CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: August 19, 2025

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Police Department

SUBJECT: City's Response to Findings and Recommendations to Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report Regarding *"E-Bikes in Santa Barbara: What Will It Take to Make Them Safe?"*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council authorize the Mayor to send a letter of response to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury and Presiding Judge Patricia Kelly, regarding the Grand Jury 2024-2025 Report *"E-Bikes in Santa Barbara: What Will It Take to Make Them Safe?"*.

DISCUSSION:

On June 23, 2025, the City received the 2024-2025 Santa Barbara Grand Jury report titled *"E-Bikes in Santa Barbara: What Will It Take to Make Them Safe?"*. The Grand Jury report identified findings with recommendations for various agencies, including City of Santa Barbara, evaluating the safety impacts of electric bicycle (e-bike) usage and the effectiveness of recent local legislative and enforcement efforts. The report contains four findings and seven related recommendations aimed at improving public safety and behavioral compliance in tandem with the City's new e-bike ordinance.

The Santa Barbara Police Department concurs with the Grand Jury's primary conclusions, by recognizing the increased demands of enforcing e-bike regulations, and supports a strategy focused on targeted enforcement, transparency through data reporting, and robust public education. The Grand Jury requires the City to respond to each relevant Finding and Recommendation in the report within ninety (90) days of receipt. The City is responsible for responding to Findings 1-4 and the corresponding Recommendations.

Responses to the Findings fall under the following categories:

- Agree
- Disagree wholly
- Disagree partially with an explanation

Followed by :

- Has been implemented, with brief summary of implementation actions taken
- Will be implemented, with an implementation schedule
- Requires further analysis, with analysis completion date of no more than six months after the publication of the report
- Will not be implemented, with an explanation of why

A draft response letter to the Grand Jury is attached (Attachment 2).

ATTACHMENTS:
1. Grand Jury Report *"E-Bikes in Santa Barbara: What Will It Take to Make Them Safe?"*
2. Draft Response Letter from City to Grand Jury

PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY: Kelly Gordon, Chief of Police

APPROVED BY: Kelly McAdoo, City Administrator