



City of Camarillo

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VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

July 23, 2015

The Honorable Donald D. Coleman
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: Countywide Bicycle Safety

Dear Honorable Judge Coleman:

Attached you will find the Camarillo City Council's written response signed by Mayor Bill Little, as requested by the Grand Jury, to the Findings and Recommendations in subject report.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Grand Jury report. The City appreciates the very important role that the Grand Jury serves. If additional information is needed, please feel free to contact me at (805) 388-5309.

Sincerely,

Bruce Feng
City Manager

cc: Foreperson, Ventura County Grand Jury
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Camarillo City Clerk

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Countywide Bicycle Safety

Report Date: June 1, 2015

Response by: Bill Little & Camarillo City Council **Title:** Mayor and City Council Members

FINDINGS

FI-01 Throughout the County, law enforcement personnel rarely enforce helmet laws. They do not enforce bicycle licensing ordinances.

Response to FI-01: The City is unaware of law enforcement's habits throughout County.

FI-02 Licensing or registering bicycles with the police assists in the return of lost or stolen bicycles to owners, thereby reducing the number of unclaimed bicycles.

Response to FI-02: The City agrees with this finding.

FI-03 Bicycle helmet laws for children are not routinely complied with nor enforced.

Response to FI-03: The City finds that children in Camarillo do often wear a helmet. When possible our police department "reinforces" the need to wear a helmet instead of enforcing the law by issuing a citation. They commend and reward children who are wearing a helmet with a gift card for a dessert that is donated by local restaurants.

FI-04 Adult bicycle deaths may be reduced if adults wear helmets.

Response to FI-04: The City agrees with this finding.

FI-05 Of all the factors contributing to bicyclists' deaths and injuries, motor vehicle driver error is the most prevalent. Rear-ending of cyclists is the most common error.

Response to FI-05: The City agrees with this finding as it relates to the county as a whole. The primary collision factor in many of our bicycle traffic collisions indicates the bicyclist was at fault. When the motorist is at fault, we see just as many right-of-way violations as rear-ending errors. In 2014 and 2015, the City of Camarillo had no "rear ending" crashes reported.

Date: July 22, 2015

Signed: 
Bill Little, Mayor
City of Camarillo

Number of pages attached: 3

FI-06 Instruction related to bicycle laws and bicycle safety is insufficient throughout the County.

Response to FI-06: The City is unaware of instruction related to bicycle laws and bicycle safety throughout the County.

FI-07 Statistics on bicycle accidents imply a lack of compliance with the laws and rules of the road. There is a need for the public to be aware of the laws. It is incumbent upon cyclists and drivers to know and obey the laws.

Response to FI-07: The City agrees with this finding.

FI-08 Salmoning places cyclists at greater risk as motor vehicle drivers are not expecting riders to be coming directly toward them. Many people are unaware that salmoning is illegal in the State.

Response to FI-08: The City agrees that salmoning places cyclists at greater risk; however, we disagree that many cyclists are unaware that it is illegal. Most of our adult cyclists understand the law requires them to follow the “rules of the road.” Our juvenile cyclists are often taught to ride by their parents who understand the rules of the road requiring them to ride with the flow of traffic.

FI-09 Cities and counties utilizing bicycle advisory commissions/committees have been able to create better bicycling conditions and infrastructure, such as bike lanes, tunnels, and paths that provide for safer bicycle usage.

Response to FI-09: The City agrees with this finding.

FI-10 City and county bicycle advisory commissions/committees have been able to better educate people to be aware of bicyclists. They help bicyclists become more knowledgeable of the rules of the road and thus become safer cyclists.

Response to FI-10: The City agrees with this finding.

FI-11 Bicycle advisory commissions/committees, working in conjunction with city councils and/or transportation agencies, have been able to assist local governments in obtaining State, federal, and other grant monies to be used to build bicycling infrastructure and educate the public about pertinent laws and safe riding practices.

Response to FI-11: The City agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R-01 The Grand Jury recommends that the County Board of Supervisors and the city councils of all cities within the County encourage their respective law enforcement personnel to increase enforcement of bicycle and related motor vehicle laws.

Response to R-01: The City agrees with this recommendation. The Camarillo Police Department will focus on education and awareness campaigns to educate children and their parents of the requirements for wearing helmets and enforce other laws related to bicycle safety. The Camarillo Police Department will bring back the “Helmet/Scooter Safety Program” that was presented from 2002 to 2006.

R-02 The Grand Jury recommends that the County Board of Supervisors and the city councils of all cities within the County that do not already have a Bicycle Advisory Commission/Committee establish one to perform such tasks as:

- Identify roads in need of bicycle lanes
- Research federal, State, and other funding sources for projects related to bicycle infrastructure and use
- Issue motor vehicle and bicycle public safety announcements
- Promote use of bicycles as a viable form of transportation and for health and ecological reasons
- Offer safety education and bike rodeos for children
- Provide liaison between city councils, transportation agencies, and the community on bicycle-related issues and concerns
- Assist in the development and dissemination of educational materials related to bicycle laws and safety
- Review and comment on private development plans that include bicycle facilities or have an impact on bicycle safety and access
- Review and promote the enforcement of city and State laws related to bicycle safety
- Encourage the public to register bicycles and keep a record of the serial numbers to facilitate the return of stolen or lost bicycles.

Response to R-02: The City agrees with this recommendation. We are an active participant with the Citizen’s Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC.) which addresses many of these types of concerns at monthly meetings. We will continue to participate with CTAC.

R-03 The Grand Jury recommends the County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of all cities within the County, continually promote bicycle laws and safety to people of all ages, concentrating on school-age children through events such as bike rodeos, bicycle rallies, and other educational activities.

Response to R-03: The City agrees with this recommendation. Our Police Department has set a goal for the upcoming school year to focus on education and awareness campaigns to educate children and their parents of the requirements for wearing helmets and following laws related to bicycle and pedestrian safety. The Camarillo Police Department will bring back the “Helmet/Scooter Safety Program” and provide traffic safety education for school-age children through their school resource officers. Another goal is to conduct a bicycle rodeo at the police

station this year.

R-04 The Grand Jury recommends the County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of all cities within the County use local media (e.g., public service announcements, public events, and government websites) to educate the motor vehicle driving public and bicyclists of their responsibility to know and obey bicycle-related laws.

Response to R-04: The City agrees with this recommendation. Our police department will develop public safety announcements on bicycle safety tips that will be broadcasted on our local television government channel. A news release announcing the Helmet/Scooter Safety Program's dates and times will be distributed to all local media groups and posted on the City's website.