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May 23, 2013

BPC #13-0170

Transportation Committee
c/o City Clerk's Office
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention John White:

RE: TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAMS (CITY COUNCIL FILE NO. 12-1506)

At the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held Tuesday, May 23, 2013, the Board APPROVED the Department's report relative to the above matter.

This matter is being forwarded to you for approval.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Silva".

MARIA SILVA
Commission Executive Assistant I

Attachment

c: Chief of Police

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

BPC #13-0170

82

RECEIVED

MAY 15 2013

POLICE COMMISSION

REVIEWED

May 10, 2013
16.2

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

Richard M. Tejank
RICHARD M. TEJANK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
5/15/13
DATE

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAMS
(CITY COUNCIL FILE NO. 12-1506)

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. That the Board of Police Commissioners (Board) REVIEW and APPROVE this report; and,
2. That the Board TRANSMIT this report to the Transportation Committee.

BACKGROUND

On September 19, 2012, Councilmember Tom LaBonge introduced a motion at the Transportation Committee meeting requesting that the Los Angeles Police Department (Department) and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation report on traffic safety awareness programs that can be implemented in order to ensure and improve the quality of life in the City of Los Angeles (City).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Traffic safety is of the utmost concern to the Department. The City has more than 6,499 miles of streets that are utilized by various competing users. A review of traffic collision statistics for 2011 and 2012 revealed there were 44,161 and 45,122 traffic collisions, respectively.

The Department recognized that traffic safety is critical to ensuring the quality of life for those who reside, work and visit the City. The Department has several existing programs that were developed and implemented to improve traffic safety. Currently, traffic safety programs are handled by the four geographic traffic divisions. The traffic divisions have established traffic safety programs to improve the quality of life for the community members they serve. These traffic safety programs are overseen by the respective Community Traffic Services Units.

The established traffic safety programs include:

- Child/Passenger Seat Fittings and Inspections
- Safety Valet Program
- Senior Citizen Education
- Sober Graduation
- Traffic Safety Assemblies
- Traffic Safety Committees
- Traffic Safety Fairs
- Traffic Safety Mural Program

In addition to the aforementioned traffic safety programs, the Department has traffic enforcement grants specifically to improve traffic safety. These grants enable the Department to deploy additional police resources throughout the City to focus on driving under the influence through checkpoints and saturation patrols. Additional traffic enforcement is funded to target driver behavior that is the primary collision factor in traffic collisions such as speeding, pedestrian violations and right of way violation. Lastly, funding is provided to combat distracted driving caused by drivers who illegally use their cell phones while driving.

CONCLUSION

The Department has established traffic safety programs that are extremely successful. The programs are designed to continue the partnership between the Department and the diverse community of the City. The existing traffic safety programs are extremely successful and have improved public safety and the quality of life for those who reside, visit and work in the City.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this correspondence, please have a member of your staff contact Captain Philip S. Fontanetta, Commanding Officer, Emergency Operations Division, (213) 486-0680.

Respectfully,



CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police

BOARD OF
POLICE COMMISSIONERS
Approved *May 21, 2013*
Secretary *Maria Silva*

Attachment

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

May 1, 2013
16.2

TO: Chief of Police

FROM: Commanding Officer, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAMS
(CITY COUNCIL FILE NO. 12-1506)

On September 19, 2012, Councilmember Tom LaBonge introduced a motion at the Transportation Committee meeting requesting that the Department and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) report on traffic safety awareness programs that can be implemented in order to ensure and improve the quality of life in the City of Los Angeles (City).

On December 12, 2012, the Transportation Committee recommended that the Los Angeles City Council (City Council) approve the Motion instructing the Department to partner with the LADOT to promote traffic safety and raise safety awareness in the City. The Motion further recommended that the City Council instruct the Department and LADOT to report relative to the traffic safety awareness programs that can be implemented to address quality of life issues. On January 15, 2013, the City Council approved the Motion.

