Agenda Item No: 1.d

PLACENTIA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: May 19, 2026

Submitted by: Frank Garza

From: Police Department

Subject:
SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. O-2026-07, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PLACENTIA, CALIFORNIA, ADDING TO PLACENTIA MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 13.77 (ELECTRIC BICYCLES AND ELECTRIC MOBILITY DEVICES) TO TITLE 13 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC)

Financial Impact:
None.

Summary:
The proposed ordinance adds Chapter 13.77 to the Placentia Municipal Code to regulate the operation of electric bicycles (e-bikes) and other electric mobility devices within the City. The ordinance is intended to address increasing safety concerns related to the growing use of these devices, particularly in parks, school zones, sidewalks, and commercial areas. The ordinance provides clear definitions, establishes operational rules, sets speed limits, designates permissible areas of use, and outlines enforcement mechanisms, including the potential seizure and release requirements.

After the first reading and after review, amendments were made to the ordinance regarding specific verbiage as it pertains to electric scooters.

Recommended Action:
It is recommended that the City Council:
Waive full reading, by title only, and adopt Ordinance No. O-2026-07, an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Placentia, California, adding Chapter 13.77 (Electric Bicycles and Electric Mobility Devices) to Title 13 (Vehicles and Traffic) of the Placentia Municipal Code.

Strategic Plan Statement:
This item conforms to Strategic Plan Goal No. 2: Public Safety, to provide a safe, family-friendly environment through proactive policing, efficient fire and emergency medical services, disaster preparedness, and strong community partnerships that protect residents, businesses and visitors.

Discussion:
The use of electric bicycles (e-bikes) and other electric mobility devices has increased significantly throughout the City, providing transportation and recreational benefits while also

creating safety concerns related to speed, unsafe riding behavior, and conflicts with pedestrians and motorists.

The proposed ordinance would establish clear, locally enforceable regulations governing the operation of electric mobility devices within the City, including operational requirements, speed limits, permitted areas of operation, helmet requirements, and prohibitions on unsafe riding behavior. The ordinance also clarifies regulations related to electric scooters and different classes of e-bikes.

Additionally, the ordinance includes enforcement provisions, administrative citations, and limited seizure authority involving minors operating devices in an unsafe manner. The proposed regulations are intended to improve public safety while remaining consistent with applicable California Vehicle Code provisions.

Following review and public discussion of the proposed Electric Bicycles and Electric Mobility Devices Ordinance, revisions were made to further clarify the applicability of the ordinance to electric scooters and other electric mobility devices in addition to electric bicycles.

The updated language adds a specific definition for “electric scooter,” consistent with California Vehicle Code terminology, and revises the definition of “electric mobility device” to expressly include motorized and electric scooters.

Additional revisions clarify where electric scooters may operate within the City. The ordinance now specifies that electric scooters must comply with applicable California Vehicle Code requirements when operated on roadways and sidewalks, and expressly prohibits electric scooters on City-owned recreational trails and multi-use paths unless otherwise authorized by posted signage.

The revised ordinance also expands enforcement provisions involving minors by extending seizure authority from electric bicycles only to all electric mobility devices, including electric scooters, when operated in a manner that creates an immediate or substantial public safety risk.

These revisions are intended to provide clearer operational standards, improve enforceability, and ensure electric scooters are regulated consistently with other electric mobility devices throughout the City.

Financial Summary:
The adoption of this Ordinance has no fiscal impact on the City of Placentia.

Attachments
Ordinance No. O-2026-07 - E-Bike Redline Changes
E-Bike Ordinance_Redlines.pdf