

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

Napa Area  
975 Golden Gate Drive  
Napa, CA 94559  
(707) 253-4906  
(800) 735-2929 (TT/TDD)  
(800) 735-2922 (Voice)



**RECEIVED**  
Clerk of the Napa Superior Court

AUG 19 2002

August 9, 2002

File No.: 325.9627

Judge Scott Snowden  
Presiding Judge  
Napa Superior Court  
1111 Third Street  
Napa CA 94559

Dear Judge Snowden:

The 2001-2002 Grand Jury Final Report contained findings relative to traffic safety at Carneros school, located within the jurisdiction of the CHP, Napa Area. Specifically, the Grand Jury found:

“Student drop off areas are dangerous. One principal stated that drop-offs and pick-ups were the scariest parts of the day. These areas are too small and not configured for modern traffic.”

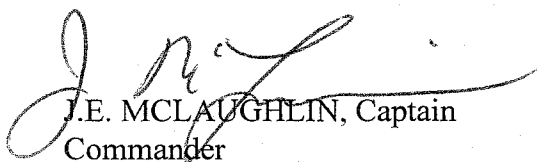
I concur with Sheriff Simpson's observations regarding the inadequacy of the parking lot size and configuration at Carneros School. I agree that physical improvements to the parking lot at this site will improve traffic flow and consequently, traffic safety. However, until these improvements can be accomplished the CHP is committed to doing everything possible to enhance traffic safety at Carneros School, and all other schools located in Napa County. The Napa Area is engaged in the following activities to improve traffic safety in school zones:

- At the start of the school year the principal of each elementary school located within CHP jurisdiction is sent a letter promoting traffic safety. Additionally, a letter addressed to parents, written in English and Spanish, is provided to each principal with a request that it be forwarded to parents.
- The CHP, Napa Area has developed a senior volunteer program to enhance our ability to promote traffic safety. The primary focus of the volunteer program is school safety. The volunteers operate marked CHP patrol vehicles in school zones during morning and afternoon peak periods on a rotating basis. While the volunteers do not have enforcement authority, their highly visible presence serves as a reminder to motorists to obey traffic laws. The volunteers are able to provide timely feedback regarding enforcement and education needs to officers for appropriate follow up.
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- The volunteers deploy a “radar trailer” to school zones. The trailer displays the speed of approaching traffic and reminds drivers to obey posted speed limits.
- The Napa Area maintains a traffic complaint process. When information regarding unsafe traffic behavior is reported an officer is assigned to gather additional information concerning traffic conditions at the reported location and take appropriate enforcement action.
- Speakers from the Napa Area frequently attend homeowner and community meetings to discuss traffic safety and to gain insight into local traffic issues.

The Napa Area is receptive to any opportunity or suggestion to enhance traffic safety in school zones. We will continue the activities described above and actively explore new methods to improve our operations. I look forward to working with the Napa County Grand Jury, school officials, parents and any others to improve traffic safety in school zones.

Sincerely,



J.E. MCLAUGHLIN, Captain  
Commander  
Napa Area

Attachments

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August 12, 2002

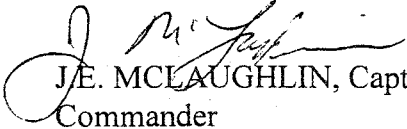
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Dear Principal:

The California Highway Patrol is preparing for the start of another school year. The CHP has recently initiated a senior volunteer services program. One of the primary purposes of this new program is to enhance traffic safety in school zones. Although the volunteers are not authorized to take any enforcement actions, their presence in school zones should serve to remind motorists to slow down and be more observant. The volunteers will patrol in marked CHP vehicles displaying a "volunteer" sign, and will also deploy a radar trailer in school zones. I have asked the volunteers to introduce themselves to you and describe their duties in greater detail.

As a reminder, the California Highway Patrol has primary jurisdiction for enforcement of the vehicle code on all roadways in unincorporated portions of the county. I am anxious to ensure we meet the challenges of this responsibility, especially within school zones, through proactive enforcement and public education. Our efforts will only be successful if we gain voluntary compliance with traffic laws with a majority of motorists. To that end, please consider sending copies of the enclosed letter to your students' parents and guardians to enlist their support in the effort to promote traffic safety.

