

Los Alamitos California

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August 19, 2024

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

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO 2023-2024 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT "E-BIKE FRIEND OR FOE?"

Dear Judge Hernandez:

The City of Los Alamitos (City) has reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury Report titled "E-bike Friend or Foe?" As required by California Penal Code §933 and §933.05, the City is responding to the findings and recommendations included within the report. The required responses are contained below:

Findings and Responses:

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: Agree

The City of Los Alamitos is currently in the process of developing policies and ordinances to address the safe operation and regulation of the use of E-bikes.

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: Partially Disagree

E-bike injuries and deaths as it relates to traffic collision are consistently and accurately tracked through traffic collision reports and the Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS). The City of Los Alamitos itself could track these statistics involving E-bikes utilizing our current database.

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

Response: Partially Agree

The City of Los Alamitos and the Los Alamitos Police Department work in conjunction with the Los Alamitos School District with offering E-bike safety classes twice a school year to students who ride E-bikes. There have been some instances where students in the district ride their E-bikes from different cities, making it difficult to teach current ordinances and policies of other cities due to the fact there is not a standard state-wide policy or ordinance in relationship to the regulations on E-bikes.

Recommendations and Responses:

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 will be implemented by December 1, 2024. The City of Los Alamitos is working alongside the Los Alamitos Police Department to develop and adopt various policies and/or ordinances to define the rules of the road for the use of 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 will be implemented by December 1, 2024. The City of Los Alamitos and the Los Alamitos Police Department will have a mechanism in place to report accident, injuries, and deaths involving E-bikes by December 1, 2024.

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: Recommendation has already been implemented

The City of Los Alamitos and the Los Alamitos Police Department currently work with the Los Alamitos School District with offering E-bike safety classes to all intermediate school students twice a year, in order to park their E-bikes on campus.

In the event that you need additional information regarding the City's responses, please contact City Manager, Chet Simmons, via email at csimmons@cityoflosalamitos.org.

Sincerely,

CITY OF LOS ALAMIOTOS

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Mayor