

*In case you missed it*

# CHIEF'S UPDATE

**City Council Meeting October 10, 2023**

At the recent City Council meeting,

Chief LeBaron provided the following updates:

**Technology:** The Hermosa Beach Police Department continues to keep the community safe through collaborative partnerships and the use of technology.

On October 3rd, officers responded to a robbery that occurred at a local business. A male adult had left with high-end alcoholic beverages without paying for it; taking items without paying for it is a petty theft based on the dollar amount. However, when employees contacted the suspect and asked to return the merchandise, the suspect pulled out a handgun, pointed it at employees, and fled in his car; the crime has now escalated to a robbery.

Although confrontations by employees are not encouraged, their alertness and detailed suspect information gave detectives enough information to identify the suspect.





**Technology continued:** In addition, the business had high quality video surveillance that showed the suspect as he committed the crime. Further investigation led to the suspect's vehicle being a rental which he had recently obtained. The suspect was also recognized by the Department's crime analyst since he was in a neighboring agency's crime bulletin for similar crimes. ALPR confirmed that the suspect and the rented vehicle were in the area when the crime was committed. Through the use of advanced technology, detectives located the suspect in a motel in Inglewood and was taken into custody. Detectives found a loaded 9mm handgun and the security guard uniform used during the robbery. The suspect had a prior felony record that includes robbery and is being held in jail due to his crime not being a part of the zero-bail policy implemented on October 1st.



**Technology continued:** On Friday, September 29th, detectives and officers were working Downtown in preparation for the Hermosa Locale event. While on foot patrol, a sergeant saw some people standing next to a car in Lot A around 11:30pm. They were engaging in a lot of activity that raised suspicion that they were dealing drugs. When they walked into a restaurant, the sergeant walked by their car and spotted a handgun on the floor of the car. A plan was immediately formed to bring the men into custody, who could possibly be armed with additional weapons. When the men returned, they were detained, but the driver ran from officers. With the assistance of Redondo Beach PD and Manhattan Beach PD, the driver was successfully tracked down in the area of 8th and the Strand. Though he was hiding, the Department's drone was able to spot him with the equipped thermal imaging device.



**Technology continued:** One suspect was in possession of the firearm spotted in the car, cocaine, and other illegal drugs. The suspect that ran away is a registered sex offender with a criminal record that includes sex crimes and drug trafficking. An additional suspect at the car was also arrested and had a prior criminal conviction for manslaughter. The car they were using was also a rental car. Suspects were taken to jail and held on bail as their crimes were not included in the recent zero-bail policy.

Officers continue to prioritize the safety of the community, focusing on verified and factual data of times and places where crimes often occur. Through proactive work, advance technology, and collaboration of the community, the Hermosa Beach Police Department was able to investigate and bridge the gap between partial information and find the identity of the suspects.

