



CITY OF EUREKA

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MAYOR

October 5, 2011

Honorable Bruce Watson, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California
County of Humboldt
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Judge Watson:

The 2010-11 Humboldt County Grand Jury Report addressed two subject areas within the City of Eureka.

At the Eureka City Council meeting on October 4, 2011, the City Council discussed the Grand Jury findings, conclusions, and recommendations. As directed, the City Council provides their response for the 2010-11 Grand Jury's Report.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Jäger
Mayor
City of Eureka

Cc: Tim Marks, Foreperson, Humboldt County Grand Jury
County Administrative Office

Grand-Jury Report – 2011-PW-01

Findings

1. We found limited and/or inadequate educational opportunities in our school systems for bicycle safety instruction.

NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE – The City of Eureka does not know what type of opportunities the school system has available

2. During our investigations we only found one law enforcement agency in Humboldt County that has an incentive program for obeying bicycle safety rules and laws.

NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE - It is unknown to the City of Eureka what incentives other law enforcement agencies provide.

3. Most infrastructure improvements are in the planning phases.

AGREE

4. Death and accident statistics involving bicyclists in Humboldt County are among the highest among the 58 counties in California.

DISAGREE PARTIALLY – The collisions identified in the State's SWITRS database, for the years between 2005 and 2009 in Humboldt County, there occurred only one death. One incident is not a good indicator of problems or trends. When applied to the small population of Humboldt County, one death skews the ration of bicycle involved collisions per population an per miles traveled compared with other California counties.

Recommendations

1. Provide greater education opportunities in the school system through community service and fraternal organization involvement.

This recommendation requires a response from the school system.

2. Establish an incentive program involving local law enforcement throughout Humboldt County encouraging safe bicycling by our youth to establish safe habits that they can carry on into their adulthood.

Eureka Police Department continues to work closely with the Safe Routes to School program which includes the bicycling youth. EPD is also scheduled to participate in an upcoming "Bike Rodeo" that is geared towards the youth bicyclists. As staffing in the Traffic Division allows, EPD will be better able to participate in bicycle safety programs. Statistically, the majority of our bicyclist collisions occur in the adult age population.

3. Encourage the fast-tracking of infrastructure improvements to make safe routes to schools and throughout individual communities safer for biking.

Safety is always the prime concern for the City's streets and roadways, and safety problems are always given first priority and improvements fast-tracked as much as possible. Funding safe routes to schools projects must be balanced with other safety improvement needs. The City applies for safe routes to schools funds whenever they are available and makes these projects a priority.

4. Law enforcement agencies throughout Humboldt County should re-evaluate how bicycling laws are enforced.

City of Eureka will increase enforcement of bicycling laws as funding becomes available either through grant opportunities and general fund allocations.