



NEWS RELEASE

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Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Enforcement Planned through April 2021

Ventura, Calif. — The Ventura Police Department will conduct bicycle and pedestrian safety enforcement operations throughout March and April 2021 aimed at keeping roadways safe.

While the COVID-19 pandemic is requiring residents to opt outside for activities, the Ventura Police Department recognizes the need to protect the public by looking for violations made by bicyclists, drivers and pedestrians that make roads unsafe.

These violations include drivers speeding, making illegal turns, failing to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, failing to stop for signs and signals, or any other traffic violation. Officers will also look for pedestrians who cross the street illegally or fail to yield to drivers who have the right of way. Bike riders will be stopped when riding on the wrong side of the road, not complying with stop signs and signals, or other violations traffic laws.

The Ventura Police Traffic Unit encourages residents to follow the below tips when walking, biking, and driving in the community:

Pedestrians:

- Only cross at marked crosswalks or intersections with a stop sign or signal.
- Look for cars backing up. Avoid going between parked cars.
- Make eye contact with drivers. Don't assume they see you.
- Wear bright clothing during the day and use a flashlight when walking at night.

Drivers:

- Wait for pedestrians to cross the street. Be courteous and patient.
- Stay off the phone.
- Follow the speed limit.
- Look for pedestrians when backing up or turning.

Bicyclists:

- Always wear a helmet. Helmets are required by law for anyone under 18.
- Bicyclists must travel in the same direction of traffic and have the same requirements as any slow moving vehicle.

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

To learn more about the Office of Traffic Safety grant and VPD's educational efforts, visit ots.ca.gov or contact Emily Graves, Community Outreach Specialist with the Ventura Police Department, at egraves@cityofventura.ca.gov.

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