Please contact the Napa CHP office at (707) 253-4906 to report any particular traffic safety concerns you may have. You should feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions, or comments regarding any CHP programs.

  
J.E. MCLAUGHLIN, Captain  
Commander  
Napa Area

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Napa Area

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August 20, 2002

File No.: 325.9627.A11233

Dear Parents and Guardians:

It is back to school time when children will once again be walking, riding bicycles, and taking buses to and from school. The California Highway Patrol is requesting your help in making the streets and highways around schools as safe as possible. Please consider the following suggestions when transporting children to, or from school :

- ◆ Motorists stopped or parked on school grounds should be aware of their impact on other traffic. Oftentimes, an improperly parked or abandoned vehicle can unnecessarily impede traffic entering or leaving the parking area, creating a hazardous condition on adjacent streets.
- ◆ Reduce your speed; 25 MPH zones around schools are not only the law, but a reasonable measure to ensure the safety of our children. The CHP will be strictly enforcing speed laws in school zones. However, your voluntary compliance with speed laws is critical to achieving a safe traffic environment for children arriving, and departing school.
- ◆ Consider car pooling to reduce traffic at school sites.
- ◆ Expect the unexpected when driving in school zones occupied by children.
- ◆ Comply with No Parking zones and traffic directions from school personnel.
- ◆ Motorists on a two lane highway approaching a stopped school bus are required to stop when the red overhead lights are activated. These lights are flashing when students are loading or unloading at all stops.
- ◆ Children riding bicycles are required to wear helmets and ride in the same direction as traffic.
- ◆ Children walking to school along routes without sidewalks should walk facing traffic and be reminded to remain alert to their surroundings.

Please take a few moments to consider how you can make a positive contribution to traffic safety at your child's school. Working together we can increase the safety of our most valuable asset, our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. McLaughlin".

J. E. MCLAUGHLIN, Captain  
Commander  
Napa Area

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Agosto 20, 2002

File No.: 325.9627.A11233

Estimados Padres de Familia:

Es tiempo para regresar a la escuela. Los estudiantes, de nuevo, acudiran a la escuela, caminando, en bicicleta o en el autobus escolar. La Patrulla de Caminos de California (CHP) les pide su ayuda para mantener las carreteras alrededor de la escuela lo mas seguras posible. Por favor considere las siguientes sugerencias cuando transporte a sus hijos hacia la escuela y al regreso de la escuela:

- ◆ Conductores estacionados o parados alrededor de la zona escolar deben de poner atencion al impacto que causan al movimiento de otros vehiculos. Muchas veces, vehiculos mal estacionados o abandonados pueden impedir, sin necesidad alguna, que otros vehiculos puedan entrar y salir de la zona escolar sin dificultades y peligro.
- ◆ Reduzca su velocidad. La zona de 25 MPH, alrededor de las escuelas, no solamente es la ley, sino tambien una manera razonable para mantener a los estudiantes seguros. La Patrulla de Caminos de California, estara esforzando los reglamentos de velocidad en las zonas escolares. Su cumplimiento voluntario de mantener la velocidad indicada es critico para mantener un ambiente de trafico seguro para los estudiantes que llegaran y partiran de la escuela.
- ◆ Considere el transporte colectivo (carpool) para reducir la congestion de trafico alrededor de la escuela.
- ◆ Espere lo inesperado al conducir en zonas escolares donde los estudiantes estan presente.
- ◆ Cumpla con las zonas de No estacionar (No parking).
- ◆ Conductores que se aproximan a un autobus escolar detenido a la orilla de la carretera, el cual tiene las luces rojas encendidas, tienen que detener sus coches. Estas luces permanecen encendidas mientras los estudiantes suben o bajan del autobus.
- ◆ Los estudiantes que usan sus bicicletas requieren el uso de casco y el deber de manejar en la misma direccion que el trafico.
- ◆ Los estudiantes que caminan a la escuela, en calles sin banquetas, deben de caminar contra el trafico y deben de mantenerse alerta a sus alrededores.

Por favor tome un momento para considerar como puede contribuir positivamente a la seguridad de trafico alrededor de la escuela de sus hijos. Trabajando juntos podemos ofrecer seguridad a nuestro mas preciado tesoro, nuestros hijos.

Sinceramente,

  
J.E. MCLAUGHLIN, Capitan  
Comandante  
Condado de Napa