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E-Bikes Friend or Foe

The City of Westminster and the Westminster Police Department submit this written response to Maria Hernandez, Presiding Judge of Superior Court, 700 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, CA 92701, and to the Orange County Grand Jury, 700 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, CA 92701 in compliance with Penal Code 933.

F1: The Majority of Orange County's 34 cities do not have ordinances or policies in place, which makes it difficult to address the safe operation and regulation of E-bikes leading to confusion.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F2: Due to the increasing incidence of E-bike injuries and deaths, there is a need for consistent and accurate tracking by law enforcement and first responders, which does not exist now.

Response: The respondent disagrees wholly with this finding. Westminster PD and many other law enforcement agencies currently use a report writing and analytics system known as Crossroads. This system has the means to track injuries or deaths involving E-bikes.

F3: Training and education on E-bike use and safety varies from city to city causing confusion amongst bike riders.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

R1: Each Orange County city should have specific policies that define the rules of the road for use of E-bikes in their communities by December 1, 2024.

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented. It will be implemented in the future when clear and defined regulations are passed into law specifically regarding E-bikes.

R2: Each Orange County city should have a mechanism in place to report accidents, injuries and deaths involving E-bikes by December 1, 2024.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. Westminster PD and many other law enforcement agencies currently use a report writing and analytics system known as Crossroads. This system has the means to track injuries or deaths involving E-bikes.

R3: Each Orange County city should research and develop outreach and education programs regarding the safe operation of E-bikes for their residents by December 1, 2024.

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented. It will be implemented in the future when clear and defined regulations are passed into law specifically regarding E-bikes.