The Traffic Coordination Section, Emergency Operations Division (EOD), conducted a review of existing traffic safety programs that the Department currently undertakes. It was revealed that the traffic divisions are actively engaged in several successful and established traffic safety awareness programs. In addition to existing traffic safety laws, the City could seek to introduce new laws to amend the California Vehicle Code to improve traffic safety. The attached Fact Sheet has been completed to address the information requested by the City Council.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please have a member of your staff contact Captain Philip S. Fontanetta, Commanding Officer, EOD, at (213) 486-0680.

REVIEWED:



MICHAEL P. DOWNING, Deputy Chief
Commanding Officer
Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau



MICHEL R. MOORE, Assistant Chief
Director, Office of Special Operations

Attachment

FACT SHEET
TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAMS

May 1, 2013

BACKGROUND

On September 19, 2012, Councilmember Tom LaBonge introduced a motion at the Transportation Committee meeting requesting that the Los Angeles Police Department (Department) and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) report on traffic safety awareness programs that can be implemented in order to ensure and improve the quality of life in the City of Los Angeles (City).

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Traffic safety is of the utmost concern to the Department. The City has more than 6,499 miles of streets that are utilized by various competing users. A review of traffic collision statistics for 2011 and 2012 revealed there were 44,661 and 45,122 traffic collisions, respectively.

The Department recognizes that traffic safety is critical to ensuring the quality of life for those who reside, visit and work in the City. The Department has several existing programs that were developed and implemented to improve traffic safety. Currently, traffic safety programs are handled by the four geographic traffic divisions. The traffic divisions have established traffic safety programs to improve the quality of life for the community members they serve. These traffic safety programs are overseen by the respective Community Traffic Services Units. The established traffic safety programs include:

- Child/Passenger Seat Fittings and Inspections
- Safety Valet Program
- Senior Citizen Education
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- Traffic Safety Assemblies
- Traffic Safety Committees
- Traffic Safety Fairs
- Traffic Safety Mural Program

FACT SHEET
TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAMS

May 1, 2013

DETAILED FINDINGS

➤ *Child/Passenger Seat (CPS) Fittings and Inspections*

This ongoing service is provided year round by traffic divisions. The Department conducts approximately 3,000 car seat fittings/inspections at the respective traffic community police stations each year. The car seat fittings and inspections are conducted on a regular schedule as follows:

- Central Traffic Division (CTD) - Every Monday and Tuesday
- South Traffic Division (STD) - Every Wednesday
- Valley Traffic Division (VTD) - Every Thursday
- West Traffic Division (WTD) - Every Wednesday

Central Traffic Division conducts CPS fittings and inspections at approximately 15 to 20 community events each year with an average of 20 to 30 CPS inspected/installed per event. Central Traffic Division stated that their current staff of trained CPS technicians does not meet the demand and that more technicians and fitting/inspection events are needed.

South Traffic Division conducts CPS fittings and inspections at approximately 3 to 5 community events each year with an average of 25 CPS inspected/installed per event.

Valley Traffic Division conducted CPS fittings and inspections at 6 community events during the last year and inspected/installed 175 child seats.

West Traffic Division conducted CPS fittings and inspections at 7 community events during the last year and inspected/installed 250 child seats.

➤ *Safety Valet Program*

The Safety Valet Program provides trained volunteer crossing guards for school zones that do not meet the criteria set by the LADOT for a paid crossing guard. The program is a partnership between the LADOT, the Department, school administrators and parents. Furthermore, the Department provides monitoring and targeted enforcement at these locations to ensure that motorists are complying with all legal requirements pertaining to crossing guards and school zones.

FACT SHEET
TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAMS

May 1, 2013

➤ *Senior Citizen Education*

The Department holds Senior Citizen Traffic Safety Education classes, which discuss the topics of driver safety and pedestrian safety as it relates to our senior citizens. The Department also launched the CarFit Program in 2009, in association with the American Association of Retired Persons, Automobile Club Association of America, and the American Occupational Therapy Association. The CarFit Program is an educational program that offers older adults the opportunity to check how well their personal vehicle “fits” them. The CarFit Program provides information and materials on community-specific resources that could enhance their safety as drivers and/or increase mobility in the community.

