



**STAFF REPORT
HOLLISTER CITY COUNCIL
MEETING DATE: September 2, 2025
REPORT # Police-2025-08**

AGENDA ITEM: DISCUSSION OF A POTENTIAL COST RECOVERY ORDINANCE RECOVERING THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COST FOR DRIVING WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE INCIDENTS

DEPARTMENT: Police

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Carlos Reynoso, Police Chief

STAFF CONTACT: Carlos Reynoso, Police Chief

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive the report, discuss the potential creation of the DUI cost recovery ordinance and provide direction to staff.

DISCUSSION: Despite ongoing public education efforts and the well-documented dangers associated with impaired driving, DUI incidents continue to pose a significant threat to public safety in the City of Hollister. These incidents not only endanger the lives of those driving under the influence but also put innocent community members at serious risk of injury or death.

The Hollister Police and Fire Departments dedicate substantial resources to the apprehension of DUI offenders and the response to DUI-related collisions. These responses are time-intensive and divert critical personnel away from other emergency calls and community safety needs.

Between January 2022 and August 26, 2025, Hollister public safety personnel responded to 77 DUI-related traffic collisions. During the same period, the Police Department made 525 DUI arrests. Despite widespread public awareness campaigns and enforcement efforts, impaired driving remains a persistent issue.

Under California Government Code Sections 53150 et seq., municipalities are authorized to recover costs associated with emergency responses to DUI incidents. Several cities, including Clovis, California, have implemented ordinances to pursue such cost recovery.

The Government Code permits recovery in cases where a DUI arrest is made and the individual was involved in a traffic collision, evaded law enforcement in violation of Vehicle Code Section 2800.1, drove the wrong way on a one-way street, operated a vehicle on the wrong side of the road, or drove in a reckless manner, among other qualifying circumstances.

A sample ordinance is attached for reference. While the exact amount of potential cost recovery is currently undetermined, a conservative estimate of \$1,000 per qualifying incident suggests the City could recover tens of thousands of dollars annually. Final cost recovery rates would be established in coordination with the Police, Fire, and Finance Departments.

Staff recommends the City Council provide direction on the development of a municipal

ordinance authorizing cost recovery for DUI-related emergency responses, in accordance with Government Code provisions.

FISCAL IMPACT: Unknown, potential for excess of \$30,000 a year.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL OR COMMISSION ACTION: None

CEQA: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Ordinance 9.50