



CITY OF
NEWPORT BEACH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 31, 2018

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Concern about “Bird” Electric Scooters in Newport Beach, CA

NEWPORT BEACH, CA – Starting Saturday morning, July 28, 2018, the Bird (bird.co) electric mobility sharing company deployed 50 or more two-wheeled scooters in Newport Beach. This was done without the City of Newport Beach’s (City’s) knowledge, permission or advanced notification. For the past three days, the City has received complaints from residents (primarily as to the placement of Bird scooters after a ride is complete) and has observed enough unsafe conditions involving scooter riders to take notice.

Bird scooters are not required to be docked, or parked, for charging at a specific location and can be left by users in various locations. The City has found several scooters left in the public right-of-way, blocking sidewalks and street corners, as well as at storefronts and other locations where they may block the free passage of pedestrians. In addition, several Bird users appear to be riding in an unsafe manner, without helmets and operating the scooters where such activity is prohibited such as on the Ocean Front Walk.

Per the City’s Municipal Code ([Section 10.08.030\(A\)](#)), operating a commercial business on public property without a permit or other authorization to do so is prohibited.

By mid-day Monday, July 30, the City directed Bird to remove all scooters from the community if they were parked on public spaces. Those not removed but found on public property will be collected by City staff for short-term but safe impound and potential criminal prosecution and/or administrative citation. As of Tuesday, July 31, Bird has largely fully complied with this request.

The City was previously approached by another company offering a similar service and staff has been reviewing the request with that company. Based on the sudden deployment of Bird’s scooters in Newport Beach, City staff intends to bring the matter to a future study session for City Council direction (likely to be Tuesday, August 14, 2018).

The City appreciates Bird's compliance with our request and looks forward to discussing Bird's and other firms' mobility improvement sharing technologies with the community and all stakeholders in the coming weeks.