

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 May 10, 2022**

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

- **Recruitment.** We hired a new police officer who started this week. Officer David Honda comes to us from the Orange County Sheriff's Department. We held oral interviews for additional police officer candidates this week and will be starting backgrounds immediately.
- **Crime Trends.** We recently had two accidents involving impaired drivers, one being a hit and run resulting in serious injuries to a pedestrian. In both cases HBPD was able to identify the drivers and in the case of the injured pedestrian, we were able to locate the driver because a community member observed something unusual and called us, leading us to the vehicle and ultimately the driver.



In April a vehicle was destroyed by fire at the top of the parking garage. Through use of our downtown cameras system, detectives were able to identify two suspects and charges will be presented to the D.A. in the near future.

Some crimes of petty theft are actually an attempt to gain your personal information. Please safeguard your documents and personal information, and if anything is stolen, please be sure to monitor credit reports to stop any attempted fraud quickly.

- **Homeless Outreach.** A man who is homeless and has been committing crimes in Hermosa Beach for over 14 years has accepted assistance and is on his way home to the East Coast. After being arrested for a felony as part of our ongoing bicycle theft operation, he was contacted by Harbor Interfaith Homeless Outreach workers and he was willing to accept their services. He is headed home to his family who is waiting for him.



- **Bicycle Safety.** No matter how hard our Police Department works, we cannot stop people from choosing to break the law. We need everyone's help in making bicycle and traffic safety a public campaign. We have published many applicable laws on our social media platforms and we want everyone to talk about them. Officers are enforcing traffic laws throughout the city and that enforcement includes a visible presence in key areas, education through social media and public comments, collaboration with our local school district to educate students and parents, as well as issuing citations for violation of laws that create a danger to our community and bicycle riders. HBPD cannot be the only solution to this public safety threat - we need your help.

