#51
07/07/2026

(O-2026-142)
(COR. COPY 2)

ORDINANCE NUMBER O- 22123 (NEW SERIES)

DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE JUL 14 2026

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE 4, DIVISION 0 OF THE SAN DIEGO MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING NEW SECTIONS 84.19, 84.20, AND 84.21, RELATING TO ELECTRIC BICYCLE SAFETY.

RECITALS

The Council of the City of San Diego (Council) adopts this Ordinance based on the following:

A. The City of San Diego is committed to improving safety for all road users, including children and families who increasingly utilize electric bicycles (e-bikes) for transportation and recreation.

B. Hospitals across San Diego County have reported an approximate 20 percent increase in e-bike and electric-motorcycle injuries since 2021, including head injuries, torso trauma, rib fractures, spinal fractures, and extremity fractures, with many patients being children and teenagers suffering preventable harm.

C. Improving the safety of children traveling to and from school is a priority for the City and establishing a minimum age for operating e-bikes will help reduce collisions and injuries along school routes and in neighborhoods where young riders are most at risk.

D. California Vehicle Code (Vehicle Code) section 312.5 categorizes e-bikes into three classes: Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes, which may reach speeds up to 20 miles per hour and currently have no minimum operator age; and Class 3 e-bikes, which may reach 28 miles per hour. Vehicle Code section 21213 prohibits a person under 16 years of age from operating a Class 3 e-bike.

E. Effective January 1, 2025, Assembly Bill 2234, also known as the San Diego Electric Bicycle Safety Pilot Program, codified in Vehicle Code section 21214.7, authorizes cities within San Diego County to adopt an ordinance or resolution prohibiting individuals under 12 years of age from operating Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes, requires jurisdictions which adopt such an ordinance or resolution to implement public education, and authorizes enforcement 60 days after the ordinance or resolution is effective. Warnings must be issued for the first 60 days after the prohibition is effective.

F. The City Council seeks to reinforce existing state safety requirements, including helmet use for operators and passengers and restrictions on carrying passengers on e-bikes not designed or equipped to do so, to reduce preventable injuries, and promote responsible ridership.

G. The City Council intends that the implementation of this Ordinance prioritizes public education, outreach, voluntary compliance, injury prevention, and promoting responsible ridership.

H. The City Council further intends that this Ordinance be applied in a manner that supports youth safety, protects school communities, and preserves access to safe and affordable mobility options for residents.

I. The Office of the City Attorney prepared this Ordinance based on the information provided by City staff, with the understanding that this information is complete and accurate.

ACTION ITEMS

Be it ordained by the Council of the City of San Diego:

Section 1. Chapter 8, Article 4, Division 0 of the San Diego Municipal Code is amended by adding new sections 84.19, 84.20, and 84.21, referred to as the "San Diego Electric Bicycle Safety Pilot Program" to read as follows:

§84.19 Persons Under 12 Years of Age - Prohibited from Operating Electric Bicycles

Persons under 12 years of age are prohibited from operating Class 1 and Class 2 *electric bicycles*. This prohibition applies to all public rights-of-way, parks, paths, trails, and any other area open to bicycle travel.

§84.20 Enforcement

(a) The City Manager or designee shall establish a plan and process to implement public education, outreach, and enforcement consistent with California Vehicle Code section 21214.7(c)(1) before issuing citations for violations of Municipal Code section 84.19.

(b) Enforcement of section 84.19 shall be conducted under California Vehicle Code section 21214.7, as follows:

(1) A violation shall be an infraction punishable by a fine of $25.

(2) If a citation is issued, no record of the citation shall be transmitted to the court and no fine shall be imposed if the parent or legal guardian of the *person* who violated section 84.19 provides proof to the City, within 120 days of the citation, that the *person* has completed an *electric bicycle* safety and training program under California Streets and Highways Code section 894.

(3) If an unemancipated minor violates section 84.19, a parent or legal guardian with custody or control of the minor shall be jointly and severally liable for the fine imposed.

§84.21 Additional Electric Bicycle Safety Requirements

(a) Helmet Requirements. All operators and passengers of *electric bicycles* shall comply with the helmet requirements in the California Vehicle Code, including sections 21212 and 21213. Helmets shall be properly fitted and fastened at all times while operating the *electric bicycle*.

(b) Prohibition on Carrying Passengers. *Electric bicycle* operators are prohibited from carrying a passenger unless the *electric bicycle* is specifically designed and manufactured to carry more than one *person* and is equipped with a separate seat or saddle for each passenger as required in California Vehicle Code section 21204.

(c) Applicability. Section 84.21 applies to all *electric bicycle* operators.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall be effective on the thirtieth day from and after its final passage and shall remain in effect until January 1, 2029, and as of that date is repealed, unless the sunset date of the San Diego Electric Bicycle Safety Law (California Vehicle Code section 21214.7) is extended or made permanent, in which case, the Ordinance shall remain in effect as long as the state's San Diego Electric Bicycle Safety Law is in effect.

