of our Vermont home, the men and women of the Burlington Police and the opportunity to contribute to this very cool partnership."

Burlington Police Officers will deploy on bicycle throughout the remainder of the summer, and into the fall. The bicycles will be an integral part of the department's community policing program, and used for engagement and patrol throughout the city. When not performing enforcement duties, officers on patrol will welcome questions about their bikes, their work, and about policing the Queen City in general.