



TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

January 2009

Volume 39

**The City of Torrance is
Rated One of the Safest
Cities
in the United States**

The latest information for the year 2008 is that our partnership with the community is working. The City of Torrance is the 4th safest city in Los Angeles County and the 23rd safest city in the United States with populations over 100,000. We have learned that the crime rate for Torrance is well below the national average. The study used six crimes in their comparison. These crimes included murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and auto theft. In this study, the national average was weighted at 100. The City of Torrance came in at 43.98, or 56 points below the national average.

The Torrance Police Department believes that our partnership with the community through programs such as Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch and overall crime prevention education has led us to be one of the safest cities in the nation.

The Torrance Police Department
presents

A Community Safety Training Day

WHEN: Saturday, January 31st, 2009
Registration / Check-in from 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

WHERE: North High School (*in the Black Box Theater*)
3620 W. 182nd Street, Torrance CA 90504

Training Topics: Community Affairs (Neighborhood Watch Program 2009)
Map Your Neighborhood (Taking Neighborhood Watch to the next level)
Residential Burglaries
Elder Abuse / Scams
Auto Theft
Traffic

The community is invited to attend free safety workshops and a Continental Breakfast hosted by the Torrance Police Department. Each workshop is 45 minutes in length with a chance to attend four different safety workshop topics. The workshops will be taught by Torrance Police Officers. You may register online at www.torrancepd.org or contact the Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-6391. Attendance is limited to the first 200 people who register. Please note that these safety workshops are for adults only.

Schedule:	8:00 - 8:30 AM	Check-in / Continental Breakfast
	8:30 - 9:00 AM	Introduction
	9:00 - 9:45 AM	Workshop Session
	9:45 - 10:30 AM	Workshop Session
	10:30 - 11:15 AM	Workshop Session
	11:15 - 12:00 PM	Workshop Session
	12:00 - 12:30 PM	Question & Answer Period

This is the second of many "Safety Training Workshops" to be taught at venues within the City of Torrance, with the goal of teaching people how to protect their loved ones and property. The safety topics will be taught by police officers with expertise in their particular subject matter. For further information please call the Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-6391 or 6392 or email us at CommunityAffairs@torrnet.com.

**DID YOU KNOW.....
NEW LAWS IN EFFECT AS OF JANUARY 1ST, 2009**

Penal Code:



California Penal Code 653.2 It is a misdemeanor to disseminate electronically, without consent and with intent to cause likely fear, images or harassing information about a person that would likely incite a third party to cause unwanted physical contact, injury or harassment.



California Penal Code 12556(a) Makes it an offense to openly display or expose an imitation firearm in a "public place" which now includes public schools.

Vehicle Code:

California Vehicle Code 23123.5 It is an infraction (\$20-\$50 fine) to drive while texting.



California Vehicle Code 23154 (a) Prohibits a person who is on probation for violation of Section 23152 or 23153 to operate a motor vehicle at any time with a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.01 percent or greater .



California Vehicle Code 26708(a) (1) Defines allowable positioning of a GPS mounted to the windshield. Global Positioning Systems may be mounted in a 7-inch square in the lower corner of the windshield farthest removed from the driver or in a 5-inch square in the lower corner of the windshield nearest to the driver.



LAWS REGARDING SENIOR CITIZENS



Senate Bill 1140, seeks to define more clearly and broadly what elder abuse is, among other things. Taking advantage of a person's weakness of mind, lack of confidence or physical frailty - known as "undue influence" - is now grounds for criminal action. The law also requires immediate return of the senior's property if it is taken by the perpetrator through undue influence.

Senate Bill 1136, stiffens the punitive penalties for those hoping to con seniors into paying for services that are offered for free, such as help signing up for Medi-Cal or Medicare health coverage.

Assembly Bill 2100, requires state ombudsmen who work in long-term care facilities - the only independent "police" in these facilities - to report abuse to the District Attorney's Office, although questions have been raised about how effective this regulation will be.



What is it like being a Police Officer?

Have you ever thought what it would be like to walk in the shoes of a Police Officer?

Imagine being seated in a police unit as it pursued a suspect vehicle at a high rate of speed or being able to talk to SWAT Officers while you were allowed to handle their firearms and equipment. Or what about seeing a Police K-9 up close and witness demonstrations by the K-9 Officer? Even better, how about meeting and learning from approximately 30 Officers from various divisions within the police department? And finally, how about getting the opportunity to experience things that only a police officers get a chance to do?



Sound interesting and exciting? Well that opportunity is available through the "Partners In Policing" Program offered by the Torrance Police Department. This program is offered twice a year to adults that reside or work in the City of Torrance, who belong to local organizations or have ties to the city. The Partners In Policing Program is an 11 week course held at the Torrance Police Department on Thursday nights, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Each night you will here from different officers as they share their stories regarding their current assignment. The classes are free and the class is comprised of 25-30 people.

Every aspect of the Torrance Police Department is covered through lectures, hands on exercises and demonstrations. By graduation time the participants have gone through 11 sessions involving everything from the police academy to the apprehension and prosecution of criminals. They have learned why we do certain things and had the opportunity to actually experience certain training scenarios. Other topics covered during the program are the Police Range, Detectives, Motor Officers, and the internal workings of the Torrance Police Department, plus much more. The program is fun and informative.



For more information and to register for the program contact Officer Dave Crespin at (310) 618-6382.

The next class will start in the first week of March 2009



TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Torrance Police Department Volunteer Program was established in August of 1992 and utilizes the services of over 117 qualified volunteers who provide services to various groups within the Police Department, as well as services at community events. We are in the process of adding a number of duties to our Volunteer Program and are looking for energetic citizens who are interested in giving back to the community.

The program also teams with the City Disaster Coordinator and provides amateur radio operators for continual disaster readiness. Volunteers are subject to personal background checks through the Department of Justice system.

If you would like to become a volunteer, please call the Office of Community Affairs at **(310) 618-6392** or the Torrance Police Department Volunteer Coordinator at **(310) 618-5728**.



WHO TO CALL AT THE TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

For any Emergency or Crime in Progress, dial 9-1-1

Abandoned Vehicles	(310) 618-2344	Juvenile Diversion	(310) 618-5554
Animal Control	(310) 618-3850	Neighborhood Watch	(310) 618-6392
Business Watch:	(310) 618-6391	Patrol Division	(310) 618-5641
Community Affairs	(310) 618-6391	Personnel Division	(310) 618-5707
Community Lead Officer:		Police Community Centers:	
North	(310) 618-5796	Del Amo Mall	(310) 371-1072
South	(310) 618-5782	Downtown	(310) 533-0896
East	(310) 618-5797	North Torrance	(310) 515-2774
West	(310) 618-5794	South Torrance	(310) 373-8376
Detective Division	(310) 618-5570	Police Impound	(310) 326-9220
Disaster Preparedness	(310) 618-5725	Property	(310) 618-5521
Fingerprinting Services	(310) 515-2774	Records Division	(310) 618-5529
Graffiti Hotline	(310) 781-7149	Recruitment	(310) 618-2324
Information Hotline:	(310) 618-5730	Traffic Division	(310) 618-5557
Jail Custody	(310) 618-5631	Victim Assistance	(310) 618-5779

You can also visit the Torrance Police Department website for information on a number of free services we provide to our residents such as Vacation Security Checks, Home Security Inspections and Speaker Requests. Please visit:

www.torrancepd.org



**TIP-A-COP
2009**

Torrance
POLICE

Excellence through Teamwork



Our next Tip-A-Cop event will be in the month of March (location and date to be determined), please check on-line for further details or call the Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-6392.