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Bird scooters arrive in downtown Milwaukee, attorney says they're illegal to use on streets,

James B. Nelson and Mary Spicuzza, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Published 8:04 a.m. CT June 28, 2018 | Updated 3:45 p.m. CT Ju



(Photo: James B. Nelson / Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)

The Bird scooters that landed in downtown Milwaukee this week need to be re legally operated on city streets or sidewalks, a city attorney says.

A total of 100 of the motorized scooters were dropped off in the Historic Third parts of downtown Wednesday. The GPS-linked scooters don't use docking st sidewalks and other public areas, raising concerns among aldermen and city (

"I would reiterate my request that BIRD immediately remove all of the motoriz City sidewalks and streets," Deputy City Attorney Adam Stevens said in a lette

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"BIRD's Motorized Scooters may NOT be lawfully operated on any public street or sidewalk in the City of Milwaukee," he

Riders of the scooters could be issued a \$98.80 citation and could also be cited for operating while intoxicated if they ha

On Wednesday, a Bird spokesman said the company has "submitted the necessary paperwork to operate as a business

"We work closely with all of the cities in which we operate and look forward to doing so in Milwaukee so that Bird is a reliable transportation option."

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The scooters can be found using an app and cost a \$1 base fee plus 15 cents per minute for each ride.

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Bird said it began operating last fall and that its riders have logged more than 1 million miles. The privately owned Venice scooters in about 20 cities.

The scooters are gathered up each night for charging and repairs, the company says.

"It also keeps Birds from cluttering sidewalks," the company said in a news release.

"In the morning, Birds are parked at 'nests,' which are on private property conveniently located for riders across our market. Birds at each nest, although sometimes property owners agree to host more."

The company's scooters were back on the street Friday, and several riders were spotted on them in late morning, including City Hall.

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