

JUL 21 2015

VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

City Council

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Mayor**Response to Grand Jury Report Form**

Report Title: Countywide Bicycle Safety

Report Date: June 1, 2015

Response By: City Council of the City of Thousand Oaks
City of Thousand Oaks Police Department

Pursuant to California Penal Code Sections 933(c) and (d), the City Council of the City of Thousand Oaks and the City of Thousand Oaks Police Department provide the following responses to the findings and recommendations included in the above referenced Grand Jury Report. This response also clarifies facts presented in the Grand Jury Report.

BACKGROUND

Following four deaths in the City of Oxnard and a total of ten throughout the County over an 18-month period commencing January 2013, the Grand Jury followed up on issues discussed at an Oxnard City Council meeting regarding enforcement of bicycle laws. Although the issue originated in Oxnard, the Grand Jury initiated an investigation of ways to create a safer cycling environment throughout the County and thereby potentially reduce bicyclist injuries and deaths.

FORMAT OF RESPONSE

The City's detailed response to the Grand Jury Report is set forth in the following pages. The response is ordered in the same manner as the report itself – Facts, Findings, and Recommendations.

RESPONSE TO FINDINGS

The City agrees with findings numbered: FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-05, FI-08, FI-10, and FI-11.

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RESPONSE TO 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 safety and related motor vehicle laws. (FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-05, FI-08)"*

City Response: This recommendation has been implemented.

The Thousand Oaks Police Department (TOPD) is a member of the City's Bicycle Advisory Team, an advisory group consisting of members of the cycling community, local cycling businesses, City staff, Conejo Recreation and Parks District, Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency, and commissioners from the Thousand Oaks Planning Commission and Thousand Oaks Traffic and Transportation Advisory Commission. At this quarterly meeting, TOPD is advised and updated as to areas in Thousand Oaks that require increased enforcement activities pertaining to bicycle safety.

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 safety announcements*
- *Promote use of bicycles as a viable for of transportation and for health and ecological reasons*
- *Offer education and bike rodeos for children*
- *Provide liaison between city council, 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 in 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 (FI-02, FI-06, FI-07, FI-09, FI-10, FI-11)"*

City Response: This recommendation has been implemented. Please see response to recommendation R-01, above.

R-03 *"The Grand Jury recommends the County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of all cities within the County, continually promote bicycle safety laws and safety to people of all ages, concentrating on school-aged children through events such as bike rodeos, bicycle rallies, and other educational activities. (FI-06, FI-07, FI-10)"*

City Response: This recommendation has been implemented.

The City of Thousand Oaks conducts the Glenn Garvin Memorial Bicycle Rodeo, which is held annually at Conejo Creek Park North. Geared towards all youth in the City, this event provides free bicycle helmets to all participants as well as free instruction on proper helmet usage and fit, a bicycle pamphlet containing bicycle safety information in both English and Spanish, and bicycles are provided for youth participants to use during the "Mock Safe City" demonstration. During this demonstration, youth are instructed by licensed instructors on how to navigate City streets, sidewalks, railroad crossings, and intersections in a safe manner.

During National Public Works Week, held annually during the third week of May, the City's Municipal Service Center provides an open house to all residents of the City. At this open house, the City provides a bicycle safety demonstration booth where visitors can learn and obtain written information about bicycle safety with an emphasis on rider's visibility to motorists on the road. Over 1,000 visitors attend this event each 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. (FI-05, FI-06, FI-07, FI-08, FI-10)"*

City Response: This recommendation has been implemented.

The City of Thousand Oaks maintains a "Bike Safe" website on the City's website, which provides numerous bicycle safety tips and links to other bicycle safety organizations. This site can be found at www.toaks.org/bike.

The City appreciates the Commendation for its various bicycle safety programs and thanks the Grand Jury for its time in performing its review and determining its recommendations in this matter.

Date: July 14, 2015

Signed: 
Al Adam, Mayor