

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 clear blue ocean. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

*In case you missed it*

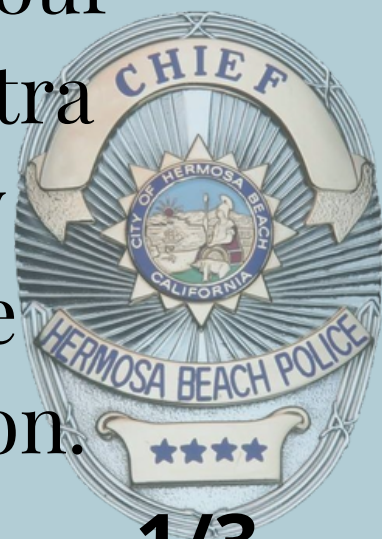
# CHIEF'S UPDATE

**City Council Meeting October 11, 2022**

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

**Recruitment.** We hired two police officers, Ivan Reyes and Fabian Reyes, who joined us from another police department in Los Angeles County. Officer Ricky Julien completed the Rio Hondo Police Academy and will be out on patrol this week.

**Crime Trends.** We've had a steady increase in auto burglaries and in 100% of these cases valuables that were visible in the vehicle were taken and in many cases the victims were sure their car was locked but we found no evidence of forced entry. We know thieves come into our city at night, please remove all valuables from your vehicle, double check that it is locked and be extra vigilant between midnight and 5am, when many of these crimes are happening. Don't ignore the barking dog, check it out if a motion light goes on. Check your surveillance cameras in the morning.





**Crime Trends (cont'd).** We are seeing a consistent level of violence happening in the Pier Plaza in the late-night hours involving alcohol. We had 2 very serious fights that resulted in significant, felony level crimes due to the victims' injuries. Two suspects have been arrested and charged with felony assault with a deadly weapon. When a violent act is committed in our downtown area it places a large strain on all those who work after the fact to manage the fallout of these events. Our local firefighters, hospital and emergency medical personnel, our jail staff, Police Department records staff, Detectives, Deputy DA or City Prosecutor staff and City Management all spend countless hours working to address the outcomes of these crimes. All these hours are hours that could be spent working on the problems our community experiences each day involving traffic safety and quality of life crimes.



**Safety.** Community members have raised concerns about e-bikes, traffic safety, homelessness and other quality of life issues. Some have expressed that the police department needs to "start enforcing the law" when conducting enforcement. Officers spend a lot of time being visible and looking for indicators of criminal activity in our community. Their efforts between January 1st and October 10th resulted in 39 cases involving suspects with weapons: 17 firearms (3 ghost guns), and a variety of other weapons including knives, switchblades, machetes, pepper spray, tear gas and even a hammer used as a weapon. Officers have made 82% more felony arrests in 2022 and 23% more misdemeanor arrests than in 2021. Traffic safety is a top priority as well. Since January 1st officers have conducted over 2200 traffic stops for various violations, with 26% of the citations issued for violations on the Strand or Hermosa Avenue.

