

In case you missed it

CHIEF'S UPDATE

City Council Meeting June 13, 2023

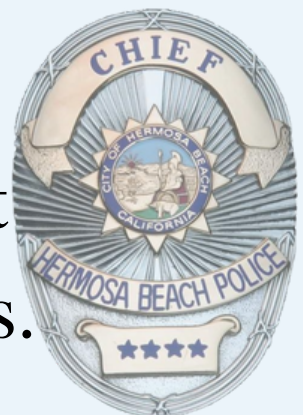
At the recent City Council meeting,

Chief LeBaron provided the following updates:

Trends: The Hermosa Beach Police Department maintains a steady focus on upholding our mission of making Hermosa Beach the safest little beach city. Input from residents, City Council, staff, and surrounding police departments help determine what issues need to be prioritized.

Between January 1st and April 30th of 2023, there are some trends that have been recognized that the community should be aware of. Although overall crime showed a significant decrease as compared to the same time period in 2022, aggravated assaults have risen significantly. There also has been increases in identity theft and theft from motor vehicles, primarily due to the increase in catalytic converter thefts.

We are proud of the work being done by all City Employees, community partners and businesses but Hermosa Beach PD continues to be vigilant of all threats.



Trends continued: What is being seen throughout the City and across the nation is that people have an increased tendency towards anger, resorting to violence faster than before. When there is an increase in aggravated assaults in the City, it causes major concerns. HBPD is aware that a disagreement has the potential to result in a tragedy that will impact every aspect of residents' lives.

It is HBPD's objective to make late-night crime difficult to accomplish through proactive enforcement and high visibility. During the first five months of this year, officers have increased their efforts centered on criminal activities that occur between midnight and 4:00AM. In this time period, officers have made arrests of 19 people who committed crimes that involved the use of weapons.

Amongst those arrests, 2 pair of brass knuckles, 2 stun guns, 2 batons, 3 knives, a can of pepper spray, and 11 handguns were seized.



Trends continued: Some of the people arrested were also in possession of illegal narcotics and open containers of alcohol in their vehicles. Some ran from officers when contacted, others had prior convictions for domestic violence, murder and attempted murder, and some were on parole or probation or had outstanding warrants for recently committed crimes.

Most recently, this past weekend officers arrested another individual who was in possession of a handgun. HBPD remains aware of the ongoing trends and will continue to be on the lookout.

Traffic Safety: Between January 1st and May 31st, officers conducted over 2000 traffic stops. Enforcement included citations for juveniles not wearing helmets, motorized vehicles on the Strand, and illegal exhaust on vehicles. Since January 1st, traffic collisions are down 28% compared to the same time period as last year.



Traffic Safety continued: For traffic collisions, **only 4 involved bicycles and only one involved an e-bike.**

Strategies utilized by officers, the School District, the Public Works team, and the City Manager's office are making a difference.

HBPD is aware that e-bike dangers will not be solved exclusively through police enforcement. As summer moves in, we call on adults who use e-bikes, and parents of kids who use e-bikes to be responsible for your actions and obey all rules of the road.

