

## Culver City Police Department to Educate, Enforce School Zone Safety

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As part of the ongoing, city-wide effort to encourage more students to walk and bike to school more often, the Culver City Police Department will begin taking a more active role in education and enforcement beginning in October.

The primary goals are to enhance police presence in an effort to help establish safer routes for children walking and biking to school and to provide opportunities to educate motorists, parents, students and pedestrians.

CCPD's efforts will be rolled out in three stages. First, CCPD will be re-launching their bike patrol which will aid in education enforcement of areas around the schools including the Ballona Creek Bike Path and the Culver Bike Path. Second, beginning the week of October 12th, CCPD will be around school sites distributing information on driving safely in school zones and tips on safely walking and biking to school. Then after an initial education period, officers will increase enforcement against violations pertaining to pedestrians, cyclist and motorists, around the school zones.

With upwards of 80% of students arriving by car at some schools, traffic can be heavy and safety is compromised. In fact, recent travel surveys of parents at all the elementary schools repeatedly listed traffic safety as a primary barrier to allowing children to walk or bike to school. Although all our elementary schools and the middle school are now providing monthly or weekly encouragement activities, parents have consistently asked for improved safety around the schools, and this education/enforcement program is an important step to providing that.

Re-launching the Bike Patrol is seen as a key element to the enforcement activities. Not only will the Patrol provide a greater presence around schools, but will allow officers to routinely patrol popular routes such as the Ballona Creek and Culver Bike Paths. The bike paths provide easy access for children to the tri-school complex and La Ballona Elementary. The hope is, with increased patrols these routes will become even more popular, with an increase of activity by students choosing to walk or bike to school.

During the introductory period, officers will write fewer citations and instead hold conversations with motorists and pedestrians committing traffic violations and distribute an information tip sheet. The Tip Sheet – available on the Culver City Walk & Rollers website – contains important safe driving, walking and biking information. After the initial education period, officers will step up enforcement against violations in an effort to create safer school zones.

An easy way to avoid any citation of course is to drive, walk or ride responsibly – or not drive at all. The Culver City Walk & Rollers asks all parents to do their part in

creating safer, healthier school zones, by walking and biking more and driving less. Parking just a few blocks away and walking the rest for example, helps reduce traffic and pollution and provides opportunities to teach children important safety lessons, like crossing at corners and looking in all directions and making eye contact with motorists before stepping off the curb. Parents and guardians driving in school zones are reminded to drive responsibly by not speeding, avoiding distractions, yielding to pedestrians and only dropping children at curbs in appropriately marked spaces.

For more safety information, please visit <http://www.ccwalkandroll.com/safety-first>