



HAWTHORNE POLICE DEPARTMENT

SAFETY BULLETIN

Issued: September 02, 2010

School Zones / Citywide

Suitable For Public Dissemination

SAFETY CONCERNS FOR 'BACK TO SCHOOL'

As the 2010-2011 school year begins in the City of Hawthorne, the Hawthorne Police Department is beginning our annual effort to educate our residents and school families in the importance of school and traffic safety. We ask that you pay specific attention to the following safety and enforcement areas of concern:

- Please remember that if a crossing guard's STOP sign is up, you cannot drive through a crosswalk. This is irrespective if the guard is standing on the sidewalk or in the crosswalk. Accordingly, it is a violation to turn or drive through a crosswalk when the school crossing guard is in the crosswalk.
- If you are walking, pay specific attention to vehicles as you cross the street. Just because you see them, doesn't mean they see you!.
- Please check for any visible street signs before dropping your kids off curbside. Many posted signs prohibit '**stopping of any kind**', which includes dropping-off or picking-up your kids. These also can include '**timed drop off**' periods. **Citation fines can reach as high as \$70.00.**
- Be considerate to others and drive away once your children have safely exited your vehicle and reached schools' staff or gate. This allow others to do the same and for traffic to flow.
- When approaching school buses from either direction, you must STOP if their lights are illuminated and/or their STOP signs are extended. **Citation fines can as high as \$1,000.**

- Pay attention to the '**No Turn**' signs as you leave your child's school. Many "left turns" are prohibited into and out of many of the driveways.
- Pay specific attention to bicyclists and pedestrians as you drive.
- If you are a bicyclist, remember that you cannot ride past a line of stopped cars in the bicycle lane or in the gutter lane.
- Always watch your speed. You can and will be cited for excessive speed.
- Wear your seatbelts. Be a good example for your children.
- When transporting younger siblings, please have them secured in an appropriate DOT-approved car or booster seat.
- Please do not talk on your cell phone unless you are using a vehicle code compliant hands free device.
- Always avoid any confrontational or "road rage" incidents. Call **9 - 1 - 1** for immediate safety hazards or needs of police attention.

The Hawthorne Police Department will enforce these safety concerns vigorously throughout the year. The safety of our children is of paramount importance. Please understand there will be **NO GRACE PERIOD** for enforcement.

Any specific traffic related issues or questions can be forwarded to the Hawthorne Police Department's Traffic Bureau Commander, Sergeant Eric Lane, at 310.349.2702.

For more information about The City of Good Neighbors, please see our city website: <http://www.cityofhawthorne.com>