

In case you missed it

CHIEF'S UPDATE

City Council Meeting December 13, 2022

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

Crimes: Last week, our Detective Bureau was notified about a young girl's new electric bicycle being stolen. They were able to ID the paper license plate through nearby surveillance cameras and contact the auto dealership which gave them information on the possible suspect. Our detectives conducted surveillance at one of the addresses provided and learned that the suspect and his girlfriend were on probation for burglary. Both were arrested yesterday and will be presented to the District Attorney soon.

Bicycle Safety: As announced on November 30th, the City launched the "Bike Smart Hermosa" safety campaign to increase awareness on bicycle safety. We urge the community to seek education on bicycle safety. Our "Bike Smart Hermosa" plan includes the three "E's" of safety: Education, Enforcement, and Engineering.



Bicycle Safety Continued : This is a community-based problem, and not exclusively a police problem. There are numerous efforts being made by our City and with our partners at the Hermosa Beach School District and local high schools to address the education towards young people. Our Police Department will ensure the enforcement remains a critical part of the solution.

Traffic Enforcement: From January 1, 2022 through October 21, 2022, the following data has been collected:

- 3,636 traffic stops with 405 reports generated
- 1,203 traffic citations issued
- 50 citations for loud exhaust or illegal muffler
- 26% of the citations were on Hermosa Ave or the Strand
 - Some violations included failure for a vehicle to stop at an intersection, motorized vehicle on the Strand, and unsafe speed



Traffic Collisions: In the City of Hermosa Beach, we measured the trends in traffic collisions between 2017 and 2021:

- Over the past 5 years, total traffic accidents have decreased significantly, with only one year showing a slight increase from the previous year
- Total accidents in 2021 are **17% lower** than what we saw in 2017
- Only 1 fatal traffic collision in the last 5 years — it was an intoxicated driver who was sentenced to 6 years in prison back in 2019
- Injury collisions have **decreased by 25%** between 2017 and 2021
- In 2022, 4 out of 15 bicycle related accidents involved e-bikes
- The most common factor for an accident in 2021 and 2022 is improper turning
- Top location for pedestrian and bike related accidents over the past 5 years is Pier & Ardmore Ave and 6th Street & Ardmore Ave.



Violent Crimes: Between January 1, 2022 and December 12, 2022, our Police Department has investigated 47 incidents involving weapons — 21 of those included guns. We also seized knives, tear gas, switch blades, hammers, a machete, screwdriver, and stun gun.

Many of the weapons seized were as a result of proactive officers initiating stops. Most of the people being detained in these stops have extensive criminal records, including convictions for violent crime.

