

Greg Nyhoff
City Manager



Office of the City Manager

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July 22, 2015

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

Dear Judge Coleman:

SUBJECT: Response by City of Oxnard to Civil Grand Jury Report on Countywide Bicycle Safety

The City received the June 1, 2015 report of the Civil Grand Jury about countywide bicycle safety. Enclosed is the City Council's response to the findings and recommendations of the Civil Grand Jury. The City Council authorized the Mayor, City Manager, and Police Chief to sign the response during their meeting of July 21, 2015. We are providing this information within the 90-day deadline. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call me at 385-7430 or send an email to greg.nyhoff@ci.oxnard.ca.us.

Sincerely,



Greg Nyhoff
City Manager

Enclosures

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

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JUL 31 2015

VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Final Report Countywide Bicycle Safety

Report Date: June 1, 2015

Response by: Greg Nyhoff
Jeri Williams

Title: City of Oxnard Manager
Title: Police Chief

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: FI-02, FI-08, FI-10, FI-11
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: FI-01, FI-03, FI-05
Statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.

FI-01: The City of Oxnard does not have an ordinance requiring a license or registration for bicycles, therefore, Oxnard Police Department is not required to enforce a law for bicycle licenses. The Oxnard Police Department does enforce helmet laws. Furthermore, the Department believes an educational partnership with local schools offers better incentives to encourage elementary school age children to wear helmets.

FI-03: The City of Oxnard partially disagrees with Finding FI-03's statement that bicycle helmet laws for children are not routinely enforced. See the response to FI-01 above.

FI-05: We do not have information to confirm the statement that motor vehicle driver error is the most prevalent cause of bicycle deaths and injuries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-01 and R-03 have been implemented.

The Oxnard City Council encouraged its law enforcement personnel to increase enforcement of bicycle and related motor vehicle laws at its meeting of July 21, 2015. As the Grand Jury report noted, the Oxnard Police Department has established bicycle rodeos for children and other educational programs, and pursues grants funding and applies it to enforcing bicycle safety laws. The City has received two State grants to pay overtime for police officers to enforce bicycle and pedestrian safety laws.

- Recommendation numbered R-04 has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

Time frame for the implementation: Within 90 days, the City of Oxnard will use its public access channel on public television to publish information to educate the motor vehicle-driving public and bicyclists about their responsibility to know and obey bicycle-related laws.

- Recommendation numbered R-02 will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.


The City of Oxnard does not have the staff resources to support a bicycle advisory commission or committee. The City of Oxnard performs outreach to local bicycle advocates, bicycle groups, and receives comments and suggestions from bicycle advocates as part of its bicycle planning efforts at the City Council Transportation Policy Committee, the Planning Commission, and City Council at their regularly scheduled meetings. The City of Oxnard uses its professional staff to identify bikeway needs described in the 2030 General Plan, Oxnard Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Master Plan (2011), Santa Clara River Trail Master Plan (2011), and Oxnard Boulevard Bicycle Facility Project Report (2004), among other documents. The City is using these documents to implement the recommendations for improvements for bicycle travel and safety.

The City of Oxnard's professional staff serves as liaisons between other agencies and the community through such public groups as the Ventura County Transportation Commission's (VCTC) technical advisory committee. The City's staff is participating in the regional bicycle wayfinding effort to hire a consultant at VCTC and fund a plan for bicycle wayfinding signs.

Through the permit process, developers are required to install bicycle facilities as part of new construction where appropriate. The City of Oxnard applies for federal, State, and other funding sources such as the Safe Routes to Schools and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement grants advertised through the Ventura County Transportation Commission and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to design and build bicycle facilities. Within the last 10 years, the City of Oxnard has spent several million dollars for bicycle facility plans and improvements through its capital improvement program.

The City has several professional staff members who ride bicycles for work and recreation. These staff members offer perspective as users of the bikeways and needs for improvements. It is the City's policy to install bikeway facilities where appropriate whenever streets are resurfaced. Registering or licensing bicycles is not a cost-effective use of limited staff resources. Private companies are available to register bicycles and facilitate the return of stolen or lost bicycles.

Date: 7/21/15

Signed: 
Tim Flynn, Mayor

ATTEST:


Daniel Martinez, City Clerk

Date: 7/21/15

Signed: 
Greg Nyhoff, City Manager

Date: 7-1-15

Signed: 
Jeri Williams, Police Chief

Number of pages attached: 0