

Agenda Report

July 30, 2007

TO: City Council through Public Safety Committee
FROM: Rose Bowl Operating Company (RBOC)
RE: Pelaton Bicyclists – Rose Bowl

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve and direct the City Attorney's Office to prepare a City Ordinance to prohibit bicyclists from riding more than 2 abreast on any public street in the City other than pursuant to a City permit issued for an event or activity, including the area around the Rose Bowl.

BACKGROUND:

For a number of years, large numbers of cyclists have been racing in "pelaton" formation around the Rose Bowl. The term pelaton refers to groups of cyclists riding in formation, between three and six riders across. These bicyclists have caused 14 bike versus pedestrian reported incidents round the Rose Bowl during the past 7 ½ years.

The pelaton riders create a width of more than a single lane of traffic across as they ride in formation. The width of six bicyclists is approximately the same width of two vehicles side by side, which is approximately 16 to 18 feet across. This width of pelaton intrudes into the pedestrian recreational walking lane, and often intrudes into oncoming traffic all of which cause safety issues.

The pelaton travels in groups of 50-75 cyclists at a time. They race around the Rose Bowl on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Their direction of travel is south on Rosemont, west on Seco, and north on West Drive then east on Washington Blvd. Many pedestrians travel in the opposite direction on the same side of the roadway.

The pelaton creates pedestrian and vehicular traffic problems, which arise when cyclists indiscriminately block traffic and use vehicle and pedestrian traffic lanes. They also seem to disregard walkers including parents with strollers and young children on bicycles.

Rose Bowl staff has received numerous complaints from patrons of Brookside Golf Course, as well as local residents. Staff has been in communication with the Pasadena Police Department regarding this issue, and the police department has provided suggestions on how to address this situation.

The proposed ordinance should not impact any other recreational cycling; even racing around the Rose Bowl could be permitted as long as it is only two abreast. If a group desired to ride pelaton style, they could by permit, and then provisions would be made for traffic control.

All bicyclists shall proceed in the same direction as vehicle traffic and may ride as near to the left – hand curb or edge of the roadway as practicable avoiding at all times any and all pedestrian lanes in recreational areas.

“Local authorities may adopt rules and regulations by ordinance or resolution which regulate or prohibit processions or assemblages on the highways and streets. Vehicle Code, Section 21100. The proposed ordinance does not affect the right of any individual bicyclist to use the street; rather, regulates the assemblage known as a pelaton and any assemblage of multiple cyclists riding in tandem and is therefore an appropriate exercise of municipal authority.

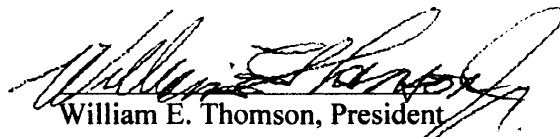
While bicycle riders, generally, have all the rights and duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle, state law requires that any person operating a bicycle shall ride as close as practicable to the right hand edge of the roadway except when overtaking or passing another bicycle or vehicle proceeding in the same direction (or under other circumstances not relevant to the present situation). Vehicle Code, Section 21202 and its subsections. Therefore, the proposed ordinance is consistent with the rights and duties accorded bicyclists under state law as there is a duty to ride as close to the ride hand edge of the roadway, and not a right to ride in a formation which intrudes into adjoining or oncoming lanes or into the pedestrian lane.”

The City of Irvine has adopted a City Ordinance to address the pelaton, Ordinance No. 192. The ordinance pertains to the use, licensing, registration and control of bicycles.

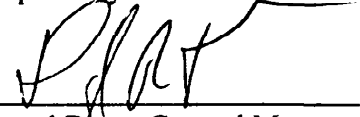
FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this ordinance. Staff is not anticipating any changes to services or programs once the ordinance is implemented.

Respectfully Submitted,


William E. Thomson, President
Rose Bowl Operating Company

Prepared by:


Darryl Dunn, General Manager
Rose Bowl Operating Company