

City Council Hybrid Meeting (Closed Session at 5:00 p.m. and Open Session at 6:00 p.m.)

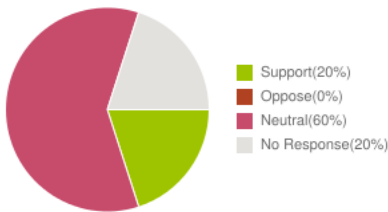
01-23-24 17:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
h) REPORT 24-0043 DISCUSSION REGARDING THE REGULATION OF BICYCLES AND ELECTRIC BICYCLES IN THE CITY (City Attorney Patrick Donegan)	5	1	0	3

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

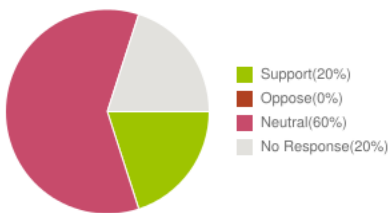
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for h) REPORT 24-0043 DISCUSSION REGARDING THE REGULATION OF BICYCLES AND ELECTRIC BICYCLES IN THE CITY (City Attorney Patrick Donegan)

Overall Sentiment



Raymond Dussault

Location: 90254, HERMOSA BEACH

Submitted At: 11:46am 01-23-24

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to bring attention to a concerning issue that has been on the minds of many residents – the inadequate enforcement of current e-bike regulations and the noticeable absence of late-night police presence on Pier Plaza.

Recently, there has been a growing chorus of concerns regarding the lack of effective enforcement for existing e-bike regulations, a matter that not only compromises the safety of residents but also underscores the need for improved resource allocation. Residents are consistently told that there are insufficient resources to address these challenges adequately.

One incident, in particular, brought this issue sharply into focus. As I left Hennessey's around midnight, a group of e-bike riders speeding down the Strand and onto Pier Plaza at dangerous speeds nearly collided with patrons. What was more disconcerting was the presence of two HBPD vehicles, seemingly oblivious to the reckless riders, parked nose-to-tail at the turn-around by Beach House on 14th St., engaged in a casual conversation.

This raises several questions – why were these officers not responsive to the out-of-control e-bike riders, and is the turnaround by Beach House on 14th Street deemed a high-crime area warranting such vigilant attention? It doesn't appear to be.

While we advocate for improved e-bike regulations to ensure the safety of our community, it is equally crucial to address resource allocation that aligns with the needs and desires of residents.

I implore the City Council to consider a comprehensive approach that includes both strengthening e-bike regulations and ensuring that our law enforcement resources are strategically deployed to safeguard the well-being of residents. By doing so, we can foster a community that prioritizes safety, responsible resource allocation, and effective governance.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I trust that the City Council will take the necessary steps to address these concerns and enhance the overall safety and well-being of our beautiful Hermosa Beach.

Robert Aronoff

Location: 90254, Hermosa Beach

Submitted At: 4:48pm 01-22-24

Electric bikes on The Strand are dangerous, a nuisance, noisy and unnecessary. In the past few years, The Strand has been transformed from a quiet recreational path into a freeway. The Strand was never intended to be a highway. There is no reason that electric bikes need to be on The Strand. They are not part of our community commitment to exercise and fitness. A regular bike is for exercise and fitness. An electric bike on The Strand is for someone too lazy to pedal or looking to speed.

I live on The Strand and can hear in my house electric bikes buzzing by at all hours. I often see 2 or 3 children on a bike without helmets, speeding and doing tricks. A serious accident is inevitable. More than once while walking on The Strand I have been bumped by electric bikes.

There are two existing laws that should not be changed. They need to be enforced:

- (1) The 8mph speed limit, and
- (2) the prohibition against riders utilizing the electric motor or other electric propelled power while on The Strand.

The argument that is difficult to tell whether a rider is using electric power or not is simply BS and an excuse by the Chief of Police not willing to enforce the law.

Proposed Section 10.12.175 is good. But will it get any enforcement action? No, not until the Counsel gets a Police Chief who can see who is peddling a bike, and who is not. We need a Police Chief who is concerned with public safety and is willing to enforce the law.

The proposed ordinance does not address safety education, and it should. You have to be 15½ and pass a test to ride a motorcycle. Why shouldn't an e-bike rider be of a minimum age and have some safety training?

Finally, barriers at the walk-zone by the pier do nothing to slow the e-bike riders. The barriers just cause a hazard as oncoming traffic is forced to face each other while the bikes try to weave through a more narrow path. Get rid of the barriers, put up some signs and enforce the law.

David Grethen

Location:

Submitted At: 2:28pm 01-22-24

Based on Staff report review, it appears that the following two provisions of the recently revised Manhattan Beach code are NOT included in the Hermosa Beach recommendation.

1. Requires riders to use bike lanes where possible, and on streets without bike lanes, to ride close to the right curb or edge of roadway.
2. Requires riders to ride in single file, and not more than two abreast.

Please consider the desirability and appropriateness of these for Hermosa Beach as well (with enforceability in mind as always and considering implementation on streets with sharrows versus without sharrows).

David Grethen

Public Works Commission (public right-of-way usage issue)

Vincent Busam

Location: 90254, Hermosa Beach

Submitted At: 7:07am 01-22-24

Bikes and E-Bikes are a very important part of our city's transportation infrastructure. The recent E-Bike boom has benefitted the city greatly. It's an easier way for many residents to get around town. It greatly lowers the impact of travel on our shared roads and parking space. It reduces congestion. Even with valid safety concerns, they are a big safety improvement over having more cars on the road, especially more cars operated by younger citizens who make up a large percentage of e-bike users. I want to live in a city that prioritizes biking, walking, ride-share and other more efficient ways of travel. So the most important thing to consider in this discussion is to make sure we do not discourage biking at all.

Most of the laws in this proposal are already on the books, is a new ordinance really needed?

Specific to Pier Plaza - ticketing for illegal parking should only happen if there are sufficient legal places to park bikes. If the existing spots are full of bikes, the city should add more before citing - there is plenty of space to do this.

Additionally, Manhattan Beach added a couple laws which are very dangerous, and we should not follow in Hermosa. Specifically, the rules prohibiting riding two-abreast, and as close to the right hand curb as possible. These laws end up encouraging drivers to more dangerously pass bike riders, increasing the likelihood of collisions. The primary purpose here is to let motorists drive faster around our streets. Travel on our streets (other than PCH) in Hermosa should be slower, and e-bikes are generally operating at a good speed for our streets.

Michele Hampton

Location:

Submitted At: 3:13pm 01-21-24

I am all in for more safety laws for those that ride e-bikes here in Hermosa Beach. As noted in the Legislation Text for this agenda item that the challenge is still law enforcement for this. We just need more police here in Hermosa. But on that note, I think it would be beneficial for the City Council to not just "If desired" by the City Council as stated in this Legislation Text ("If desired, City Council should direct staff to schedule a public hearing for formal consideration of an ordinance.") You SHOULD have a public hearing on this matter.