

From: [Anthony Mejia](#)
To: [Michelle Nance](#)
Subject: FW: Bicycle Enforcement Concern – Response from the City of Palm Desert
Date: Monday, July 7, 2025 3:44:56 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
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Non-Agenda Public Comment



Anthony Mejia

City Clerk

City of Palm Desert

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From: Anthony Mejia
Sent: Monday, July 7, 2025 3:44 PM
To: Jeff Kelsoe [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Bicycle Enforcement Concern – Response from the City of Palm Desert

Mr. Kelsoe:

Thank you for the additional information. It will be shared with the Mayor and City Council as non-agenda public comment at the next City Council meeting for their consideration.

From: Jeff Kelsoe [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 7, 2025 12:45 PM
To: Anthony Mejia <amejia@palmdesert.gov>
Subject: Re: Bicycle Enforcement Concern – Response from the City of Palm Desert

Hey Anthony,

Thanks so much for looking into this for me. You actually proved my point. I researched the bicycle fatalities you mentioned and neither indicated the cause of the accidents was by the bicycle rider breaking traffic laws. Also, both were at busy intersections with traffic lights -- not stop signs. The police response was to tell bike riders to obey traffic laws?

My focus is on making bike riding safer. Multiple studies show current stop sign traffic laws make bike riding more dangerous. Enforcing outdated stop sign traffic laws as they pertain to

bicycles is putting bike riders at higher risk of death.

Here are the studies I mentioned:

Real-World Crash Reductions

- In **Idaho**, a 2009 study found a **14.5% reduction in cyclist injuries** after the Idaho Stop law was enacted
- In **Delaware**, crashes at stop sign intersections **decreased by 23%** after passing the “Delaware Yield” law

Here is information about a bill that was killed that would have fixed the problem:

A bit of context on AB 1713:

- Introduced on **January 26, 2022**, by Assemblymember Boerner Horvath, it sought to allow **cyclists aged 18+** to treat stop signs as yield signs on certain roads
- The bill passed both legislative chambers but was ultimately **withdrawn by the author** to avoid a veto by Governor Newsom

Based on this information, it sure seems the Palm Desert City Council could ask the Riverside Sheriffs office to stop overzealously enforcing stop sign traffic laws when it comes to bicycles since the evidence is that it actually makes bike riding more dangerous? If I am not mistaken, don't we want to encourage tourists that come to our city for bike riding?

Thanks again for your effort on this.

Jeff Kelsoe

On Mon, Jul 7, 2025 at 8:48 AM Anthony Mejia <amejia@palmdesert.gov> wrote:

Mr. Kelsoe:

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns about bicycle enforcement in the community. We reached out to the Riverside County Sheriff's Department to better understand the context of these enforcement activities. They shared that there have been two bicyclist fatalities in the area this year. In response, the Department has been working under a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety focused on reducing bicycle-related injuries and fatalities. This includes both education and enforcement to encourage bicyclists to follow the same rules of the road as motorists, such as stopping fully at stop signs.

In addition to enforcement, the Department has partnered with local bike shops to help promote safety tips and earlier this year hosted a bike safety seminar at The Joslyn Center. More information about those outreach efforts can be found here: [Bike Safety Event Held for Seniors after Fatal Bike Accidents in the Coachella Valley](#)

Your feedback is important, and I will be sharing your email with the Mayor and City Manager, so they are aware of your perspective.

Best regards,



Anthony Mejia

City Clerk

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From: Jeff Kelsoe [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:22 PM
To: City Hall Mail <cityhall@palmdesert.gov>
Subject: Attention: Jan Harnik

Hi Jan,

I was hoping to get your help. I was stopped and ticketed this morning riding my bike down Portola at Grapevine. I was ticketed for failing to come to a complete stop at the stop sign.

I am all for public safety, but my actions in no way endangered anyone and it was a complete waste of tax dollars. I was not even in the car traffic lane, I was in the bike lane -- and no cars were anywhere near the intersection at that time.

For two officers to be sitting in the shade ticketing senior citizens for failing to stop at a stop sign in over 100 degree temps is ridiculous. Chasing me down for blocks with full sirens and lights.

What sort of message does this send to the bike tourism industry we need so much here in

the valley? If the message got out that our local police were cracking down on bikes that don't come to a complete stop at stop signs, the hundreds of bikes that go past my house everyday during the season would not be there anymore.

I was hoping you could reach out to the police department and encourage them to prioritize the efforts of their officers better?

Thanks for your time,

Jeff Kelsoe

[REDACTED]

Palm Desert, CA 92260

[REDACTED]