

An aerial photograph of a coastal city, likely Long Beach, California. The city is densely packed with buildings and streets, extending to a wide, sandy beach. A long, white pier extends from the beach into the blue ocean. The sky is clear and light blue.

*In case you missed it*

# CHIEF'S UPDATE

**City Council Meeting April 12, 2022**

# At the recent City Council meeting, Chief LeBaron provided the following updates:

- **Crime.** An alarming trend we have seen the past 2 weeks involves meeting people via social media apps. We are investigating two alleged reports of sexual assault by suspects who met their victims via online dating apps, met at a local restaurant and in both cases alcohol appears to be a factor. Both cases are in the very early stages so detectives are still determining what happened, but we felt it important to share this information with you.
- April 15th is the deadline for most people to file their taxes and criminals are looking for valuable info that is easily accessible. Please safeguard your personal identifying information, do not leave documents in vehicles and be diligent in checking your mailbox for any refunds.



- **Fights on Pier Plaza.** A video was posted to social media sites over the weekend that showed a fight in Pier Plaza. The video showed a violent encounter and has generated a lot of questions. Unfortunately it is not clear when the video was filmed and as there were numerous fights on Pier Plaza over the weekend it is difficult to determine which fight this was. Detectives are investigating the crimes where there are victims willing to prosecute, but we ask anyone who has information on any fight to call our Detective Bureau and provide that information to us.
- **Recruitment.** I am happy to announce we have hired a new police officer who starts the police academy this week. We have more candidates in backgrounds and hope to announce more hires in the near future.



**Baker to Vegas Relay Challenge.** This relay race is run each year and includes law enforcement teams from across the country. The race starts in Baker, CA spans 120 miles, and ends in Las Vegas, NV. Our combined HBPD/MBPD team braved weather that ranged from 100 degrees during the peak of the day down to the low 50's at the 5,000 foot elevation around 2:00am. Our team finished the race with a combined time of 18 hours and 41 minutes earning us 5th place in our category. Special thanks to our HBPD runners Captain Landon Phillips, Detective Kurt Mateko, Officers Dalton Blumenfeld, Ryan McBride and Keaton Dadigan, as well as our volunteers on the course Officer Luis Pineda, PSO Supervisor Starla Smith and her husband Josh, PSOs Kelly Tranbarger and Dio Deleon, who joined my wife and I to support our team members.

