

In case you missed it

CHIEF'S UPDATE

City Council Meeting April 25, 2023

At the recent City Council meeting,

Chief LeBaron provided the following updates:

Use of Technology: The "Drone for First Responders" program has launched in the City of Hermosa Beach. Drones are ready to be deployed at any moment. Some employees were selected to attend drone pilot school and there are now 13 certified drone pilots in the City: 8 from the Police Department and 5 from Public Works.

Drones have already been used to assist over the weekend with two different calls. One call was from a grandmother who was separated from her young grandchild. A drone was launched to help with the response and immediately located the child. The next day, officers were called about a child with severe autism who ran away from home and was running all over avoiding getting caught. A drone was launched and located him, where he was led to officers and his parents for safety.



Use of Technology: The next piece of technology that has been deployed are ALPRs - a camera that takes photos of all vehicles and automatically checks plates for wants and warrants. There are currently four cameras operating at key intersections. When there is a reported crime, officers will be able to review video for possible suspect vehicles.

During 2023, officers and detectives have been successful in solving numerous crimes based on a vehicle license plate being in the area before or after the crime. These cameras are also a part of a data sharing program with all agencies in Southern CA.

Crime: Hermosa Beach PD is relentless in following up on crimes and today is another example on why committing crime in this City is a bad idea. In 2021, an employee of a retail store stole valuable merchandise from the business. The business eventually was able to identify the loss and report it a year later. They were able to locate some of the loss being resold online and it was tracked to a similar business in Orange County.



Crime continued: Detectives picked up the investigation and were able to confirm, identify, and locate the suspect. He was served arrest and search warrants and eventually taken into custody. During the search, some of the very valuable items that had been stolen back in 2021 were found.

Special event: Hermosa Beach PD has two police officer recruits in Rio Hondo Class #214 that will be graduating on May 3rd. On Monday, May 1st, the entire academy class will come to the City to complete a Pride Run in memory of a fallen officer. It's a tradition that each class upholds to remember an officer from an agency represented in the class. This year, the run will honor Huntington Park Police Officer Robert H. Keller who died in the line of duty in 1967.

The run will start promptly at 8am and the community is encouraged to come out and support the new officers.

