



# City of Downey

For Immediate Release:

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Contact: Sgt. Perry Miller, Downey Police Department (562) 904-2342

## Traffic Enforcement Operations Plan for Downey

Downey Police Department will step up Bike & Pedestrian Safety Enforcement Operations at various times during the month of May with focused enforcement on collision causing factors involving motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists.

The department has mapped out locations over the past 3 years where pedestrian and bike collisions have occurred along, with the violations that led to those crashes. Extra officers will be on duty patrolling areas where bike and pedestrian traffic and crashes occur in an effort to lower deaths and injuries.

Officers will be looking for violations made by drivers, bike riders and pedestrians alike that can lead to life changing injuries. Special attention will be directed toward drivers speeding, making illegal turns, failing to stop for signs and signals, failing to yield to pedestrians in cross walks or any other dangerous violation.

Additionally, enforcement will be taken for observed violations when pedestrians cross the street illegally or fail to yield to drivers who have the right of way. Bike riders will be stopped and citations issued when they fail to follow the same traffic laws that apply to motorists. All riders are reminded to always wear a helmet – those under 18 years of age must wear helmets by law. Pedestrians should cross the street only in marked crosswalks or at corners.

Bicycle and pedestrian fatalities are rising in California as more people use these non-motorized means of transportation. Locally, Downey Police Department has investigated 276 fatal and injury collisions involving pedestrians and bicyclists during the past three (3) years. In 2012, California witnessed 612 pedestrian and 124 bicyclists killed that year while nationally 4,743 pedestrians and 726 bicyclists were killed.

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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CIVIC CENTER  
11111 BROOKSHIRE AVE.  
PO BOX 7016  
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA  
90241-7016  
562-869-7331  
[www.downeyca.org](http://www.downeyca.org)

LIBRARY  
11121 BROOKSHIRE AVE.  
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA  
90241-7016  
562-904-7360  
[www.downeylibrary.org](http://www.downeylibrary.org)

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
10911 BROOKSHIRE AVE.  
PO BOX 7016  
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA  
90241-7016  
562-861-0771

PARKS & RECREATION  
7850 QUILL DR.  
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA  
90242  
562-904-7238

UTILITIES DIVISION  
9252 STEWART & GRAY RD.  
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA  
90241-7016  
562-904-7202

MAINTENANCE SERVICES  
12324 BELLFLOWER BLVD.  
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA  
90242  
562-904-7194