

Public Safety Issues

Traffic Concerns

Evacuation Plan

Emergency Preparedness

by Chuck Hawley

During the month of December, the holiday season brought more than just joy and happiness to the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council area. Due to the large number of complaints from merchants and the public, the Los Angeles Police Department conducted several "Crosswalk Sting" operations in San Pedro. The "Sting" using a police officer dressed as Santa Claus, resulted in 55 citations being issued for failing to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians in either marked or un-marked crosswalks and six vehicles impounded for being operated by an unlicensed driver. Besides the impound and towing charges, a fine for this citation can be up to \$300.00.

Officer Jerome Calhoun stated during the operation, "In California, pedestrians have the right-of-way at any intersection, even if there is not a marked crosswalk. Posing a hazard to a pedestrian by driving too fast or too close is a violation of the law".

Section 21950 of the California Vehicle Code states: (a) The driver of a vehicle SHALL yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within any marked or within any un-marked crosswalk at an intersection, except otherwise provided, (b) This section does not relieve a pedestrian from the duty of using due care for his or her safety.



A Santa Sting? LAPD Senior Lead Officer Joe Busciano, wearing a Santa outfit, prepares to walk across 25th street. Motorists driving by without stopping while he was in the crosswalk received citations. Photo Courtesy of Chuck Hawley

No pedestrian may suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle that is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard. No pedestrian may unnecessary stop or delay traffic while in a marked or un-marked crosswalk, (c) The driver of a vehicle approaching a pedestrian within a marked or un-marked crosswalk SHALL exercise all due care and SHALL reduce the speed of the vehicle or take any other action relating to the operation of the vehicle as necessary to safeguard the safety of the pedestrian, (d) Subdivision (b) does not relieve a driver of a vehicle from the duty of exercising due care for the safety of any pedestrian within any marked crosswalk or within any un-marked crosswalk at an intersection.

The "Crosswalk Sting" operation was conducted not only because of complaints received, but a ten percent increase in vehicle vs. pedestrian traffic collisions in the Harbor Area over the last year. So please be safe and obey all laws when driving a vehicle. Lives depend on it.

San Pedro Evacuation Plan Tested

The Committee on Port Safety and Security (COPSS) has been working very closely with the United States Coast Guard, Harbor Division of LAPD, LAFD, and the Port of Los Angeles on issues that affect the safety and security of the Harbor. Harbor Division has been working on an evacuation plan of San Pedro in the event of an emergency in the Harbor. The draft of this plan was put to the test in September when the USCG conducted a tabletop exercise involving an emergency in the Harbor. There were a total of one hundred fifty people representing thirty different agencies that participated in the exercise. A private consulting firm is compiling the information and will issue a report.

The exercise included strategic planning relating to the distribution of information, intelligence gathering, and evacuation options based on the type of emergency. One of the key issues identified as a strength was the quality of the first responders in developing one of the best security programs in the nation. Other strengths included were excellent working relationships between the agencies, their knowledge of each other's responsibilities, and the communication between agencies. There were also a few weaknesses that were identified. Those weaknesses were not made public due to security concerns and are currently being worked on.

Emergency Preparedness

an Important First Step in Surviving a Disaster

We all know how important it is to be prepared in case of an emergency. Natural disasters and man made emergencies happen and we should be prepared to help ourselves, your family and neighbors. You truly need to look to see if you are ready. Do you have the food, water, shelter, medications, and clothing to sustain you for 72 hours? Do you have a first aid kit for your home and each car that includes more than just band-aids? Are you trained in CPR or know the first three steps in saving a life (Stop the bleeding, Start the breathing, Treat for shock?)

Do you have a radio and batteries to monitor the airwaves for information? Do you have emergency tools, mess kits, flashlights, paper plates and cups, pots and pans for cooking? Do you know where your emergency water supply is? Do you know how to purify water?

Have you formed a plan and shared it with you family on who to contact, out of the area, to give a status report to, or to go to, if you or a family member cannot return home or is evacuated? Do you have copies of important documents (wills, insurance, deeds, stocks and bonds, passports, social security numbers, bank accounts, credit cards?) Do you have extra cash in your kit, at least \$200-300, in small denominations?

There is more to being prepared for an emergency than the belief that nothing serious will ever happen to you, your family or your community. Emergency services may not be able to get to you as soon as you would like or expect. Remember the life you save, or the comfort you give, may be to you, a family member, or a neighbor. Please be prepared.

**Start Or Join A
Neighborhood
Watch Today!**

Contact our LAPD Senior Lead Officer Joe Buscaino. He can be reached directly at 310-869-2168 or by e-mail at 33537@lapd.lacity.org

COASTAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

1536 W. 25th Street #223
San Pedro, California 90732
(310) 290-0049
www.coastalsanpedro.org

The Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council consists of stakeholders in the southernmost area of the City of Los Angeles. In addition to 28,000 residents, it includes those who work and own property in the area, as well as others involved in, and concerned with, the civic life of our neighborhoods.

The Council meets on the third Monday of each month at the Cabrillo Marina Community Building, Cabrillo Plaza, Berth 28. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.

The Governing Board is bound by the rules of the state's open meeting law (Brown Act). Agendas are posted at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. The public is always welcome to attend meetings and comment on agenda items. There is also a public comment time for items not on the agenda.

The Governing Board

Doug Epperhart, President
June Burlingame Smith, Vice President
S. Bruce Horton, Secretary
John Stinson, Treasurer

Andrea Adleman Chuck Hawley
Madeleine Drake Melanie Jones
Evelyn Fierro Jim Marquez
Soledad Garcia Barbara Paige
Lydia Guterrez Dean Pentcheff
Richard Havenick Cathy Ragland

Peter Warren

The Coastal Current News Editor

John Stinson

Photography, Layout and Production

John Stinson