



Riverside

Selective Traffic Enforcement Program

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Riverside Police Department Announce Results of Bicycle Safety Enforcement Operations

Riverside, CA– Monday, February 13 and Tuesday, February 28, 2017 officers from Riverside Police Department conducted Bicycle Safety Enforcement Operations with focused enforcement on collision-causing factors involving motorists and bike riders.

The department mapped out locations from over the past three (3) years where bicycle involved collisions have occurred and noted the violations that led to those crashes. Officers were looking for violations made by motorists speeding, making illegal turns, failing to stop for signs and signals. Bicyclists were stopped and cited when they failed to follow the same traffic laws that apply to motorists that can lead to life changing injuries.

Violations:

- 4 Vehicles were contacted and 4 citations were issued
- 27 Bicyclists were contacted and 27 citations were issued

Bicycle fatalities are rising in California as more people use bicycling for commuting, exercise and recreation. Locally, Riverside Police Department has investigated 6 fatal and 291 injury collisions involving bike riders during the past three (3) years.

California witnessed 147 bicyclist deaths in 2015, accounting for nearly five percent of all traffic fatalities, much higher than the national average of just over two percent. Nationally, seventy-one percent of all pedalcyclists who died in motor vehicle crashes in 2014 died in urban area crashes. Over the past 10 years (2005 to 2014), the average age of pedalcyclists killed in motor vehicle crashes has steadily increased from 39 to 45.

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

Drivers:

- 'Share the road' with bicyclists
- Be courteous; California law now mandates at least three feet of clearance when passing a bike riders
- Look for cyclists before opening a car door or pulling out from a parking space
- Yield to cyclists at intersections and as directed by signs and signals
- Be especially watchful for riders when making turns, either left or right

Bicyclists:

- Wear properly fitted bicycle helmets every time they ride. If under 18 years of age, it's the law
- A helmet is the single most effective way to prevent head injury resulting from a bicycle crash



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- Riders are considered vehicle operators; they are required to obey the same rules of the road as other vehicle operators, including obeying traffic signs, signals, and lane markings.
- When cycling in the street, cyclists must ride in the same direction as traffic.
- Bicyclists should increase their visibility to drivers by wearing fluorescent or brightly colored clothing during the day, and at dawn and dusk
- To be noticed when riding at night, the law requires a front light and a red reflector to the rear
- For additional safety, use a flashing rear light, and use retro-reflective tape or markings on equipment or clothing

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