➤ *Sober Graduation*

Each year, during the months of May and June, the four geographic traffic divisions, along with the California Highway Patrol, coordinate the Sober Graduation program with the high schools in the City. During these months, a vehicle that has been involved in a serious or fatal collision is transported to the schools and senior students are educated about driving under the influence. Along with the automobile display, an assembly is conducted with a static display of photographs, brochures and various handouts with educational information directed towards traffic safety issues.

In 2010, the Sober Graduation program also implemented distracted driving, cell phone use and texting while driving. The program has proven to be a powerful tool in educating our youth. In California, it has contributed to the reduction of alcohol and drug-related highway deaths and injuries in the 15 to 24-year-age group during the graduation months. Working with students, teachers, parents, law enforcement and businesses typically forge partnerships to carry out the Sober Graduation program.

➤ *Traffic Safety Assemblies*

Traffic safety officers periodically visit school assemblies to educate the students on traffic safety issues. Depending on the student’s age, topics can range from pedestrian safety to bicycle safety and/or driver safety. For example, the “Safe Kids Walk This Way” provides children with important safety tips when walking to school. For teenagers who are getting behind the wheel for the first time, the Department provides the “Start Smart” Program, which helps young drivers and their parents understand the responsibilities associated with driving a motor vehicle.

FACT SHEET
TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAMS

May 1, 2013

➤ *Traffic Safety Committees*

The Traffic Coordination Section and the four geographic traffic divisions participate in the Bicycle Advisory Committee coordinated through the Office of Operations to liaison with the bicycle committee and develop strategies to improve bicycle safety. Traffic Coordination Section further participates in the Pedestrian Advisory Committee working group to develop strategies to improve pedestrian safety. At the meetings, various community groups and government agencies discuss current trends, safety issues and discuss strategies to implement to improve traffic safety.

➤ *Traffic Safety Mural Project*

The Department has partnered with the Auto Club of Southern California, Otis College of Arts and Design and the Los Angeles Unified School District in order to implement the Traffic Safety Mural Project. The project focuses on middle schools within the City. The participating schools are tasked with creating a traffic safety mural. Awards are given to the top three schools. The awards consist of cash (donated to the school's art department), plaques, and certificates for the children.

➤ *Traffic Safety Fairs*

All four geographic traffic divisions conduct an annual Traffic Safety Fair in their respective bureau. The purpose is to conduct outreach to the community and to improve the community's knowledge of traffic safety. This community outreach event gives the community a chance to meet public safety officials and see firsthand the equipment used by the Department to keep the streets safe. These planned events include, but are not limited to, a car safety seat give-away (booster seat) and inspection to ensure the proper installation of child restraint systems, multiple static displays, live radio broadcast and is fun for all.

In addition to the aforementioned traffic safety programs, the Department has traffic enforcement grants specifically to improve traffic safety. These grants enable the Department to deploy additional police resources throughout the City to focus on driving under the influence through checkpoints and saturation patrols. Additional traffic enforcement is funded to target driver behavior that is the primary collision factor in traffic collisions such as speeding, pedestrian violations and right of way violation. Lastly, funding is provided to combat distracted driving caused by drivers who illegally use their cell phones while driving.

FACT SHEET
TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAMS

May 1, 2013

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM

Although the Department continually strives to improve the quality of life for those who reside, visit and work in the City, Traffic Coordination Section believes that reviving the City's vehicle forfeiture program and introducing either new bicycle legislation or a new City ordinance could be beneficial. The following briefly summarizes these recommendations:

➤ **Vehicle Forfeiture Program**

In 1994, the California State legislature enacted Section 14607.6 of the California Vehicle Code as part of the "Safe Streets Act," which provided for the forfeiture of vehicles driven by habitual driver license offenders. The legislation included a list of "Findings and Declarations," which stated the following (in relevant part):

- At any given time, it is estimated by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) that of some 20 million driver licenses issued to Californians, 720,000 are suspended or revoked.
- The DMV estimates that 75 percent of all drivers whose driving privilege has been withdrawn continue to drive regardless of the law.

