

In case you missed it

CHIEF'S UPDATE

City Council Meeting October 24, 2023

At the recent City Council meeting,

Chief LeBaron provided the following updates:

Juvenile Crime: During summer, the Hermosa Beach Police Department was made aware of an increase of juvenile crime in Hermosa Beach and the surrounding areas. Crimes included assaults, vandalism, theft, alcohol possession, fireworks, and electric bicycle offenses. In response, a task force was created focused on gathering intelligence and addressing activities in the City. The task force also allowed detectives to work with neighboring police departments to share information and ensure everyone was on the same page.

There have been successful efforts, but due to the privacy requirements involving minors, full details cannot be disclosed. However, the following are examples of the excellent work done by officers and detectives surrounding juvenile crime.



Juvenile continued: In June, a suspect threw a firework into a crowd of people in the Downtown area. A juvenile was identified and the case was submitted to the LA County Juvenile Diversion program.

In July, a robbery involving juvenile suspects occurred at Valley Park. The two suspects stole a bike from the victim and criminal charges were brought against both juvenile suspects. In another incident, officers responded to a bike theft in progress in the Downtown area. Three juvenile suspects were identified and detained as part of that investigation. All three were referred to the LA County Juvenile Diversion program. There was another incident at Valley Park regarding vandalism. Numerous juveniles were causing damage to a park bathroom. An investigation was conducted and resulted in five juveniles being identified as responsible for the damage.



Juvenile continued: Detectives worked with the juveniles' parents and restitution has been made to the City for the damage to the bathrooms. On another case, officers responded to a call at a local business of merchandise being stolen by numerous suspects. The investigation included video of some juvenile suspects working together to steal the merchandise. The two juveniles who committed the theft were identified. Detectives worked with the juveniles' parents and restitution has been made to that business for the loss of merchandise.

These are some of the many cases officers and detectives have been working on. The Hermosa Beach Police Department wants the community to know that any criminal behavior is not taken lightly. In the case with juvenile crimes, there is a bigger effect to those young people and families who deserve to live a life free of fear from bullying, retaliation, or abuse, simply because of their age.



Key Points

What happens when juveniles are responsible for committing a crime? HBPD has several options to ensure accountability, but the approach is always fair and balanced. With serious crimes, LA County Probation works with the Department to determine appropriate actions. With less serious crimes, the Department works with the LA County Juvenile Diversion program. It include things like restitution, education, community service, counseling, and other methods of accountability. This diversion can be mandated or agreed upon as a voluntary option by the juvenile and their family. In all cases, the primary objective is accountability without creating a criminal record for a juvenile. Detectives **ALWAYS** work with the parents of juvenile offenders, and their focus is ensuring the victim's voice is heard and bring accountability to the offender.



Key Points

- All South Bay Police Departments coordinate frequently to ensure frequent offenders are identified and cross-jurisdictional crimes are investigated thoroughly.
- If any criminal activity has taken place in the City of Hermosa Beach, please report it IMMEDIATELY. The Department cannot investigate what they don't know.

