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La Habra Police Department Press Release

LHPD Schedules Special Enforcement During New Pedestrian Safety Month

La Habra - In answer to rapidly increasing numbers of pedestrians being killed and injured on California roadways, the California State Senate has passed a resolution declaring September as “California Pedestrian Safety Month.” The La Habra Police Department will be joining with other law enforcement agencies, city and state transportation agencies, pedestrian advocates and walking clubs to promote public awareness aimed at both drivers and pedestrians alike to always be aware of each other and share the road responsibly.

The La Habra Police Department will step up pedestrian safety enforcement operations on Friday, September 9th, 2016 with focused enforcement on collision causing factors involving motorists and pedestrians. 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. Officers will be looking for traffic offenses made by drivers and pedestrians alike that can lead to life changing injuries.

This first-ever specially designated month draws attention to the 813 pedestrians killed on California roadways in 2015 alone, accounting for nearly 25 percent of all roadways deaths in the state, up from 17 percent just ten years earlier. So far for 2016, there have been 23 pedestrian related injury

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collisions in La Habra, injuring 24 people. There has been 1 fatal/pedestrian related collision for 2106 in La Habra.

Both drivers and walkers are cautioned to put down the cell phones, since electronic distractions are seen in increasing numbers of pedestrian crashes. Other factors for drivers include high speed and failure to see and yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and intersections. For pedestrians, the major dangers are jaywalking and thinking that they can be seen at night, especially while wearing dark clothing.

In addition to local efforts, the California Office of Traffic Safety is kicking off a new campaign, "Pedestrians Don't Have Armor," which highlights the importance of pedestrian safety awareness, regardless of whether one is on foot or behind the wheel. Caltrans has kicked off its new California State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan aimed at improving safety and access for everyone across all modes, particularly bicycle and pedestrian. The CHP is emphasizing safe walking through its international award winning California Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety Enforcement and Education Project.

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