

August 23, 2019

Dear Hermosa Beach City Council Members,

My wife and I were on The Strand on Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup> and spoke to a couple of Hermosa Beach Police Officers about issuing citations to enforce prohibiting motorized scooters, bikes, skateboards, etc. operating on The Strand. They told us there is nothing they can do and the enforcement mechanism is unclear, citing the absence of a specific HB City Code Section on the stencils and on the sign postings. However, in our research there is a section of the Hermosa Beach Municipal Code (HBMC 12.20.230) that prohibits motorized motor vehicles on The Strand walkway and Pier Plaza. California State Law contains additional restrictions on motorized scooters such as VC Section 21225.

As a longtime residents of Hermosa Beach, we would like to understand the enforcement mechanism for these violations. Assuming there is one, it needs to be communicated to the Police Officers to enforce it and a program instituted to enforce the laws.

Over the past few years there has been a dramatic increase in the number of motorized vehicles on The Strand, often operating at reckless speeds. These motorized scooters, bikes and skateboards have made walking and running on The Strand dangerous, and we are constantly checking to avoid getting hit from behind due to distractions or as they cross over lanes to maintain their speed. We have witnessed many close calls as motorized skateboards and bikes race by at 25+ miles an hour, disregarding speed limits and traffic rules. In fact, the Police Officers recounted a serious collision on The Strand the previous week with a scooter, where one or more people were “jacked up.”

The disregard for the law extends to the local streets, where they routinely run through stop signs and red lights, ride on sidewalks and cross onto streets and weave across the lanes of The Strand. We have observed on MANY occasions motorized skateboarders racing down 2<sup>nd</sup> Street towards The Strand, running through all the stop signs.

In addition, we noticed that the City of Hermosa Beach supported a Beach Cities Electric Scooter Pilot Program and while Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach and Torrance rejected it, Hermosa Beach was open to giving it a try. That was both surprising and alarming given the STRONG public opposition to it, and lack of enforcement of existing vehicle codes and laws. In fact, Bill Brand, Mayor of Redondo Beach, remains totally against it due to a flood of emails and phone calls from angry residents who strongly oppose the idea because of how much of a hazard they are. We have spoken to many neighbors and Hermosa Beach residents who share the same concerns.

We can expect the situation and risk of injuries to worsen as more people purchase these motorized scooters and operate them illegally on The Strand. I learned today that Costco is selling a motorized scooter for \$500, and expect to see them soon operating on The Strand. Further, the size of motorized bikes has increased and can cause even more bodily harm with a collision. In fact, we were passed by a large cruiser (size of a motorcycle) speeding down The Strand that slowed down just before the Police Officers patrolling. According to the Police Officers, motorized vehicles routinely speed by them ignoring their presence and signs, and there is nothing they can do about it. At dusk we see the number of motorized skateboards and bikes increase down The Strand, along with their speed at well over 25 miles an hour. It only takes an instant for a cyclist, pedestrian or someone walking their dog to accidentally veer in front of them.

This issue is not isolated to Hermosa Beach. The City of Los Angeles has launched an eScooter Enforcement Task Force and the number of tickets to riders is soaring! (see articles below)

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2019/08/22/lapd-launches-task-force-to-crack-down-on-scooters/>  
<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-08-22/electric-scooters-sidewalk-helmet-los-angeles-bird-lyft-lime-jump-tickets-lapd>

Is the Hermosa Beach City Council willing to take action against this free-for-all to protect the safety of pedestrians, runners and cyclists? Can the City Council clarify the enforceability of these rules and if not, can the City Council request a legal opinion from the City Attorney about the enforceability? If these rules are unenforceable, can the City Attorney draft an enforcement mechanism? Can this matter be added to a future City Council agenda?

Walt and Priscila

Hermosa Beach Residents – 25 Years

8/27/19 AGENDA, ITEM 5b - UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF TEMPORARY BAN OF DOCKLESS SCOOTER AND BIKESHARE IN HERMOSA BEACH  
SUPPLEMENTAL LETTER SUBMITTED BY WALT AND PRISCILA KASHA TO THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE  
ON 8/27/19 AT 4:56 P.M.