



Date: July 6, 2004

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

From: Bonnie Lowenthal, Councilmember, First District *BL*
Frank Colonna, Vice Mayor, Third District *FC*
Dan Baker, Councilmember, Second District *DB*

Subject: **POCKET BIKE CONCERNS**

BACKGROUND:

Numerous concerns have arisen, including those expressed to us from our community and neighborhood associations, regarding illegal use of the Mini-motorcycles (aka Pocket Bike) on public streets and sidewalks.

These Pocket Bikes are about 24-32 inches tall with speed ability of up to 50 mph. These bikes are prohibited from public roadways and can only be driven on private property. The Department of Transportation has categorized these bikes for off-road use only due to the Mini-motorcycles' lack of vehicle identification numbers (VINs). The California Highway Patrol has declared these bikes unsafe for use on public streets because of their small size, which makes them practically invisible to other motorists.

Existing regulations allow for an impoundment, as well as a possibility of a fine for those caught riding these Pockets Bikes on public streets. However, despite these laws, these bikes are still being ridden on city streets and sidewalks, causing concerns for pedestrians, motorists, and public safety as a whole.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

We respectfully request a report from the City Manager to include regulations governing the enforcement of Pocket Bikes, including retail and any required licensing and Police Department enforcement action. The Council may also choose to refer this item to the Public Safety Advisory Commission for advisement and discussion.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I hope my colleagues will support moving this action forward.

*Encls.: Press Telegram article dated Friday, June 18, 2004
Press Telegram editorial dated Monday, June 21, 2004
Advertisement dated June 20, 2004*