

Police-Citizen Face-to-Face Public Safety Forum Q&A



1 The electric bike safety issue in Irvine has gotten out of control! On weekends, many teenagers ride electric bikes at high speeds on Jeffrey Trail, completely disregarding pedestrian safety. How will the police handle this?

The police will strengthen education and enforcement efforts. You may see more frequent enforcement near schools. We stop riders who aren't wearing helmets or are speeding, issuing tickets and providing verbal education.

The tickets will require the teen riders and their parents to attend safety education courses. The police will not chase down these rogue electric bikes to avoid creating bigger traffic safety risks.

We also urge parents not to give in to convenience or their children's requests to buy electric bikes before they are ready.

Many teens see electric bikes as motorized vehicles, which are fast, dangerous, and usually ridden without a proper license. The police department states that legal electric bikes in Irvine must have pedals, be under 750 watts, and have a maximum speed of 20 mph.

2 With Irvine's rapidly growing population, does the Irvine Police Department plan to increase the number of officers to handle the challenges of population growth?

The Irvine Police Department is continuously recruiting and seeking quality officers.

3 Does Irvine have an adequate surveillance system covering all communities, especially high-crime areas?

We do not have a full surveillance system, only cameras that provide remote viewing and situational awareness. The department is also installing license plate recognition systems at key intersections to track suspect vehicles in real-time.

Police-Citizen Face-to-Face Public Safety Forum Q&A



4 How does the police department handle reports of suspicious activity, and what is the typical response time?

If a suspicious incident is happening, officers will respond immediately based on dispatch instructions for the reported area. If the report is made afterward, officers will be sent to document the report once urgent matters are handled.

5 What preventive measures or advice does the police department offer to reduce burglary and vehicle theft?

Work with your neighbors. Have them check on your home or turn on lights when you're away, so it looks like someone is home. Park vehicles in a garage whenever possible.

6 Recently, there have been reports of coyotes attacking children playing in parks and elderly people walking dogs.

Since late autumn is peak coyote activity season, can the police issue warnings or provide advice on how to protect oneself during an encounter?

There have been no confirmed coyote attacks in Irvine. Past reports were verified to be from domesticated dogs. Irvine is home to many coyotes, so always keep dogs on a leash no longer than six feet when walking them.

If you see a coyote nearby, change your route. Coyotes tend to approach when humans or pets are too close to their dens, especially if there are young pups.

If you're confronted by a coyote, make loud noises and big movements to scare it away. Don't focus on your phone while walking, as you may not notice the coyote approaching.

Residents should also clean up fruit or pet food from backyards to avoid attracting coyotes.

Police-Citizen Face-to-Face Public Safety Forum Q&A



7 We know 911 is the emergency number, but for new immigrants, there may be language barriers. Does the police department offer translation services for non-English speakers in emergencies?

Yes, you can request "Chinese Please" when calling the dispatcher.

8 The Irvine Police Department claims to rely on technology for enforcement. How does this help to compensate for the shortage of officers?

The Irvine Police Department is keeping up with technology as allowed by law. In addition to upgrading police equipment, the newest technology is our drone team for law enforcement.

9 Are school resource officers and regular police officers part of the same department, and do they have different legal authority?

Yes, school resource officers are part of the police department. These officers work at schools during class hours and return to the station after school.

Their role is not campus security or patrol, but rather to assist schools, teachers, and students with legal matters. Their job is to help students understand the law and avoid making mistakes out of curiosity or ignorance that could leave a permanent record.