



**CITY OF SIMI VALLEY**  
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August 20, 2015

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**

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

**RECEIVED**  
VENTURA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

AUG 24 2015

OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDING JUDGE

*DKC*  
*8/24/15*

**SUBJECT: Response to Grand Jury Report—Countywide Bicycle Safety**

Dear Judge Coleman:

The City of Simi Valley has received the 2014-2015 Ventura County Civil Grand Jury report entitled "Countywide Bicycle Safety," and pursuant to Penal Code Sections 933(c) and 933(d), we submit the enclosed response to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations.

The City Council appreciates the efforts of the Grand Jury in reviewing bicycle safety throughout Ventura County.

The City Council considered the Grand Jury Report at its August 17, 2015, meeting and authorized this response. We appreciate the efforts of the Grand Jury in looking into this matter and this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Robert O. Huber  
Mayor

/sz  
Enclosure

cc: Foreperson, Ventura County Grand Jury  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
Chief of Police  
Assistant City Manager, Government Affairs



AUG 31 2015

VENTURA COUNTY  
GRAND JURY

## Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Countywide Bicycle SafetyReport Date: June 1, 2015Response By: Robert O. Huber Title: Mayor, City of Simi Valley

## FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: FI-01, FI-02, FI-08, FI-10, and FI-11

- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: FI-05

*(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)*

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-01, R-03, R-04 have been implemented.

*(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)*

- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ 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 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 8-21-15Signed Number of pages attached: 2

### **Finding Disputed**

**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.

**Dispute FI-05:** The Simi Valley Police Department's traffic accident data for the period May 1, 2013, through June 15, 2015, indicates that of the 45 injury collisions that occurred between a motorist and bicyclist and were investigated by a police officer. Of those, 13 (29%) were the fault of the motorist, not the bicyclist. The bicyclist was at fault in 71% of these injury accidents.

Of the 13 collisions where the motorist was determined to be at fault, only two accidents involved the motorist driving straight just before the collision. Improper turning movements by the motorist contributed to 69% of the 13 injury accidents where the motorist was at fault.

### **Recommendations Implemented**

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

**Implemented Action R-01:** The Simi Valley Police Department continues to encourage its personnel to take appropriate steps to educate the public about bicycle-related laws and encourage voluntary compliance with the laws. When situations dictate enforcement action, field personnel are encouraged to take appropriate enforcement action in order to minimize risk to bicyclists in our community.

**Recommendation R-03:** The Grand Jury recommends that the County Board of Supervisors and the city councils of all the 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.

**Implemented Action R-03:** The Simi Valley Police Department's Traffic Unit, Bicycle Team, and Crime Prevention Unit continually promote bicycle laws and safety to people throughout the community. These presentations take place at a number of elementary schools, public events, and Department-sponsored activities throughout the year, e.g., Cajun Festival, Living Green Expo, and Simi Valley Health and Fitness Expo.

**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 announcement, public events, and government websites) to educate the motor vehicle driving public and bicyclists of their responsibilities to know and obey bicycle-related laws.

**Implemented Action R-04:** The Simi Valley Police Department utilizes a variety of strategies and platforms to educate the public about bicycle-related safety. Community safety messages are routinely distributed over social media outlets such as Facebook, Nixle, and Nextdoor. Crime Prevention and Safety Bulletins are distributed to email subscribers through the Department's Neighborhood Watch and Business Watch Programs. The Crime Prevention Unit offers presentations at community events, Neighborhood Council meetings, and Neighborhood Watch meetings.

## Recommendations Not Implemented

**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
- 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.

**Reason for Not Implementing R-02:** The City of Simi Valley does not plan to create a Bicycle Advisory Commission/Committee at this time. The City Council agrees with the importance of performing the listed tasks, the listed tasks are already currently being performed and monitored by various department in the City.

For example, the Simi Valley Police Department sets up and hosts Bicycle Safety Rodeos multiple times each year at community events, the Public Works/Traffic Division has secured numerous grants for bicycle lanes and routes, and the City just approved the Arroyo Simi Greenway Specific Plan that will create an off-street bicycle route spanning almost the entire width of the City.

The City Council will continue to encourage staff members to ensure that the safety needs of local bicycle riders remain a top priority.