The Vehicle Forfeiture Program affected only the most dangerous individuals who have consistently demonstrated disregard for the law. The seizure of vehicles used by these individuals is the most effective way to prevent them from being a danger on the road. The program also allows for additional accountability for the owners of cars who routinely lend their vehicle to habitual offenders.

The Department operated a successful Vehicle Forfeiture Program from 2005 to the end of 2010. On December 23, 2010, a Detective Bureau Notice was issued notifying all auto detective personnel that the City Attorney had placed a temporary moratorium on vehicle forfeitures due to budget cuts and staffing shortages. The Notice indicated that this policy may be re-evaluated at some future date. As of this year, the City Attorney's Office has indicated that funding and staffing shortages have not improved. The City Attorney's Office has indicated that the program requires one full-time attorney and a legal secretary part time. Consequently, the temporary moratorium will not be rescinded.

FACT SHEET
TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAMS

May 1, 2013

Currently, the maximum time a vehicle used by a habitual offender (suspended or revoked drivers license) can be held is 30 days. These offenders often flaunt the law by engaging in a "revolving door" impound-and-release cycle. The Department currently has no enforcement tools at its disposal to curtail this behavior. Furthermore, the Department does not receive any reimbursement for spent resources associated with a 30-day hold. However, the Vehicle Forfeiture Program allows for a portion of the proceeds of the sale of the offending vehicle to be deposited into the City's general fund or to establish a reward fund to assist with the apprehension of hit-and-run drivers.

➤ New Legislation

Traffic Coordination Section is currently reviewing and drafting new legislation to improve safety for bicyclists, pedestrians and skateboarders. One legislative measure that would certainly improve bicycle safety is the requirement that all bicycles have a mechanical braking system.

CONCLUSION

The Department has established traffic safety programs that are extremely successful. The programs are designed to continue the partnership between the Department and the diverse community of the City. The existing traffic safety programs are extremely successful and have improved public safety and the quality of life for those who reside, visit and work in the City.

Prepared by:
Traffic Coordination Section
Emergency Operations Division

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

JUNE LAGMAY
City Clerk

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT
Executive Officer



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

Office of the
CITY CLERK

Council and Public Services
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012
General Information - (213) 978-1133
Fax: (213) 978-1040

SHANNON HOPPES
Council and Public Services
Division

www.cityclerk.lacity.org

When making inquiries relative to
this matter, please refer to the
Council File No.

January 16, 2013

To All Interested Parties:

The City Council adopted the action(s), as attached, under Council File No. 12-1506, at
its meeting held January 15, 2013.

City Clerk
lv

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TO THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

File No. 12-1506

Your

TRANSPORTATION

Committee

reports as follows:

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to traffic safety awareness programs that can be implemented to address quality of life issues.

Recommendation for Council action, as initiated by Motion (LaBonge -- Zine):

INSTRUCT the Police Department and the Department of Transportation (DOT) to report relative to traffic safety awareness programs that can be implemented to address quality of life issues.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

On September 19, 2012, Council considered Motion (LaBonge -- Zine) relative to traffic safety awareness. Motion states that DOT targets safety traffic in order to achieve its goal of safely moving people and goods throughout the city of Los Angeles. The Police Department and other agencies partner with DOT to promote traffic safety and raise safety awareness in the City. Motion movers recommend that Council instruct the Police Department and DOT to report relative to the traffic safety awareness programs that can be implemented to address quality of life issues. Council referred Motion to the Transportation Committee for consideration.

At its meeting held December 12, 2012, the Transportation Committee recommended that Council approve Motion's recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

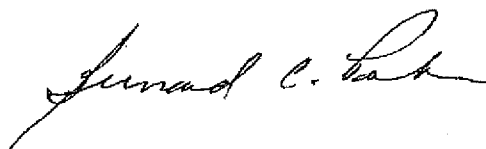
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE



ADOPTED

JAN 15 2013

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL



<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
ROSENDAHL:	YES
KORETZ:	ABSENT
PARKS:	YES
LABONGE:	YES
HUIZAR:	YES