

# Cerritos Neighborhood Watch Report

October 2012

## Hardening the Target

### Bicycle safety rules and tips offered

An average of 700 bicyclists are killed in fatal traffic accidents in the United States every year, representing two percent of all fatal traffic collisions nationwide. The Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center offers the following bicycle safety rules and tips for cyclists and motorists.

#### Bicycle safety

Children under the age of 18 are required by California law to wear a fitted and fastened helmet while riding a bicycle.

While not required, adults should also wear a helmet. In 2009, the average age of bicyclists killed in the United States was 39 and the average age of bicyclists who were injured was 29. A helmet can reduce your risk of injury when riding a bicycle.

Bicycles on the roadway are considered to be vehicles. They are subject to the same rules of the road as cars. Be predictable and act like the driver of a vehicle.

- Bicyclists must travel in the same direction as traffic, and are required to stop at all posted stop signs and traffic signals. Always ride as close to the right side of the street as possible, but beware of drivers of parked vehicles opening doors or pulling out into traffic. Use hand signals to alert drivers of your intentions. Wearing headphones while operating a bicycle is illegal.
- Assure that your bicycle is properly sized and functioning. Regu-

larly check the tire air pressure, brakes and bicycle chain.

- Wear bright-colored clothing to increase visibility to others.

California law requires that bicycles be equipped with a lighting system for riding after dusk. The California Vehicle Code states the following in regard to bicycle lighting:

A bicycle operated during darkness upon a highway, a sidewalk where bicycle operation is not prohibited by the local jurisdiction, or a bikeway, as defined in Section 890.4 of the Streets and Highways Code, shall be equipped with all of the following:

1. A lamp emitting a white light that, while the bicycle is in motion, illuminates the highway, sidewalk, or bikeway in front of the bicyclist and is visible from a distance of 300 feet in front and from the sides of the bicycle.
2. A red reflector on the rear that shall be visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle.
3. A white or yellow reflector on each pedal, shoe or ankle visible from the front and rear of the bicycle from a distance of 200 feet.
4. A white or yellow reflector on each side forward of the center of the bicycle, and a white or red reflector on each side to the rear of the center

(tire or rim) of the bicycle, except that bicycles that are equipped with reflectorized tires on the front and the rear need not be equipped with these side reflectors. Pedestrians have the right of way.

5. The reflectors and reflectorized tires shall be of a type meeting requirements established by the Department of Motor Vehicles.
6. A lamp or lamp combination, emitting a white light, attached to the operator and visible from a distance of 300 feet in front and from the sides of the bicycle, may be used in lieu of the lamp required by paragraph 1.

The Vehicle Code also states the following:

- No person shall operate a bicycle on a roadway unless it is equipped with a brake which will enable the operator to make one braked wheel skid on dry, level, clean pavement.
- No person shall operate on the highway a bicycle equipped with handlebars so raised that the operator must elevate his hands above the level of his shoulders in order to grasp the normal steering grip area.
- No person shall operate upon a highway a bicycle that is of a size that prevents the operator from safely stopping the bicycle, supporting it in an upright posi-

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# Monthly Crime Summary: September 2012

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Part I felony investigations dropped from 116 in August to 94 in September. Vehicle thefts increased in September, while robberies, residential burglaries and vehicle burglaries declined. At the end of September, patrol deputies were handling a weekly average of 291 calls for service.

## Robberies

Robbery cases dropped from nine in August to two in September.

The first was an attempted robbery that occurred on Wednesday, September 5 at 11:53 a.m. in the 11200 block of Gonsalves Street. Two suspects attempted to rob a male victim and his son after making an arrangement for a transaction on Craigslist. An alert neighbor called the Cerritos Sheriff's Station and deputies interrupted the crime and arrested both suspects.

On Thursday, September 6 at

10:40 a.m. a male entered a gas station in the 16800 block of Norwalk Boulevard and produced a handgun. The salesclerk ran out of the building and the suspect was forced to leave without any money.

## Residential Burglaries

There were 23 residential burglaries investigated in September compared to 39 in August. Fifteen of the homes were accessed through open/unlocked doors or windows. In addition, four windows or sliding glass doors were pried open, two windows were shattered and two doors were kicked in. Victims reported a washer and dryer, jewelry, cash, laptop computers, lamps, business documents, checks, copper pipe and handguns stolen. The 2012 weekly average in residential burglaries is 4.8.

## Vehicle Burglaries

Forty-four vehicle burglaries

were reported in September, down from 56 in August. Twenty-one of the September crimes occurred in high-volume commercial parking lots, and 17 SUVs were burglarized. Stereo units were removed in four of the crimes and GPS units in three. Other items reported stolen included third-row seats from SUVs, wallets, purses, CDs, cell phones, flashlights, cloth bags and tools. The new 2012 weekly average in vehicle burglaries is 7.1.

## Vehicle Thefts

Vehicle thefts increased from 10 in August to 16 in September. Eleven of the vehicles were taken from high-volume commercial parking lots. Three SUVs, two Hondas and a Toyota were taken, in addition to commercial trailers.

The new 2012 weekly average in vehicle thefts is 3.9.

## Bicycle safety rules and tips offered

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tion with at least one foot on the ground, and restarting it in a safe manner.

### Tips for motorists

- Respect bicyclists as legal road users with the same rights and responsibilities as motorists.
- Always check your blind spots.
- Maintain a safe distance between your vehicle and the bicycle in front of or beside you.
- If you plan to turn right or pull into a parking space shortly ahead of a bicyclist in front of you, wait for the area to clear. Do not pass the bicyclist.
- Signal all turns and lane changes 100 feet in advance.
- Pass bicyclists only if it is safe to do so.

## Tampering with trash receptacles is illegal

The City's three barrel trash system requires separation of regular trash, yard waste and recyclables. While the sorting system is beneficial to the environment, recyclable barrels may attract individuals who pilfer for self-gain. The Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center regularly receives complaints from residents regarding late night and early morning trash pilfering.

Trash pilfering is a misdemeanor. Cerritos Municipal Code Section 6.08.070 (d) reads as follows:

"No person, other than the owner thereof, his agents or employees or an officer or employee of this city or any person holding a contract with this city for the collection or disposal of refuse, his agents or employees authorized for such purposes, shall tamper or meddle with any refuse or rubbish container or

the contents thereof, or remove the contents of any container or remove any container, from the location where the same shall have been placed by the owner thereof or his agent."

Some residents have reported confrontations with those removing items from recyclable bins. The Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center reminds residents that instead of confronting a person pilfering through trash, the best thing to do is to promptly report the violation by calling the Cerritos Sheriff's Station at (562) 860-0044. Please be able to describe the person(s) involved along with a vehicle description (if applicable) and a direction of travel. Residents may want to consider placing trash barrels out on the morning of their collection day to decrease the window of time for trash pilfering.

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Safety Contacts:  
Community Safety Division -  
(562) 916-1266  
Sheriff's Station - (562) 860-0044



To join Cerritos Neighborhood Watch, call the Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center at (562) 916-1266.