

RECEIVED
SEP 04 2015
VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Countywide Bicycle Safety

Report Date: June 1, 2015

Response by: Sylvia Muñoz Schnopp **Title:** Mayor
Robert Albertson Interim Police Chief

FINDINGS

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered _____ have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered R-01, R-03, R-04 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered R-02 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 08-31-15

Signed: 

Number of pages attached 4



City of Port Hueneme

August 31, 2015

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

RECEIVED
SEP 04 2015
VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Subject: Countywide Bicycle Safety

Dear Judge Coleman:

The City of Port Hueneme has received the 2014-2015 Ventura County Grand Jury report, "Countywide Bicycle Safety." In accordance with Penal Code section 933.05, the City of Port Hueneme submits this response to the Grand Jury findings and recommendations.

The Grand Jury requires a response to Findings FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-05, FI-08, FI-10, FI-11 and Recommendations R-01, R-02, R-03, R-04.

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 agrees with this 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 to FI-02: The City agrees with this finding. The Port Hueneme Police Department (PHPD) offers bicycle licensing daily from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at no charge to Port Hueneme residents.

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY: COUNTYWIDE BICYCLE SAFETY

August 31, 2015

Page 2

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

Response to FI-03: 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.

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 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: This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but is anticipated to be implemented by January 1, 2016.

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY: COUNTYWIDE BICYCLE SAFETY

August 31, 2015

Page 3

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: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is unwarranted. The City Engineer's recommendation is that, absent documentation not included in the Grand Jury Report that would support the contrary, that the City's size and population, existing bicycle infrastructure, and current bicycle ADT does not appear at this time to warrant the creation of a Bicycle Advisory Commission/Committee. Such committees appear more suited for larger cities with higher bicycle use, and with an integrated Class I, Class II, and Class III citywide bicycle infrastructure.

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: This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but is anticipated to be implemented by January 1, 2016.

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

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY: COUNTYWIDE BICYCLE SAFETY

August 31, 2015

Page 4

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

Response to R-04: This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but is anticipated to be implemented by January 1, 2016.

This report response was authorized by the Port Hueneme City Council on August 31, 2015. The Council commends the Grand Jury on its efforts in looking into this matter.

Sincerely,



Sylvia Muñoz Schnopp
Mayor



Robert Albertson
Interim Police Chief

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