



CITY OF  
**HUNTINGTON BEACH**

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**Eric G. Parra** | *Interim City Manager*

August 8, 2024

Honorable Maria Hernandez  
Presiding Judge of the Orange County Superior Court  
700 Civic Center Drive, West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Honorable Presiding Judge Maria Hernandez:

Re: City of Huntington Beach Response  
2023-2024 Orange County Grand Jury Report  
**E-Bikes Friend or Foe?**

The City of Huntington Beach received and reviewed the referenced Grand Jury Report and, in accordance with the Grand Jury's request, approved the following responses to the report.

**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 City of Huntington Beach agrees with this 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 City of Huntington Beach agrees with this finding.

It is the position of the City of Huntington Beach that the CHP-555 can capture accurate data related to E-Bikes when a traffic collision is taken and documented appropriately. The Huntington Beach Fire Department also tracks E-Bike related incidents in their Patient Care Reporting system.

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

Response: The City of Huntington Beach agrees with this 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 City of Huntington Beach has implemented this recommendation. The City enacted a municipal code specifically related to E-Bikes in October 2023. All other traffic regulations are governed by the California Vehicle Code. Having each city develop unique laws only adds to the confusion addressed in Finding 1 listed above.

**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 City of Huntington Beach believes this recommendation needs further analysis.

The City's position is that the CHP-555 can capture data related to E-Bikes when a traffic collision is taken and documented appropriately. The Huntington Beach Fire Department also has a mechanism in place to track injuries through their Patient Care Reporting system. Hospitals, emergency rooms, and urgent cares will likely have a better understanding of E-Bike related injuries, as the fire or police departments are not always made aware of accidents.

**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 City of Huntington Beach has implemented this recommendation.

Huntington Beach has already been conducting outreach and education. We received grant funding from the California Office of Traffic and Safety to complete these efforts. Below are some of the efforts conducted through the police department:

- The City routinely hosts bicycle rodeos
- The City routinely hosts events where free bicycle helmets are distributed
- The City provides education and E-Bike licensing for all middle schools and high schools in Huntington Beach
- Police officers may, at their discretion, provide an option to attend a class if an individual receives a citation for a bicycle-related offense
- The City hosted a summit to address E-Bike related issues and invited local businesses
- The City produced multiple safety videos and posted them on our social media platforms



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- The City developed an E-Bike safety brochure and distributed it to all residents in Huntington Beach via water billing
- The City distributed an E-Bike safety flier to all middle and high school students during registration
- The City partnered with a local retailer to host E-Bike safety clinics.

The Huntington Beach Fire Department also conducts outreach and training through its Community Risk Reduction plan, which is based on the information received from its Patient Care Reporting, as addressed in F2 and R2.

We remain committed to having a safe and bicycle-friendly environment in the City of Huntington Beach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric G. Parra".

Eric G. Parra  
Acting City Manager / Chief of Police

Cc: Honorable Gracey Van Der Mark, Mayor