

School Zone Traffic Enforcement

For many years your San Marino Police Department has taken a conservative approach to vehicle speed enforcement around our public schools. We have chosen to provide "high visibility" patrol in lieu of a "pen to paper" enforcement approach. In the past, this approach seemed to suffice, however, as traffic has increased, we have heard more residents voicing concern about speeding vehicles near the schools. In view of the increased traffic and corresponding citizen concerns, the Department will be stepping up our enforcement efforts in order to heighten the public's awareness of the school zone speed limit, and to enhance pedestrian safety.

To accomplish this we will look to raise the general public's awareness through several efforts:

- Notify San Marino Unified School District officials of our plans to increase enforcement
- Notify individual school officials of heightened enforcement
- Notify motorists of school zone speed limit through the usage of a traffic message board

After the above notifications have been made, the Department will begin working the areas of concern. This would primarily be in front of Valentine and the Middle School (Huntington Drive) as well as to the rear of the schools on Sherwood Road. In addition, to soften the shock caused by our increased enforcement, we will initially limit the number of enforcement personnel working these areas to our motorcycle officers.

For the initial 2-3 weeks, motorcycle officers will provide warnings to violators, followed by actual citations at the officers' discretion.

As a reminder, the "prima facie" speed limit in a school zone is 25 M.P.H. as outlined in California Vehicle Code 22352(a)(2)(B). Under this code, children must be present, the violation must occur during school hours (before or after school), and there must not be any obstructions between the violators and children (i.e. fences).

Should you have any questions about this effort please feel free to contact the Watch Commander at the San Marino Police Department.