Section 3. Editor's Note: Sections 84.19, 84.20, and 84.21 shall be effective on AUG 13 2026, and shall remain in effect until January 1, 2029, unless the sunset date of the San Diego Electric Bicycle Safety Law (California Vehicle Code section 21214.7) is extended or made permanent, in which case, the Ordinance shall remain in effect as long as the state's San Diego Electric Bicycle Safety Law is in effect.

Section 4. The Council dispenses with a full reading of this Ordinance before its passage because a written copy of this Ordinance was made available to the Council and the public before the date of its passage.

APPROVED: HEATHER FERBERT, City Attorney

By _____
Jill S. Cristich
Deputy City Attorney

JSC:jdf:at:amt:cm
04/02/2026
06/22/2026 COR. COPY
08/06/2026 COR. COPY 2
Or.Dept: CD7
Doc. No. 4471068_2

I certify that the Council of the City of San Diego adopted this Ordinance at a meeting held on JUL 07 2026.

DIANA J.S. FUENTES
City Clerk

By _____
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: _____ _____
(date) TODD GLORIA, Mayor

Vetoed: _____ _____
(date) TODD GLORIA, Mayor

(See attached memo and signature page.)

Office of
The City Attorney
City of San Diego

MEMORANDUM
MS 59

(619) 533-5800

DATE: August 6, 2026

TO: Connie Patterson, Legislative Recorder

FROM: City Attorney

SUBJECT: Correction to City Attorney Ordinance O-2026-142 COR. COPY 2 (San Diego Ordinance O-22123 (Jul. 14, 2026)) (Item #51 on the City Council agenda of Tuesday, July 7, 2026)

Page 3 of the above-referenced ordinance has been corrected by adding "Municipal Code" in between "violations of" and "section 84.19" in the last line of section 84.20(a).

No other changes were made to the ordinance. The strikeout and digest are not affected by the changes to the ordinance.

JSC:cm
Doc. No. 4515857
Attachment: Ordinance O-2026-142 COR. COPY 2, dated August 6, 2026
cc: Kevin Smith, Deputy Director
Gil Sanchez, Associate Management Analyst

Section 4. The Council dispenses with a full reading of this Ordinance before its passage because a written copy of this Ordinance was made available to the Council and the public before the date of its passage.

APPROVED: HEATHER FERBERT, City Attorney

By _____
Jill S. Cristich
Deputy City Attorney

JSC:jdf:at:amt:cm
04/02/2026
06/22/2026 COR. COPY
Or.Dept: CD7
Doc. No. 4471068

I certify that the Council of the City of San Diego adopted this Ordinance at a meeting held on JUL 07 2026.

DIANA J.S. FUENTES
City Clerk

By _____
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: 7/14/26 _____
(date)

_____
TODD GLORIA, Mayor

Vetoed: _____
(date)

_____
TODD GLORIA, Mayor

STRIKEOUT ORDINANCE

OLD LANGUAGE: ~~Struck Out~~
NEW LANGUAGE: Double Underline

ORDINANCE NUMBER O-_____ (NEW SERIES)

DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE _____

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Article 4: Miscellaneous Driving Rules

Division 0

§84.19 Persons Under 12 Years of Age - Prohibited from Operating Electric Bicycles

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(c) Applicability. Section 84.21 applies to all *electric bicycle* operators.

JSC:at:amt:cm
04/02/2026
Or.Dept: CD7
Doc. No. 4463504

Passed by the Council of The City of San Diego on July 7, 2026, by the following vote:

Councilmembers	Yeas	Nays	Not Present	Recused
Joe LaCava	☒	☐	☐	☐
Jennifer Campbell	☒	☐	☐	☐
Stephen Whitburn	☒	☐	☐	☐
Henry L. Foster III	☒	☐	☐	☐
Marni von Wilpert	☒	☐	☐	☐
Kent Lee	☒	☐	☐	☐
Raul A. Campillo	☒	☐	☐	☐
Vivian Moreno	☒	☐	☐	☐
Sean Elo-Rivera	☒	☐	☐	☐

Date of final passage JUL 14 2026.

(Please note: When an ordinance is approved by the Mayor, the date of final passage is the date the approved ordinance was returned to the Office of the City Clerk.)

AUTHENTICATED BY:

TODD GLORIA
Mayor of The City of San Diego, California.

(Seal)

DIANA J.S. FUENTES
City Clerk of The City of San Diego, California.

By _____, Deputy

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing ordinance was not finally passed until twelve calendar days had elapsed between the day of its introduction and the day of its final passage, to wit, on JUN 23 2026, and on JUL 14 2026.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that said ordinance was read in full prior to passage or that such reading was dispensed with by a vote of five members of the Council, and that a written copy of the ordinance was made available to each member of the Council and the public prior to the day of its passage.

(Seal)

DIANA J.S. FUENTES
City Clerk of The City of San Diego, California.

By _____, Deputy

Office of the City Clerk, San Diego, California

Ordinance Number **O-22123**