

In case you missed it

CHIEF'S UPDATE

City Council Meeting August 8, 2023

At the recent City Council meeting,

Chief LeBaron provided the following updates:

Community Impact Team: Earlier this year, Hermosa Beach PD created the Community Impact Team to address crimes and quality of life issues in the City. They worked with the crime analyst to determine the days, hours, and locations where the team would be needed the most. The goal was to increase police presence and deter subjects from committing violations within the City. Uniformed and undercover officers, and traffic and parking enforcement were involved to increase safety in the community. HBPD visited many neighborhoods during National Night Out, where they talked about the proactive efforts being made. Social media is also a great tool to show everyone all the great work being done. It has also made an impact on our younger audience. A juvenile recently reached out and said that it has acted as a deterrent for other juveniles to commit crimes here, because Hermosa Beach PD was "cracking down" on violations.



Operations: Since the last Council meeting, Detectives have positively identified the juveniles responsible for the vandalism in the restrooms at Valley Park earlier in July. They are working with the parents to make restitution for the damage.

On June 28th, officers met with Junior Lifeguards to discuss bike and roadway safety. One of the issues brought up was that some of their bikes had been stolen while attending the program. Officers educated them on properly securing their bicycles and decided to implement a bike decoy operation to address the problem. This operation targeted the area where the bikes had been stolen. On August 1st, a suspect was arrested for stealing a bike from that area; the suspect was a convicted felon and on parole for burglary.



Operations continued: On July 26th, a call for a strong-armed robbery went out at Valley Park. Officers were already near the area because the day and time was recognized as a prime time for juvenile activity. After a short foot chase, two juveniles involved in the robbery were caught. The investigation showed that a group of juveniles suspects beat up a juvenile victim and took their bicycle. One juvenile was directly involved with the robbery so that juvenile and their parents were cited into juvenile court to answer for the robbery charges. The second juvenile was referred to LA County Juvenile Diversion.

On July 31st, officers were once again out in the field during the targeted hours of increased activity when they were notified that three suspects were actively involved in stealing bikes from Pier Plaza. All three suspects ran from officers, but officers set-up a perimeter and caught all suspects, who were juveniles. These cases will be handled through the LA County Juvenile Diversion Program.



Operations continued: With school starting soon, Hermosa Beach PD and the School District have begun coordinating efforts to discuss bicycle safety with students. The School District will host a Back-to School bicycle registration event later this month that will require all students who ride their bikes to school to attend a bicycle safety course. Officers will be present at the event and provide support as the students are trained on safe bicycle operations.

