

In case you missed it

CHIEF'S UPDATE

City Council Meeting May 9, 2023

At the recent City Council meeting,

Chief LeBaron provided the following updates:

Crime Trends: An extreme trend that has been identified over the past couple of weeks is the numerous investigations where excessive alcohol consumption has been a key factor. Since the last council meeting, there have been arrests for DUI, drunk in public, and four incidents of domestic violence where excessive alcohol consumption has been evident. In two cases, the people arrested registered a **.39 BAC** and **.37 BAC** while in custody - that is nearly 5x the legal limit for DUI!

We are asking the community to pay attention and intervene if you know someone who intends to drink and drive, or are getting involved in an incident that can potentially become violent. We are concerned about the safety of those who drink in excess and about the safety of our community who are put into harm's way with such actions. Officers are dedicated to keeping Hermosa Beach safe and any help from the community is appreciated.



Proactive Policing: Since the last council meeting, there have been two arrests of people committing crimes in Hermosa Beach in possession of a firearm. The first crime was connected to a shoplifting incident at a local business. Detectives identified and located the suspect a short time after the crime. When taken into custody, he was in possession of a loaded firearm.

The second incident happened Monday morning around 3:30am. Officers were out on patrol and noticed a suspicious vehicle driving in the north end of the City. When a traffic stop was conducted, a passenger in the vehicle was found to be on probation for murder and in possession of methamphetamine and a loaded firearm. Felony charges have been filed on the suspect for felon in possession of a firearm.

Officers continue to be proactively engaged in ongoing efforts across the City, and these are examples that demonstrate criminal incidents can occur at any hour of the night.



Technology: On Monday, officers took a report of a stolen golf cart that took place sometime between Sunday night and Monday morning. Within a matter of minutes, using ALPR technology, our crime analyst identified a suspect vehicle involved in the crime. Around 4:00pm on Tuesday, detectives located the stolen golf cart and suspect in the City of Los Angeles, where he was arrested. The Hermosa Beach Police Department is grateful to the community for their efforts in providing excellent information and evidence that allows for a quick and safe way to do our jobs and hold people accountable who come into the City to commit crime.

Upcoming events: There is active communication between local, state, and federal partners to plan and monitor intelligence for the upcoming 4th of July holiday. Los Angeles Sheriff's Department will bring in additional support to ensure appropriate staffing for high visibility. Thank you to the community for providing a safe and fun environment over the past couple of years and hope for another safe and memorable holiday this year.



Upcoming events: Along with the great work Police Department employees are involved in, they are also representing the Hermosa Beach Police Department in unique ways. In June, several officers will represent Hermosa Beach PD in the Police and Fire World Games in San Diego. A South Bay baseball team has been formed and includes Officers Franco and McBride and Detective Mateko and Blumenfeld. Officer Taniguchi will compete in the golf tournament and Officer Rushton will be competing in the hockey competition with a regional team. His partner, K9 Charlie, will not be competing, but will be cheering from the stands.

New recruits: Last week, the Hermosa Beach Police Department celebrated two graduates from the Rio Hondo Academy Class #214. Please take the time to welcome our new additions, Officer Aguirre and Officer Flores when you see them working around town!

