



Riverside

Selective Traffic Enforcement Program

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pedestrian Crosswalk Safety Enforcement Operation

Results in Arrest for Possession of a Concealed Weapon

Riverside, CA– Tuesday, April 25, 2017, officers from Riverside Police Department conducted a Crosswalk Safety Enforcement operation targeting several locations throughout Riverside. The enforcement period was held between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. at locations based on pedestrian traffic, citizen complaints and documented injury collisions. These locations included Trautwein Road and Grove Community Drive, Lime Street and Main Street, Market Street and 11th Street, 14th Street and Orange Grove Avenue, Cole Avenue and Citrus Grove Road.

The officers issued 15 citations for numerous infractions such as, not yielding to pedestrians, overtake a vehicle stopped for a pedestrian, texting/reading cell phone, no insurance, and driving with a suspended driver's license. One driver was arrested for driving with a suspended driver's license and an outstanding arrest warrant. Also, the passenger in that vehicle was arrested for possession of a concealed weapon and booked into jail.

Drivers are required to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection. Drivers are prohibited from passing a vehicle that has stopped to allow a pedestrian to cross the street. This offense is especially dangerous because pedestrians are all too often lulled into a false sense of security when a vehicle stops for them. Routine traffic patrols will focus efforts in trouble spots while special targeted patrols will also be deployed to crackdown on drivers and pedestrians who violate traffic laws meant to protect all roadway users.

The following safety tips can save lives and stop this tragedy witnessed far too often in Riverside:

Drivers can:

- Look out for pedestrians, especially in hard-to-see conditions such as at night or in bad weather.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or entering a crosswalk where pedestrians are likely to be.
- Stop at the crosswalk stop line to give drivers in other lanes an opportunity to see and yield to the pedestrians too.
- Be cautious when backing up – pedestrians, especially young children, can move across your path.

Pedestrians can:

- Be predictable. Follow the rules of the road, cross at crosswalks or intersections, and obey signs and signals.
- Walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible if there is no sidewalk.
- Pay attention to the traffic moving around you. This is not the time to be texting or talking on a cell phone.
- Make eye contact with drivers as they approach. Never assume a driver sees you.
- Wear bright clothing during the day and reflective materials (or use a flashlight) at night.
- Look left-right-left before crossing a street.



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A national study reveals that pedestrians and drivers do not obey laws and signals consistently and many often use cell phones, text and listen to music while walking or driving. Only 60 percent of pedestrians said they expected drivers to stop when they were in crosswalks, even though they have the right-of-way.

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Additional crosswalk enforcement will be conducted in the future,

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