



CITY OF FILLMORE
CENTRAL PARK PLAZA
250 Central Avenue
Fillmore, California 93015-1907
(805) 524-3701 • FAX (805) 524-5707

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July 22, 2015

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VENTURA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

JUL 23 2015

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDING JUDGE

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

Subject: Grand Jury Report, Countywide Bicycle Safety (June 01, 2015)

Dear Judge Coleman:

This letter is in response to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations pertaining to the countywide bicycle safety report, as it relates to the City of Fillmore City Council.

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

Response: The Fillmore City Council agrees with the Grand Jury that helmet laws are rarely enforced.

Finding: 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: The Fillmore City Council agrees with the finding.

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: The Fillmore City Council agrees with the finding.

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: The Fillmore City Council agrees with the finding.

Grand Jury Response

Finding: FI-10. City and County bicycle advisory commission/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. (FA-21)

Response: The Fillmore City Council agrees with the finding.

Finding: FI-11. Bicycle advisory commissions/committees, working together 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 in build bicycling infrastructure and educate the public about the pertinent laws and safe riding practices

Response: The Fillmore City Council agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation: 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 safety and related motor vehicle laws. (FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-05, FI-08)

Response: The Fillmore City Council agrees with this recommendation. The Fillmore City Council will encourage the Fillmore Police Department to 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 Fillmore Police Department has in the past used a two pronged effort in bicycle safety, both education and enforcement. The Fillmore Police Department plans to reinstate this effort in the near future, making sure our low income residence have access to bicycle safety helmets and riders are more aware of their responsibilities:

Education

The Fillmore Police Department is planning to sponsor with other local non-profits one bicycle rodeo this summer with bicycle/rider safety as the primary message.

Enforcement

The Fillmore Police Department will increase our enforcement efforts toward bicycle traffic laws and will contact/cite bicyclist that violate traffic laws. (CVC 21200 requires bicyclist follow the same traffic laws motorists must follow.)

Recommendation: 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

Grand Jury Response

- 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 record of the serial numbers to facilitate the return of stolen or lost bicycles.

(FI-02, FI-06, FI-07, FI-09, FI-10, FI-11)

Response: The Fillmore City Council will participate in many if not all of the recommendations.

Recommendation: R-03 The Grand Jury recommends that 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. (FI-06, FI-07, FI-10).

Response: The Fillmore City Council will encourage the Fillmore Police Department to 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 Fillmore Police Department has in the past used a two pronged effort in bicycle safety, both education and enforcement. The Fillmore Police Department plans to reinstate this effort in the near future, making sure our low income residence have access to bicycle safety helmets and riders are more aware of their responsibilities:

Education

The Fillmore Police Department is planning to sponsor with other local non-profits one bicycle rodeo this summer with bicycle/rider safety as the primary message.

Recommendation: R-04 The Grand Jury recommends that 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. (FI-05, FI-06, FI-07, FI-08, FI-10)

Response: The Fillmore City Council will utilize local media outlets to make public service announcements, address bicycle safety at public events, and use government

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websites to educate the motor vehicle driving public and bicyclists of their responsibility to know and obey bicycle related laws.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Grand Jury report. If additional explanation is needed, please feel free to contact Fillmore City Manager, Dave Rowlands at 524-1500 or drowlands@ci.fillmore.ca.us

Sincerely,



Douglas Tucker,
Mayor City of Fillmore

cc: Foreman, Ventura County Grand Jury
Undersheriff Gary Pentis
Assistant Sheriff Steve DeCesari
Frank Chow, CEO Analyst