



DATE: September 18, 2023

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council

VIA: Stefan Chatwin, City Manager

FROM: Tracy Avelar, Police Chief

DEPARTMENT: Police

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE SAN MATEO COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY
REPORT "BIKE SAFETY IN SAN MATEO COUNTY: MAKING
BICYCLING SAFER IN THE COUNTY"

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council, by Minute Order, approve a response letter to the San Mateo County Grand Jury Report titled "Bike Safety in San Mateo County: Making Bicycling Safer in the County," and authorize the Mayor to transmit the response letter.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The SMC Civil Grand Jury completed a 2002-2003 study titled, "Bike Safety in San Mateo County". Using collected data, the SMC Civil Grand Jury concluded improvements were needed throughout the county concerning bicycle infrastructure and required funding, communication and planning between the County and municipalities specific to bicycle safety improvements, and the development of long-term strategic bicycle and safety plans throughout the county.

In 2023, bike safety within San Mateo County was again researched by the SMC Civil Grand Jury. The gathered data along with the SMC Civil Grand Jury's findings and recommendations pertaining to this topic was released in their most recent report titled, "Bike Safety in San Mateo County: Making Bicycling Safer in the County," released July 10, 2023. In this report, improvements made by the County and municipalities within the county pertaining to bicycle safety, education and accessibility were acknowledged.

The 2023 report focuses on the need for the County and municipalities to make further improvements toward increased bicycle safety. Highlighted in the report data and referenced in the report findings and recommendations is the SMC Civil Grand Jury's position on several aspects of bicycle safety, which include but are not limited to the following:

- Lack of consistency throughout the county regarding approach to bicycle safety
- Underreporting of collisions and incidents involving bicyclists
- Minimal communication between relevant agencies in County and municipalities regarding shared efforts toward improving bicycle safety
- Inconsistent enforcement of laws applicable to bicyclists and interactions with motorists
- Lacking interest in bicycling as a means of commuting due to safety concerns
- Need for increased methods of educating the public on bicycle safety, reporting incidents, and sharing information throughout the county in a regional effort to increase bicycle safety
- Need for methods of measuring bicycle related information, such as collisions, incidents, and the overall status of the County's and each municipality's bicycle friendliness as well as improvements as they are made

On July 10, 2023, the SMC Civil Grand Jury released a report on bicycle safety, titled "Bike Safety in San Mateo County: Making Bicycling Safer in the County." The Council has already received this report, which is included (Attachment 1). The report summarizes the Grand Jury's assessment of the status of bicycle safety related topics throughout all San Mateo County municipalities and the County. The report also includes several findings and recommendations, with responses requested from each jurisdiction. City staff have prepared a proposed response letter for City Council to review, which addresses all respective findings and recommendations.

Proposed Response to Recommendations

The SMC Civil Grand Jury made nine (9) findings and seven (7) recommendations in its report and requested a response from each jurisdiction in San Mateo County, including Foster City. The report requires that the City of Foster City responds to each finding made by the Grand Jury, expressing either the City's agreement or disagreement (wholly or partially). The City's response must also address each of the Grand Jury's recommendations by specifically indicating whether each recommended action has been implemented, is planned for implementation, requires further analysis, or will not be implemented. City staff has prepared proposed responses contained in an attached letter now presented for City Council's review and approval (Attachment 2). The responses are due no later than October 10, 2023.

CONCLUSION

With City Council direction, City Staff will complete and submit the City's response to the SMC Civil Grand Jury report no later than October 10, 2023, as directed by the SMC Civil Grand Jury in its transmittal letter dated July 10, 2023.

California Environmental Quality Act

Not Applicable

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with responding to the SMC Civil Grand Jury.

CITY COUNCIL VISION, MISSION, AND VALUE/PRIORITY AREA

Smart Planning, Development, and the Local Economy

Facilities and Infrastructure

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1 - Grand Jury Report – “Bike Safety in San Mateo County: Making Bicycling Safer in the County”
- Attachment 2 - Proposed Draft Response Letter